



MEDIA RELEASE

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CelticFest Vancouver 2012

Proudly presented by Edgewater Casino

March 10 – 18

At various venues in Vancouver

***New in 2012!* Celts on the Creek on Saturday, March 10**

A special CelticFest sneak peek event

The Village on False Creek

Celtic Roots Rock!

All tickets on sale and full info and schedule online January 12, 2012

www.celticfestvancouver.com

CelticFest Vancouver, Western Canada's premiere Celtic cultural experience, today announced its 8th annual festival including featured highlights and exciting new initiatives for 2012.

CelticFest takes over Vancouver from **March 10 – 18** with music, dance, family-friendly entertainment and a healthy dose of Celtic spirit. To kick off the festival, organizers are also announcing an exciting new day-long **Celts on the Creek** pre-festival "sneak peek" event on **March 10** at The Village on False Creek. More than 50 events are scheduled, offering something for everyone. For lovers of all things Celtic (and who isn't?), CelticFest 2012 is already looking to be one of the most exciting festivals yet.

"CelticFest has always been proud to celebrate the rich Celtic traditions", says Executive Producer Rita Albano. "And we've also embraced a contemporary vision of Celtic music in the 21st Century – one that includes both Celtic culture's global influence, and inspires new cross-cultural collaboration and creation. The pioneering fusion that spawned Delhi 2 Dublin is one result, and we're looking forward to two ticketed shows this year that make new connections. Over the six days of CelticFest Vancouver 2012, well-loved and familiar traditions are honoured and enjoyed side-by-side with new expressions. That's what makes this festival a special part of Vancouver's cultural scene."

Here's a glimpse of what's in store!

CelticFest Vancouver 2012 is thrilled to present the 6th anniversary concert of a band that was created on the stage at CelticFest 2006 – and has since gone on to international stardom! **Delhi 2 Dublin** returns to celebrate their birthday at the **BIG St. Pat's Night Out!** at the **Vogue Theatre** on Saturday, **March 17**. Opening the concert is Luxembourg's **Dream Catcher**, whose performances are astonishing and their multilingual sets (English, French and Luxembourgish) always receive an enthusiastic response. This concert is sure to be the hottest St. Patrick's Day ticket in town!

March 15 at the **Stadium Club at Edgewater Casino**, sees the premiere performance of **From Texas to Tipperary**, our hot-licks homage to the rich roots tradition of Celtic-Americana. The night features an eclectic who's who of some of Canada's finest musicians including **Jim Byrnes**, **Roy Forbes**, **Steve Dawson**, **Babe Gurr**, **Cameron Latimer**, **T. Nile**, **Fish & Bird**, **The Matinée** and **Farrell Spence**, all backed by the crack **CelticFest House Band**.

CelticFest returns to the **Stadium Club** on **March 16** with **The San Patricios Concert: From Galway to Guadalajara**. This unique night of music traces the surprising connections between Ireland and Mexico. On stage is a sizzling lineup, with **Mariachi Los Dorados**, **Locarno**, **The Paperboys** and **The CelticFest House Band**. Kilts and sombreros will be flying!

And there's more! The festival features a range of fascinating and free Celtic music workshops, the popular annual **Whisky Kiss scotch-tasting**, a **traditional Irish music session**, a **Youth Variety Show** and an assortment of other events and activities.

CelticFest announces a brand new and exciting pre-festival free event on **March 10** at The Village on False Creek (formerly the Olympic Village). **Celts on the Creek** is a family-friendly afternoon of Celtic music and dance featuring Seattle's fiddling, dancing and singing sensations **The Gothard Sisters** along with **Good for Grapes**, **The Jocelyn Pettit Band**, and **The Streels**, plus roving royal characters in costumes and lots of other fun activities.

The wildly popular **8th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, presented by Pacific Centre** takes to the streets on **Sunday, March 18th**. This massive, fun and colourful spectacle starts at 11am at Drake & Howe streets in downtown Vancouver, and follows the same route north along Howe as in 2011. Over 200,000 people each year come out to see almost a hundred parade entries with upwards of 2,000 participants, including award-winning pipe and drum bands, marching Colour Guard, Celtic musicians, the Vancouver police motorcycle drill team and fire brigades, acrobats, vintage cars, Irish & Scottish youth dance and music groups, multicultural organizations and much more. *To be part of this grand procession, enter by January 31, 2012 (entry forms at www.celticfestvancouver.com)*

On March 17 & 18, the **Celtic Village and Street Market** fills Granville Street between Georgia & Smithe with laughter, music and free entertainment. It's a big St. Pat's weekend street fair offering an array of Celtic treasures, food and fare, gifted artisans, stories, continuous free music performances and interactive activities for people of all ages. Friends and families gather to soak in that special Celtic ambiance all weekend long. This year, the festival has adopted **Coast Mental Health** as its first ever charity of choice. **Coast's** volunteers will be on location collecting donations from the public to further support its high quality services and housing for people with mental illness.

CelticFest presents **free weekday lunchtime concerts** on the Plaza at Pacific Centre Mall (Georgia & Granville) on March 15 and 16. Participating pubs in downtown **Vancouver's Entertainment District** will also be rocking throughout the festival, with great music and dance groups on tap to perform.

CelticFest Vancouver is the proud recipient of the DVBIA's 2007 Annual Appreciation Award and in 2005, was recognized with Vancouver's BEST Special Event Award, by the Vancouver Board of Trade's Spirit of Vancouver.

For full information and to purchase tickets (on sale January 12, 2012) for all events, visit:

www.celticfestvancouver.com

Tickets also available January 12 at: Tickets Tonight (604.684.2787 ▪ in-person at the Tickets Tonight outlet, Tourism Vancouver Visitor Centre, Plaza Level, 200 Burrard Street).

Tickets for the Vogue Theatre, March 17 for BIG St. Pat's Night Out! featuring Delhi 2 Dublin with Special Guests Dream Catcher: available January 12 at: Vogue Theatre Box Office (604.569.1144 ▪ in-person at 918 Granville Street) and at www.celticfestvancouver.com

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