



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MusicFest Vancouver Welcomes Scotiabank as Title Sponsor of Its Prestigious *Main Stage Series*



Vancouver, BC – MusicFest Vancouver (formerly Festival Vancouver) returns **August 2 – 16, 2009** for a ninth spectacular season, bringing some of Canada and the world's best classical, jazz and world music artists to Vancouver's concert stages. The festival is also proud to announce that **Scotiabank** has become the title sponsor of its high-profile *Main Stage Series*, strengthening the relationship between the festival and its valued corporate partner.

Scotiabank has been a sponsor of the festival for the past three years, and has now chosen to deepen its relationship through its title sponsorship of the *Main Stage Series*. "At Scotiabank we support causes our employees are passionate about, in the communities where we live and work. MusicFest Vancouver is an important part of that," says **David Poole**, Scotiabank Senior Vice President B.C. and Yukon Region. "We anticipate having an exceptional event this summer, and couldn't be more thrilled to be involved."

MusicFest Vancouver Acting Program Director **Annie Saumier** said in response "We feel privileged to be working with the Scotiabank team. They are full of energy and great ideas, and are clearly invested in the festival's growth and success. They consistently prove that their goal is to build a true partnership in the fullest and best sense of that word. In the year where the festival has taken on a new name, it's particularly exciting to reinvent and grow this key relationship with Scotiabank."

The **Scotiabank Main Stage Series** offers a wealth of musical experiences that highlight the range and depth of the entire festival, with top artists from North America and Europe. The festival is shining a special programming spotlight on Germany this year and that theme is brilliantly reflected in the Main Stage lineup.

♪ **Opening Night: Cabaret Songs with Ute Lemper** – Lemper is the quintessential cabaret songstress - sophisticated, dramatic and provocative. Famed for her interpretations of classic Berlin cabaret repertoire, especially the work of Bertoldt Brecht and Kurt Weill, this celebrated artist pulls her audiences into the emotion of the music as she explores universal themes of love, loss and human frailty. (*August 3 @ The Centre in Vancouver for Performing Arts*)

♪ **Purcell's *The Faerie Queene*** – The great English baroque composer's delightful masterpiece contains some of his finest theatre music. Presented in concert format, the production features favourite early music performers **Suzie LeBlanc** and **Shannon Mercer** (sopranos), **Matthew White** (alto), **Colin Balzer** and **Charles Daniels** (tenors), **Tyler Duncan** (baritone) and **Robert McDonald** (bass). (*August 6 @ The Chan Centre, UBC - Produced by Early Music Vancouver*)

♪ **Groove For Thought with Special Guest Dee Daniels** – **Groove For Thought** whips up its intoxicating vocal blend from jazz, soul and R&B ingredients. Festival programmers heard this fast-rising American vocal group at a world choral showcase in France last fall and were instantly won over. Backed by a three-piece trio (piano, bass, drums), this will be the seven-man ensemble's first appearance in Vancouver. Jazz vocalist **Dee Daniels** and her trio will appear as special guests. (*August 8 @ the Vogue Theatre*)

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♪ **Louis Lortie: Piano Recital – Louis Lortie** is one of Canada's brightest musical stars, with a huge international career as a concert soloist and recording artist. His signature recordings of Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin and Ravel have excited critics and fans alike. The *Daily Telegraph* (UK) has described Lortie as "one of perhaps half a dozen pianists who is worth dropping everything to go and hear." (*August 9 @ The Chan Centre, UBC*)

♪ **Captivating A Cappella: amarcord** - Flawless voices, exquisite harmonies, and an irresistible stage presence – this is the world-famous **amarcord** "brand". Their concerts two years ago at the festival were sellouts and choral fans will be lining up to hear this gifted German ensemble in a diverse program of classical and contemporary works. (*August 13 @ The Chan Centre, UBC*)

The festival's 2009 programming spotlight on **the Music and Musicians of Germany** means there are dozens of other German musical experiences to savour. From the world-renowned **Leipzig String Quartet** (back by popular demand after a superb Chan Centre concert last year) to the unique jazz stylings of organist **Barbara Dennerlein**; from Bach masterpieces to Berlin cabaret classics, German music will be showcased in all its diversity and beauty.

In addition to the main festival programming from **August 2 – 16**, MusicFest Vancouver will be co-presenting almost two-dozen concerts this year as part of its province-wide **Windsor Plywood Spectacular Music BC** program. Now in its sixth successful season, the goal of the **SMBC** series is to share the talents of MusicFest Vancouver artists with communities outside the Lower Mainland.

Scotiabank Main Stage concert tickets go on sale on **April 24** through **Ticketmaster.ca**, by phone at **604-280-3311** and on the festival website - **www.musicfestvancouver.ca** The full MusicFest Vancouver 2009 lineup will be announced in late May, and the complete complement of festival concert and series tickets will go on sale starting **May 29** through Ticketmaster and the festival website.

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MusicFest Vancouver Gold Sponsors



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