

PRESS RELEASE



August 4, 5, 6, 2006 newport rhode island

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For Immediate Release:

May 9, 2006

DUNKIN' DONUTS NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES DIVERSE ARTIST LINE-UP FOR AUGUST 4 - 6

INDIGO GIRLS RETURN TO NEWPORT DAVID GRAY, MADELEINE PEYROUX, GRACE POTTER AND BETTY LAVETTE MAKE NEWPORT DEBUTS

Newport, RI--Festival Producer Robert Jones of Festival Productions today announced a wide array of artists covering almost every genre of the folk world for its annual Dunkin' Donuts Newport Folk Festival August 4-6, in Newport Rhode Island.

The festival will kick off on the evening of Friday, August 4 at the International Tennis Hall of Fame with an Irish theme. The electrifying tenor **Ronan Tynan** will perform, preceded by the most successful and sought-after Irish-American group in Celtic music, **Cherish The Ladies**. Impresario George Wein had caught Tynan's performance last winter at Feinstein's at the Regency and thought his appearance would make a splash at Newport on the stage at the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Nearing its 50th anniversary year, the Dunkin' Donuts Newport Folk Festival will present, on three separate stages, both established and emerging artists, in daytime performances at Fort Adams State Park August 5 and 6. Chart topping artists including **David Gray**, **The Indigo Girls**, **The Meters**, **Rosanne Cash**, **Keller Williams** and **Madeleine Peyroux** will spark the three days of musical celebration to satisfy the hearts of folk fans.

Joining them will be New England favorites **Patty Larkin**, **Bob Franke**, and legendary singer-songwriter **Chris Smither** along with the next generation of singers including **Sonya Kitchell**, **Jeffrey Foucault**, **Mary Gauthier**, **Grace Potter** and **Tim Eriksen**.

Returning after many years will be two of the early pioneers of the politically charged folk movement of the 1960s: **Rosalie Sorrels** and **Odetta**. These two legends have spent their lives eloquently performing and speaking out about issues of social justice, political rights and peace.

"The electrifying New Orleans-based band known as **The Meters** will help us celebrate the amazing legacy and musical history of the great "Crescent City" at this year's festival on our Sunday program," said George Wein, Executive Producer of the festival. "It is important that we recognize the importance of our fellow artists from New Orleans as they strive to renew their city and culture" continued Wein.

This year's event will also take note of the popularity of the song circle format. The festival will each day present a circle of some of the most current songwriters of the day. Saturday's program will feature **Chris Smither** who has been responsible for more than one of Bonnie Raitt's hits, Nashville based singer/songwriter **Darrell Scott** and a rising name on the Signature Sounds label, **Jeffrey Foucault**.

"Canadian Music. East Coast Style" comes to the 2006 Dunkin' Donuts Newport Folk Festival on Saturday afternoon August 5 on the Waterside Stage. Musical roots run deep on the East Coast of Canada, a place where musicians are born into French-Acadian kitchen parties and Celtic ceilidhs, and where an exciting new roots, rock and blues scene is on the horizon. **Blou** spices up contemporary music with folk, reggae and Cajun sounds. Their French-Acadian heritage (also the origin of Cajun culture and music) inspires this music group's energetic stage show. **Beòlach** – a Gaelic word meaning "lively youth" – is one of the most exciting new young celtic/world bands to come from the musical hotbed of Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island. **Hot Toddy** is a talented trio from New Brunswick, where a growing root and blues music scene is taking shape and turning heads. These three talented acts are some of Atlantic Canada's finest musical performers who showcased at the annual East Coast Music Awards, Conference and Festival, a five-day festival with hundreds of live performances, an industry convention and a nationally-televised awards show on CBC television and radio.

