



Canadian Voices (July 24 – July 26) part of World Routes 2009 presented by RBC
All Canadian festival celebrates our own

TORONTO, July 8 - Canada is home to some of the best musicians and songwriters in the world. **Canadian Voices (July 24 to July 26)** is a new FREE festival at Harbourfront Centre generously sponsored by Molson Canadian which celebrates the wealth of talent in our own backyard.

It's a unique opportunity to unite the country in a weekend by showcasing an amazing depth of established and emerging Canadian musical talent. Friday night's co-headline bill gives a nod to some of the best up-and-coming artists from the east coast. The Sirius Satellite Radio Stage features the quirky curly-haired Halifax-based songstress from homegrown label Six Shooter Records **Jenn Grant** alongside **2009 Polaris shortlist rockers Hey Rosetta!** who are currently touring to support their Hawkley Workman produced album *Into Your Lungs (and around in your heart and on through your blood.)*

Toronto's **Gentlemen Reg** opens Saturday night, fresh off a two month tour in Canada with The Stills and in the US with A Camp (the solo project from Cardigan's frontwoman Nina Persson), for his Arts & Crafts debut album *Jet Black*. Labelmate and Stars frontwoman **Amy Millan** performs, readying for the release of her new sophomore full-length, *Masters Of The Burial* this September.

Montreal's **The Dears** power up Sunday afternoon after returning from Canada's west coast tour to support their Maple Music Recording release *Missiles*. Paper Bag Records artist **Laura Barrett** warms up her kalimba, performing in the round at the Redpath Stage.

The weekend also features some of Toronto's best poets with the **Harbourfront Centre Poetry Slam** hosted by **Dave Silverberg**. This spoken-word battle on Friday and Saturday evening features up-and-coming poets along with veterans like **Gypsy Eyes**, **Andrea Thompson**, **Truth Is** and Ottawa Poetry Slam winner **Ian Keteku**.

The **Songwriters Association of Canada's Bluebird North** sessions are intimate and engaging outdoor events showcasing Canadian composers, lyricists and songwriters. Songwriters involved include **Mia Sheard**, **Marc Nadijwan**, **Ember Swift**, **David Leask** and **Lucie Idlout**. They are held in partnership with the **Six String Nation Guitar** created by CBC Radio's **Jowi Taylor**. On Saturday and Sunday afternoon, the photo component of Six String Nation continues with the public being invited to take portraits with the guitar.

[High-res images for all World Routes 2009: <http://media.harbourfrontcentre.com/worldroutes/>]

About World Routes

A series of FREE festivals that run from July through September, **World Routes presented by RBC** explores ideas in contemporary culture, bringing together rich, artistic traditions from around the globe. For complete information visit harbourfrontcentre.com or call 416-973-4000. Harbourfront Centre is located at 235 Queens Quay West, in Toronto.

-30-

Media Contacts:

Rebecca Webster 416- 973-4518 rwebster@harbourfrontcentre.com

Althea Linton 416-973-4428 alinton@harbourfrontcentre.com

MUSIC:

Hey Rosetta!: Friday, July 24, 8 p.m. – SIRIUS Satellite Radio Stage

Six-piece Canadian indie rock band Hey Rosetta! are known for their energized live shows. The band creates a massive, layered sound that incorporates piano, violin and cello into the traditional garage rock sound.

<http://www.heyrosetta.com/>

Jenn Grant: Friday, July 24, 9:30 p.m. – SIRIUS Satellite Radio Stage

Singer, songwriter and painter Jenn Grant gets her inspiration from the situations that go on around her. She has collaborated with some of her favorite artists such as Feist, Julie Doiron, Ron Sexsmith and Josh Ritter.

<http://www.jenngrant.com/>

Gentlemen Reg: Saturday, July 25, 8 p.m. – SIRIUS Satellite Radio Stage

Toronto indie rock singer-songwriter Gentlemen Reg released *Jet Black* in 2009, his first release with local label Arts & Crafts. He has performed with acts such as Broken Social Scene, Stars and The Hidden Cameras and has written music for the soundtracks to movies such as Shortbus, Twist and Late Fragments.

<http://www.myspace.com/gentlemanreg>

Amy Millan: Saturday, July 25, 9:30 p.m. – SIRIUS Satellite Radio Stage

Canadian indie rock singer and guitarist Amy Millan has recorded and performed with the bands Stars and Broken Social Scene. In contrast to her previous work Millan's solo work shows strong influence with country and folk music. <http://www.myspace.com/amymillan>

SAC – Songwriters Association of Canada: Sunday, July 26, 2 p.m. – Redpath Stage

Come and join us in two afternoon showcases as Canadian songwriters share their original songs and stories in an informal, acoustic atmosphere. <http://www.songwriters.ca/>

The Dears: Sunday, July 26, 3 p.m. – SIRIUS Satellite Radio Stage

Featuring themes of social class and indie rock, The Dears have performed with bands like Sloan, The Tragically Hip and Morrissey. The Dears were also named to the shortlist for the 2007 Polaris Music Prize.

<http://www.thedears.org/news/>

Laura Barrett: Sunday, July 26, 4:30 p.m. – Redpath Stage

Best known for her musical talent with the kalimba (sound box with metal keys), Toronto indie pop singer-songwriter performs off her latest album *Victory Garden*. <http://www.myspace.com/laurabarrett>

Six String Nation/Jowi Taylor: Saturday, July 25 and Sunday, July 26, 1:30 p.m. – Brigantine Room

CBC radio host Jowi Taylor hosts an interactive workshop telling the story about how this magnificent guitar was created. The 63 piece guitar showcases Canadian history and heritage representing many different cultures, communities and characters from all across the country. <http://www.sixstringnation.com/>

Six String Nation Photo Shoot: Sat, July 25 & Sun, July 26, 4 p.m. – Marilyn Brewer Community Space

Enjoy the opportunity to have a photo taken with this truly Canadian guitar.

POETRY:

Late Night NOW presented by Heineken: Harbourfront Centre Poetry Slam

Fri, July 24, 11 p.m. & Sat, July 25, 10:30 p.m. – Brigantine Room

Hosted by Dave “BigDeal” Silverberg, Toronto Poetry Slam features eight Toronto poets. The top five poets move on to the finals on Saturday night. <http://torontopoetryslam.com/>