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For immediate release

2010 Pride Festival line-up confirmed

Winnipeg, MB – The Pride Winnipeg committee is pleased to announce the complete line-up for this year’s Pride Festival, taking place June 6, 2010 at The Forks in downtown Winnipeg.

“We have put together a line-up of top-notch entertainment from across Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom, to mark the occasion of our move to The Forks this year,” said Barb Burkowski, Chair of the Pride Winnipeg committee. “We’re thrilled that Deborah Cox will headline the festivities, but we’ve also got a number of other top entertainers from the LGBTTQ community that will appeal to a broad range of people – from within the community and beyond.”

The Pride Festival is free for all to attend, and begins at approximately 1:00 p.m. on June 6, following the Pride Parade through downtown Winnipeg. The full line-up of entertainment includes:

Jeff Straker Band

www.jeffstraker.com

This singer-songwriter-pianist from Saskatchewan easily straddles the musical genres ranging from pop to folk. However, the constant in the delivery of his songs is his unique vocal-piano style.

Jeffery independently released his piano-pop album Step Right Up in the summer of 2008 and after a year of self-promotion and touring landed a deal with Universal Music Canada. The album was re-released in 2009. The summer of 2009 saw the single “Hypnotized” spin on Much More Music helping him gain new fans across the country. The video was voted into the Top 10 charts by viewers and peaked at #6. The single has also received significant radio airplay.

A tireless touring artist, Jeffery has performed over 100 shows every year for the past four years and in October of 2009 toured from Vancouver to Toronto. One of his recent tour stops in Regina, Saskatchewan, was recorded by CBC Radio’s Canada Live for national broadcast later in 2010.



waNda wilson

www.myspace.com/wandawilson

Independently driven and not afraid to drive, waNda wilson, from Northern Manitoba, travels the road less taken. With guitar slung over her shoulder, tunes in her back pocket, and candid tales to tell, she veers through the world in her own way.

A self-taught musician, wilson's sound is raw and edgy. Her approach is bold and out of the ordinary. Not to mention pretty damn cool. Her musical foray is rooted in DIY style, fueling her with optimism and passion, and igniting her determination to work with what she has.

Whether a homemade amp fashioned from an old suitcase, custom drum kit pieced together one skin at a time, or some obscure outdoor location, wilson's tendency to 'make do' conveys a style that speaks for itself. With a hint of folk-rock sprinkled with a smidgeon of garden-punk, she truly constructs an alternative blend of music meant to be heard as much as seen.

The Court of Winnipeg and All of Manitoba

www.courtowinnipeg.ca

The Imperial Sovereign Court of Winnipeg and All of Manitoba (ISCWAM), also known as the Snowy Owl Monarchist Society (SOMS) Inc., was founded in February 1997.

The goal of the organization is to raise funds for various local charities. To date, ISCWAM has raised thousands of dollars that have been donated to several charities throughout Manitoba.

This special Pride show will feature performances by the Court of Winnipeg, including Emperor 10 Cub Scout and Regent Empress 10 Breyana Burlesque presenting a montage of their favorite numbers.

Matthew McVarish and Tom Urie

www.myspace.com/tomurieandmatthewmcvarish

After their show Sweet Home Balmaha broke box office records at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Matthew McVarish and Tom Urie were signed to independent music publisher Hornall Brothers, which represents some of the UK's top songwriters including Joan Armatrading, Mark Knopfler, and Chris De Burgh.



Matthew is best known in Europe for his role in a BBC children's television show, but has also become one of Scotland's hottest young playwrights with three new works commissioned by Scotland's international gay arts festival, Glasgay. At only 15, Matthew was Celtic Connections' youngest ever winner of their national Song Hunter contest.

As a singer/musician, Tom has worked with many top Scottish and international artists and works extensively as a session singer around the UK, regularly working in the Beatles' Abbey Road studios. He is a founding host of the worldwide phenomenon "Singalonga Sound Of Music," a job which has taken him around the world, most notably to Salzburg, where he hosted the official "Sound Of Music."

Tom and Matthew have been working together for three years now, writing songs for artists as diverse as Kylie Minogue and Susan Boyle.

Nancy Rancourt

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

Roll out the rainbow carpet for Proud FM playlister Nancy Rancourt, Canadian Lesbian Dance Music Diva, who's been featured in Curve magazine as 'one of Hollywood's must-see performers,' as well as Capital XTRA, and OUTLOOKS; clearly marking the singer as a favorite across the nation.

Rancourt's appearances have included performances in L.A., Florida, Ottawa, and Toronto, sharing the spotlight with fellow artists Joan Jett, Deborah Cox and The Bangles.

Nann is a firecracker performer surprising you with the big voice coming from her pint-sized Barbie doll figure. You just don't expect it, then WHAM! That's Nann.

Shitting Glitter

www.shittingglitter.com

Shitting Glitter consists of founding members Amy Crosby (Lead Vocals) and Devin Tait (Synths/Vocals) with AJ Anderson (Guitar), Red Fox (Bass) and Laura Jennings (Drums).

Amy Crosby loves mysticism, has a flair for the flamboyant, and is universally loved by dogs. Amy can often be found galavanting around West Hollywood in colorful frocks and fabulous fashions.



Devin Tait enjoys being the only boy in an all girl band. Devin loves new wave music, fondly remembers MTV when it stood for 'music television' and actually played music videos, and is not ashamed to admit his favorite singer is Tiffany.

As a graduate of the school of Sex, Drugs, and Rock n' Roll, AJ Anderson can cook up a lasagna storm that would have Garfield in ecstasy. As the sole homoner in the band, rehearsals are often held at her house, much to the delight of her neighbors.

Red Fox inevitably becomes everyone's favorite bass player, once you've seen her on stage with her gem covered bass guitar and her glamtastic dynamite boots!

All you need to know about Laura is that she is a kickass drummer and that you do not want to get on her bad side.

Deborah Cox

www.deborahcox.com

Deborah Cox is a Canadian R&B singer-songwriter and actress. Her 1998 song "Nobody's Supposed to Be Here" held the record for the longest-running number one single on Billboard's *Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Singles & Tracks* chart (14 weeks), a record held for nearly eight years. She has achieved 10 number-one hits on Billboard's *Hot Dance Club Play* chart, and is often cited as Canada's top R&B artist. Her last studio album, *The Promise*, was released in November of 2008 and featured the hit single "Beautiful U R".

Deborah was discovered in 1995 when she was signed to Arista Records by legendary label executive Clive Davis. What followed was a number of chart-topping singles, worldwide album sales, and dance club remixes that established Deborah as one of Canada's top R&B artists.

In September 2009 it was announced she would join Kelly Price and Tamia to form the super group The Queen Project. The women seek to empower women of all ages, races and backgrounds by doing a number of community service projects.

Deborah currently lives in Miami, Florida. She is married to her high school sweetheart and manager, Lascelles Stephens.



Additional details about Pride Winnipeg festivities for 2010 can be found on our website: www.pridewinnipeg.com.

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