Sunday's song circles have a unique twist. **La Guitara**, the circle of guitarists **Patty Larkin**, **Mimi Fox** and **Muriel Anderson**, emanates conceptually from *La Guitara*, the ground-breaking recording of 14 women guitarists of varied genres as compiled by

Larkin, "to better define the contribution of women to the history of modern guitar." Another Sunday circle will feature Marblehead's **Bob Franke**, Wales' **Martyn Joseph** and **Kerry Grombacher** who has been writing songs about the Western United States for many years.

Also on Sunday, singer-songwriter-ethnomusicologist **Tim Eriksen**, who was instrumental in producing the music for the film *Cold Mountain* will open that day's program with a 30 voice choir of **Shape Note Singers**—singers from Rhode Island and Western Massachusetts. This style of singing, a communal form of music dating back to colonial New England, was last seen at the folk festival in the mid '60s. Tim will also be joined by **Riley Baugus** for their own set at the Harbor Stage later in the day

Newcomers this year, coming from the current hot string band genre, include **Abigail Washburn** and **The Duhks** from Canada.

Blues will also be well represented at this year's festival by **Sonny Landreth** from Louisiana who is known to many for his years in support of John Hiatt and one of the greatest soul singers in American history, **Bettye LaVette**, who is enjoying a resurgence in her career. Both appear on the Saturday program. And, from Vermont, the exciting young singer **Grace Potter** and her band **The Nocturnals** will make a Newport debut on the Sunday program.

The lineup is as follows: On Friday, August 4, 8 pm, at the International Tennis Hall of Fame, Ronan Tynan and Cherish the Ladies will perform. On Saturday, August 5 from 11:30 am - 7:00 pm at Fort Adams State Park: David Gray, Rosanne Cash, Sonny Landreth, Bettye LaVette, Chris Smither and The Duhks will appear on the Dunkin' Donuts Stage; Sonya Kitchell, Mary Gauthier, song circle with Chris Smither, Darrell Scott and Jeffrey Foucault, Darrell Scott [solo] and Rosalie Sorrels perform on the Harbor Stage; Beólach, Hot Toddy and Blue perform on the Waterside Stage. On Sunday, August 6, also from 11:30 am to 7:00 pm at Fort Adams State Park: Indigo Girls, The Meters, Madeleine Peyroux, Keller Williams, Patty Larkin and Tim Eriksen presents Shape Note all perform on the Dunkin' Donuts Stage; Odetta, Grace Potter & The Nocturnals, *La Guitarra* featuring Patty Larkin, Mimi Fox & Muriel Anderson, Tim Eriksen & Riley Baugus, Riley Baugus [solo], *Song Circle* with Martyn Joseph, Bob Franke & Kerry Grombacher and Abigail Washburn are set to appear on the Harbor and Waterside Stages. More artists and stage lineup will be announced shortly!

TICKETS: Tickets to the **Ronan Tynan** and **Cherish The Ladies** evening concert at 8 pm, August 4th at the Newport Casino, International Tennis Hall of Fame, 194 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI, are **\$30, \$45, \$60 and \$75.**

General admission tickets to Fort Adams State Park events August 5 and 6 will be \$55.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children between 2 and 12 either day. Children under 2 will be admitted free of charge. Individual adult tickets go to \$59.00 for Saturday or Sunday on festival weekend, if available. **A limited number of Adult 2-Day Saturday/Sunday tickets are also available (while they last) for \$95.00.**

WHERE TO GET TICKETS:

For **NEWPORT AREA PATRONS**, the festival ticket office is located at 770 Aquidneck Avenue in Middletown. Cash, checks and major credit cards are accepted. Call **(401) 847-3700** for more information and current office hours. Starting this year, tickets will also be available at the **Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau** located at 23 America's Cup Avenue in Newport.

All Tickets are also available on line at <http://www.ticketweb.com/>, by phone at **(866) 468-7619** and by mail. To order by mail send a check or money order for the ticket cost plus a \$4.00 handling charge per order to: Dunkin' Donuts® Newport Folk Festival, P.O. Box 1221, Newport, RI 02840.

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- ❑ **Festival Productions, Inc.** has its own website at <http://www.festivalproductions.net/>

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