



JULY 8-12, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WINNIPEG FOLK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
MAIN STAGE LINE-UP FOR 2009**

Winnipeg MB (May 20, 2009) -- The stage is set to announce the full Main Stage line-up for the 2009 Winnipeg Folk Festival, taking place at Birds Hill Park this July:

WEDNESDAY JULY 8

**Elvis Costello & The Imposters
With Special Guests**

THURSDAY JULY 9

**Alana Levandoski
Pacifika
Punch Brothers Featuring Chris Thile
King Sunny Adé & His African Beats
Xavier Rudd**

FRIDAY JULY 10

**Josh Ritter
Oumou Sangaré
Del McCoury Band
Iron & Wine
Neko Case**

SATURDAY JULY 11

**Chatham County Line
Serena Ryder
Bellowhead
Burning Spear
Okkervil River**

SUNDAY JULY 12

**Steven Page
Arlo Guthrie
Loreena McKennitt**

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SPECIAL OPENING & CLOSING NIGHT PERFORMANCES

Elvis Costello & The Imposters will make their Winnipeg Folk Festival debut on Wednesday July 8, kicking off an expanded five-day event. This will be Costello's first Winnipeg appearance since performing at Pantages Playhouse Theatre in 1978.

Loreena McKennitt will close the Festival on the Main Stage in place of k.d. lang, who regretfully withdrew from her performance due to a family medical problem. Originally from Morden, Manitoba, Loreena was the first recipient of the Winnipeg Folk Festival Artistic Achievement award in 2004. This will be Loreena's first visit to the Winnipeg Folk Festival since 1992, and Artistic Director Chris Frayer is thrilled to have her on this year's roster: "We are very excited that Loreena could join us this year. She's a long standing friend of the festival and someone who has been with us since the early days, so I think it's very fitting that she closes the 09' Festival."

ABOUT THE WINNIPEG FOLK FESTIVAL

Now in its 36th year, the Winnipeg Folk Festival is one of North America's premier outdoor music festivals. The first one was held in 1974 in Birds Hill Park as a one-time celebration to mark Winnipeg's 100th anniversary. Today, the operating budget is more than \$3.5 million, and attendance exceeds 62,000 including performers, volunteers and guests. Approximately 250 artists perform on seven stages around the Festival site throughout the weekend. Daytime stages give artists opportunities to jam with each other, exchanging musical styles, stories and inspirations, while giving festival-goers a rare opportunity to see up-close-and-personal glimpses into the musical creative process. In the evening, everyone gathers at the Main Stage to enjoy an eclectic assortment of dynamic music set against the spectacular backdrop of a prairie sunset.

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR 2009

Early bird tickets for this year's Festival are on sale until May 31 at the Winnipeg Folk Festival Music Store (211 Bannatyne Avenue at Albert Street / 204-231-1377) and Ticketmaster outlets. Four-day passes are \$152 for adults, \$79 for youth (15-17) and seniors, \$10.50 for children (5-14). Day passes for adults are \$54. Camping passes are \$28. Admission for the Wednesday night Elvis Costello show must be purchased separately from festival passes. Four-day pass holders can add on the evening for an additional \$20. Regular single-day admission is \$40. Visit www.winnipegfolkfestival.ca for updates, artist bios and additional information.

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