

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**American Folk Festival to begin in West Market Square**

“It All Starts Downtown” as Black Bear Marching Band kicks off 2010 AFF

BANGOR, Maine – The first music notes of the American Folk Festival this year will sound from West Market Square in downtown Bangor, as the Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band makes a return appearance at the annual event.

Changes to the Festival site for 2010 have required a new plan for the traditional parade that brings the audience from one end of the waterfront to the Railroad Stage for the Friday evening performances. At 6:30 on Friday evening (August 27), the University of Maine marching band will gather in West Market Square in downtown Bangor to perform for 15 minutes, and then lead the gathered audience through Pickering Square into the Festival site and on to the Railroad Stage.

“The Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band was part of the Festival’s lineup last year, but due to the torrential rain we got on Saturday, their appearance was cut short,” reports Executive Director Heather McCarthy. “The Festival audience includes a lot of University of Maine alumni and others who were excited to see the marching band. We hope that this year the band gets to take part in their full schedule of performances.”

The American Folk Festival will be held August 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010, and will feature more than 15 traditional performing groups representing Quebec, Irish, Korean and many other traditions. The entire weekend’s entertainment is supported by public donations that make it possible to continue to present the Festival in our community.

For more information about the 2010 American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront, please visit [www.americanfolkfestival.com](http://www.americanfolkfestival.com) or contact the American Folk Festival at 40 Harlow Street, Bangor, Maine 04401, 207-974-3218.

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