

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Additional Performers Announced for '10 American Folk Festival
After 8 years, new styles of music still to be presented

BANGOR, Maine – Seven additional performing groups have been added to the roster of artists who will perform at the 2010 American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront. This year's Festival will include new styles of music and dance, along with some other favorites that are more familiar to our audience. These groups include: The Other Europeans, Paddy Keenan, Rahim AlHaj, Kenge Kenge, the Pine Leaf Boys, the Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band, and Noreum Machi.

These performers will join the 5 groups already announced, plus additional artists to be announced, at the event August 27, 28 & 29 along the Bangor waterfront. They represent an incredibly diverse breadth of cultural traditions from many of the communities that are part of America today.

Hailing from Southwest Louisiana, the **Pine Leaf Boys** have made it their mission to present real Cajun music to the world and prove that it is still thriving and full of life.

The **Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band** were part of the 2009 Festival, but their Saturday performance was rained out, so they're returning for another opportunity to lead the parade through the Festival site on Friday and Saturday.

Noreum Machi is a captivating new group from Korea that performs the virtuosic percussion music known as samulnori. Their traditional program includes spectacular percussion dialogues, shamanic chants, and acrobatic dances.

Now making his home in New Mexico, **Rahim AlHaj** is a virtuoso of the Iraqi *oud*, an instrument similar to a lute. Since coming to the United States, AlHaj has become a cultural ambassador for the deep musical heritage of his homeland.

Irish traditions are some of the most popular styles of music with the Festival audience. This year, **Paddy Keenan** will share his uilleann pipe music at the Festival. Having performed since age 9, he brings a great energy and love for Irish music to the stage.

Two of Kenya's musical traditions – the deep-rooted *Luo* tradition and the guitar-based *benga* come together in the music of **Kenge Kenge** (whose name means “fusion of small, exhilarating instruments”). They perform with an unusual assortment of self-made musical instruments, but their voices are, in fact, the stars of the show – strong and generous, full of character and contrast.

The **Other Europeans Band** is an international gathering of 14 leading *klezmer* and *gypsy (Roma)* musicians. This new intercultural group is creating powerful, deeply emotional and virtuosic music that restores a centuries-old cooperation between two groups who cohabited the same space in present-day Moldova before being torn apart by war, holocaust and immigration.

These artists will perform at the American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront on August 27th, 28th, and 29th, 2010. The American Folk Festival continues to celebrate the roots, the richness and the variety of American culture through music, dance, traditional crafts, storytelling and food. And the entire weekend's entertainment is supported entirely by public donations that make it possible to continue to present the Festival in our community.

The American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront is produced by the Bangor Folk Festival, in partnership with the City of Bangor, Eastern Maine Development Corporation, the National Council for the Traditional Arts, the Maine Discovery Museum and the Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine.

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Additional Artists announced for 2010 American Folk Festival

For more information about the 2010 American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront, please visit www.americanfolkfestival.com or contact the American Folk Festival at 40 Harlow Street, Bangor, Maine 04401, 207-992-2630.

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Artist images and sound clips are available. Please contact Heather at 974-3218 for information.