



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Tickets Now on Sale for Two Prestigious MusicFest Vancouver Series - *Scotiabank Main Stage and World at the Garden*

Vancouver, BC – MusicFest Vancouver returns **August 2 – 16, 2009**, bringing some of Canada's and the world's best classical, jazz and world music performers to Vancouver and filling nine city venues with glorious music over the festival's two-week run. The festival has been renamed this year and is now officially **MusicFest Vancouver** after eight successful years as Festival Vancouver.

This year is highlighted by the **Scotiabank Main Stage Series**, which showcases the range and appeal of the entire festival. The immensely-successful **World at the Garden Series** is also back, set against the beautiful backdrop of the **VanDusen Botanical Garden** and featuring international world music headliners. Tickets for both series' concerts go on sale **Friday, April 24** through **Ticketmaster** at **604-280-3311**, or online at **Ticketmaster.ca**. Tickets to the remaining 40 concerts and events will go on sale Friday, May 29.

Scotiabank Main Stage Series

This year's **Scotiabank Main Stage** performances feature artists from North America and Europe. Acting Program Director **Annie Saumier** has also built in significant links within the Main Stage lineup to the festival's 2009 overall 'spotlight' theme, the Music and Musicians of Germany.

♪ **Opening Night: Cabaret Songs with Ute Lemper** – This consummate German-born entertainer is a world renowned interpreter of Berlin cabaret songs, particularly Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht repertoire. Lemper is a mesmerizing presence onstage, whether captivating patrons at New York's Café Carlyle or winning awards in London and on Broadway for her starring role in *Chicago*. (August 3 @ The Centre in Vancouver for Performing Arts, 777 Homer St)

♪ **Purcell's The Faerie Queene** – An ensemble of Canada's most respected baroque singers and musicians come together to perform Henry Purcell's delightful reinvention of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Soloists include sopranos **Suzie LeBlanc** and **Shannon Mercer**, alto **Matthew White** and tenor **Colin Balzer**. (August 6 @ The Chan Centre, UBC - Produced by Early Music Vancouver)

♪ **Groove For Thought with Special Guest Dee Daniels** – **Groove For Thought** is a seven-man ensemble that has made its mark with fabulous soul, R&B and jazz singing. The versatile American septet has appeared throughout the USA and Europe, and is praised for its complex multi-part arrangements and superb solos, either sung *a cappella* or backed by a jazz trio. Favourite Vancouver jazz singer **Dee Daniels** also appears on the bill, singing with Groove For Thought and with her own trio. (August 8 @ the Vogue Theatre)

♪ **Louis Lortie: Piano Recital** – From Carnegie Hall to the great stages of Europe, this brilliant Canadian pianist sets the standard for artistic excellence. A Mozart specialist, Lortie's solo program will include Mozart's darkly beautiful *Sonata in A Minor, K310* plus works by Schumann and Schubert. (August 9 @ The Chan Centre, UBC)

♪ **Captivating A Cappella: amarcord** – This world-traveled vocal quintet makes a triumphant return to Vancouver as a crown jewel of MusicFest Vancouver's 2009 salute to the Music and Musicians of Germany. Imagine their five perfectly-pitched voices weaving an intricate tapestry of sound, supported by the superb acoustics of the Chan Centre – this will be choral heaven! (August 13 @ The Chan Centre, UBC)

World at the Garden Series

The festival launched the **World at the Garden Series** last year in partnership with **VanDusen Botanical Garden** (37th Ave @ Oak St). The showcase for the finest in world music was a resounding hit, and it's returning in 2009 with another three extraordinary outdoor concert experiences set on VanDusen's Great Lawn. This year's international lineup includes:

♪ **Caribbean Rhythms** – They call him the “Paganini of the Steelpan”. Trinidad's **Liam Teague** is as exciting to watch as he is to listen to, as he rolls out his intricate rhythms and remarkably melodious sounds. Teague joins forces with popular multi-instrumentalist **Celso Machado**, percussion all-rounder **Sal Ferreras**, **Rich Brown** (bass) and **Gilberto Moreaux** (drums) in a rhythmic trip through the Caribbean islands. (*August 12 @ 7pm*)

♪ **Fabiana Cozza** – She is one of Brazil's most gifted and passionate singers, but North Americans haven't had a chance to appreciate her in concert - until now. **Fabiana Cozza's** MusicFest Vancouver show will be her first appearance on this continent. Cozza and her band's seductive blend of samba and afro-Brazilian rhythms will be perfectly cradled by the lush green envelope of the Garden. (*August 15 @ 7pm*)

♪ **Closing Night: Rajaton** – The wildly-popular Finnish *a cappella* sensation makes its fourth visit to Vancouver in as many years – as fans of the world traveled sextet keep asking for more! **Rajaton's** artful, infectious arrangements of popular tunes (the Beatles to ABBA) and Finnish traditional music are ideal for this outdoor setting – just ask the thousands of fans who heard and loved them last year and demanded their return. (*August 16 @ 7pm*)

All **World at the Garden Series** concerts feature festival seating on the Great Lawn and a raised stage. Patrons should bring their own chairs or blankets. Admission after 6pm includes the opportunity to explore the Garden before the concert begins. Discounted series passes are available, plus early bird pricing.

Tickets for all concerts in the **Scotiabank Main Stage Series** and **World at the Garden Series** go on sale **April 24** on the festival website at www.musicfestvancouver.ca, through Ticketmaster.ca or by phone at **604-280-3311**. Tickets for all remaining festival concerts and series will go on sale **May 29** through the same channels.

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