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For immediate release

## **2011 Pride Winnipeg 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 5, 2011 at The Forks in downtown Winnipeg.

"We've got an amazing line-up of talented musicians and dancers, including a number of local artists. I can't wait for June 5 – the anticipation is building and the buzz is growing," said Barb Burkowski, Chair of the Pride Winnipeg committee. "Martha Wash has always had a huge following in the queer community. With the all the excitement around the release of her new single, we're really honoured to be the first to hear it performed live after it's released in late May."

The Pride Festival is a free, all-ages event. The festivities get underway at approximately 12:30 p.m. on June 5 with LAMBDA business fair, beer tent, and food vendors, following the Pride Parade through downtown Winnipeg. Stage performances are presented by TD. The full line-up of entertainment includes:

### **Martha Wash**

[www.marthawash.com](http://www.marthawash.com)

Beginning her musical journey in the late '70s as one half of the disco group Two Tons of Fun, Martha Wash found herself singing with the incomparable Sylvester. In the early '80's, the Two Tons proudly declared, "Hi, we're your Weather Girls" and a new talent emerged onto the scene. As part of the Weather Girls, Wash scored a Grammy nomination for a song that was destined to become a cult classic, "It's Raining Men."

Into the early 90's, Wash became one of the most sought after session singers and soon found herself recording for numerous acts, including Seduction and C+C Music Factory. From "You're My One and Only (True Love)" to "Everybody Dance Now" she was all over radio airwaves.



Wash's lead vocals on five singles helped to put the group Black Box on the music map. "Everybody Everybody," "I Don't Know Anybody Else," and "Strike It Up" were among their biggest hits.

In 1993, Wash released her first self-titled project. The CD "Martha Wash" produced three #1 dance singles. "Carry On," "Give It To You," and "Runaround" all sky rocketed to the top of the Billboard charts.

Success continued to follow Martha with her second solo CD in 1997. "The Collection" featured highlights from her twenty year long career as well as new singles, "Come," "Catch The Light," and "It's Raining Men...The Sequel" which featured Martha singing alongside RuPaul.

Wash continues to work on new material including her latest single, "I've Got You." Winnipeegers will be among the first to hear it performed live following a planned release in late May.

### **Rae Spoon**

[www.raespoon.com](http://www.raespoon.com)

Rae Spoon is both the hunter and the hunted. His latest album love is a hunter is a pop-infused exploration of identity, contradiction and longing.

Heavily inspired by an extensive period spent in Europe, Spoon examines the various shades of love found everywhere from the club to the internal monsters within.

### **Sons of York**

[www.myspace.com/sonsofyork](http://www.myspace.com/sonsofyork)

When brothers Luke, Jake and Cody Kennerd walk on stage, the crowd doesn't quite know what to think. Are these the rumblin' Curtis Brothers from Francis Ford Coppola's The Outsiders?

Most expect to hear a campy tune about jumpin' and jivin', but when Sons of York start to play, people soon realize there is much more to this band than "tuff" hair.



Although they grew up in the '90s, their sound is a compelling throw-back to the '60s. Luke's assured vocal delivery and jangly riffs channel the Hollies, the Everly Brothers and the Blue Shadows. Jake (bass) and Cody (drums) provide tight harmonies and a punchy rhythm section that evokes their more modern influences; The Strokes, The Killers and Kings of Leon.

Luke and Jake got started in 2007, playing the opening slot on 'Thirsty Thursdays' and student nights at 'hole-in-the-wall' clubs. A year later, Cody took up the sticks and everything clicked. The live chemistry that developed was undeniable - people liked what they saw at a Sons of York show.

They write songs based on their own experiences. Their stories wander down suburban streets, across worn-out fields and through crowded bars. Their world is that of a 1950s movie, ripe with adolescent rivalry and romance.

In 2009 Sons of York released their debut album Black And White Summer. In July of 2010 they left Winnipeg and headed for the Big Apple. In just five days they recorded an electrifying demo with producer duo Gus Van Go and Werner F. Upon their return, the Sons revealed these songs to a packed Canad Inns Stadium as the opening act for the 2010 Rock on the Range festival.

### **Tyrell Witherspoon**

[www.tyrellwitherspoon.com](http://www.tyrellwitherspoon.com)

Manitoba native Tyrell Witherspoon is beginning to make a name for himself. Starting as a dancer and a musical theatre performer in Winnipeg, Tyrell made the move out to Vancouver last year to see what he could make of it.

After many auditions, Tyrell landed a coveted spot as a dancer on The CW's new hit show, Hellcats. Working alongside some elite choreographers, Tyrell landed a few music videos with Canadian artists Elise Estrada and These Kids Wear Crowns. Making these connections in the music industry allowed Tyrell the opportunity to begin working on his first album project.



His first single “Letting Go” was released on iTunes on March 16 and shortly after, he filmed the music video for the track. His second single “What You Do To Me” is set for a mid-summer release. Looking forward to performing more, Tyrell is excited to play his first live show of his own music in his home city.

Other artists on the bill include **Little Butterfly Drummers, TechPara, Lesbian Potluck, Women of Pride,** and **Queens & Kings of Manitoba.**

For all the latest information about this year’s Pride activities, please keep an eye on [www.pridewinnipeg.com](http://www.pridewinnipeg.com).

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