



**milwaukee
irish fest**

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Nova Scotia & Friends Showcase headlines Milwaukee Irish Fest 2009

MILWAUKEE – July 28, 2009 – Milwaukee Irish Fest enjoys strong Celtic ties with the province of Nova Scotia and its Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage. This year the festival welcomes nine entertainment acts from Canada's Atlantic provinces—Nova Scotia, Newfoundland/Labrador, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island—billed as the Nova Scotia and Friends Showcase.

Since all four provinces share deep roots in Celtic culture and music, the showcase will feature a fresh perspective on Celtic music, cultural programming and tourism. To cap off each day of the festival, the Celtic Roots Stage recreates the informal community gathering style of the Atlantic Canada Kitchen Party – a celebratory performance of Showcase artists on one stage.

The Celtic Roots Stage and other main stages throughout the grounds also host the following acclaimed musicians (listed by region) throughout the festival:

Nova Scotia

- **DRUM! Presents the Rhythms of Our Nation** – An entertainment production featuring 11 musicians, dancers, drummers and singers, DRUM! represents the musical heartbeat of Nova Scotia. Highlighting the four principal cultures of the province – Aboriginal, African, Celtic and Acadian – DRUM! fuses music, dance, poetry, video, rhythm and song, earning accolades from *The Chicago Tribune* and *Boston Globe*. The show brings together the tradition and heritage of the founding cultures of Nova Scotia, making it a unique and memorable experience.
- **Evans & Doherty** – Kevin Evans and Brian Doherty celebrate their 25th anniversary with their lively blend of traditional, original and contemporary songs, infused with stories and humor, featuring rich harmonies in a comedic package.
- **Pogey** – Halifax-based Pogey is comprised of six band members who combine fiddle, mandolin, acoustic guitar, bass, drums and four part vocal harmonies to produce an interesting sound unique to Nova Scotia. Established in 2004, the band delivers an interactive and energetic show of melodic traditional and contemporary music with a dynamic Celtic and folk twist that engages audiences across Canada and the U.S. The band broke into the U.S. festival circuit in 2008.

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- **Sons of Maxwell** – As Nova Scotia's version of the Everly Brothers, Don and Dave Carroll create evocative pop/folk music with a broad spectrum of original, Celtic and maritime songs embraced by a wide audience. The pair mixes thought provoking lyrics with refreshing vocal styles to deliver unmatched harmonies through original songwriting. The Carrolls' back-up band includes award-winning fiddler player Troy MacGillivray who appeared at Irish Fest last summer.
- **Colin Grant, Jason MacDonald and Adam Young** – Colin Grant, one of Cape Breton's top fiddle players, produces a clean and spirited sound influenced by Acadian, Breton, folk, rock and country sounds. His ability to play a wide spectrum of music styles provides audiences with a versatile repertoire. Grant teams up with guitarist and singer Jason MacDonald and pianist Adam Young.

Prince Edward Island

- **Vishten** – Comprised of third generation Acadians, Vishten has performed its brand of new-traditional Acadian music more than 1,000 times in eight countries. The band incorporates new elements and myriad instruments into its shows while staying true to the Acadian spirit of its roots. As multi-instrumentalists, Vishten mixes harmonies with step dancing, fiddle, guitar, accordion, penny-whistle, banjo, mandolin, piano, jaw-harp and bodhran into each performance.

Newfoundland

- **The Irish Descendants** – A top-selling band in Canada, the Irish Descendants has performed for nearly 20 years, featuring everything from Celtic ballads to high-energy reels. With a Juno Award to its credit, the band incorporates humor into its concerts and has toured extensively throughout North America.
- **Mahers Bahers (pronounced Mars Bars)** – Formed in 1998 at the infamous Ship Inn in St. John's, Newfoundland, the Mahers Bahers perform a show of upbeat reels and jigs. Led by legendary accordionist Frank Maher, the recipient of two lifetime achievement awards for musicianship and contributions to traditional music, the band plays traditional tunes with passion and wit.

New Brunswick

- **Samantha Robichaud** – A young fiddle talent from New Brunswick, Robichaud has fierce passion for her art, embracing all styles of fiddle playing throughout her 15-year tenure as a musician. Influenced by her Acadian heritage, Robichaud's classical training and ability has led her to multiple nominations, including Canada's prestigious East Coast Music Awards, as well as performances at the Grand Ole Opry and Carnegie Hall.

For more information on the artists appearing at the festival and the Milwaukee Irish Fest schedule, visit irishfest.com.

Milwaukee Irish Fest takes place August 13 – 16 at Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Milwaukee's lakefront. General admission tickets to the festival are \$15 for adults; \$10 for senior citizens 60+ (gate only); and kids 12 and under are free.

About Milwaukee Irish Fest

Milwaukee Irish Fest is the world's largest celebration of Irish music and culture, showcasing more than 100 entertainment acts annually at the four-day, 16-stage event at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Lake Michigan. Passionately committed to igniting a love of Irish culture in all people, Irish Fest teaches Ireland's music, dance, drama, sports, culture, children's activities, and genealogy at the festival and through year-long programming. For more information, visit irishfest.com.

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