



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WINNIPEG FOLK FESTIVAL:
WASN'T THAT A PARTY??**

Winnipeg MB (Wednesday, July 14, 2009) -- The 36th Winnipeg Folk Festival was the most successful one yet, in terms of performances, new initiatives, and festival attendance.

“We are thrilled by the record breaking attendance and the addition of Wednesday night. All our stages were alive with musical creativity and our education and community program welcomed an unprecedented number of participants. It takes a community to build a festival and we’re thankful to be an essential part of so many people’s lives,” says Executive Director Tamara Kater, who took the reins for the first time this year, and recognizes that a festival’s success depends upon many people – and many things:

- Cumulative attendance over the five days = over 73,000
- Meals served to volunteers and artists = over 50,000
- Kegs of beer consumed = 244 kegs
- Compostable beer cups used = over 25,000
- Volume of compost and recycling diverted from landfill = over 3,700 pounds
- Participants in the ‘Guest for a Day’ program = over 500

Artistic Director Chris Frayer did a terrific job of filling out this year’s program, choosing a selection of artists that either epitomized or complimented the folk music genre – and the audience responded:

“From the minute the gates opened on Wednesday, to the finale on Sunday night, this year’s performers were second to none in putting on some of the best shows I’ve had the pleasure of programming. The daytime workshops and concerts went off without a hitch, as did the stellar performances on our evening Main Stage and Big Blue. It was an amazing year all around,” says Frayer. “Thanks to all who attended, including artists, volunteers, performers, and of course, the music lovers.”

The Winnipeg Folk Festival acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage Arts Presentation Canada Program, the Province of Manitoba through the Department of Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport and the generous support of the City of Winnipeg through the Winnipeg Arts Council.

www.winnipegfolkfestival.ca

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