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May 4, 2010

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First Performers Announced for '10 American Folk Festival

Familiar faces – and voices – kick off the 2010 lineup

BANGOR, Maine – Organizers of the American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront announced the first five performing groups who will be featured at the event in August. They are: *Dale Watson, The Holmes Brothers, Le Vent du Nord, Linda Lay and Springfield Exit*, and *Viento de Agua*.

These performers will be familiar to long-time Festival fans – all have participated in the annual August over the past eight years. All were eager to return to Bangor's Waterfront for another opportunity to share their music and traditions with the Maine audience.

Dale Watson appeared at the 2003 National Folk Festival in Bangor, when he noted that Bangor's waterfront parks are "really perfect for this kind of festival and the people are perfect, too." Coming to Maine from the heart of Texas, Dale is a true son of America's musical outlaw tradition, and is the reigning "king" of uncompromising, deep country – a real honky-tonk hero who lives the life and writes songs about it.

Also returning from the 2003 Festival are **Linda Lay and Springfield Exit** from Winchester, Virginia, who will once again perform bluegrass and acoustic country music at its lyrical best.

Last visiting Bangor in 2002, at the first National Folk Festival, **The Holmes Brothers** are the undisputed masters of American Roots music. "God's Own bar band" always brings down the house with its brazenly borderless blend of blues, gospel, R&B, soul, fun, and American country.

Making the trek from Montreal, Canada, **Le Vent du Nord** returns to Bangor's waterfront, bringing their rhythmic fiddle styles, unique tunes, spirited step dancing and centuries-old songs. The

First Artists announced for 2009 American Folk Festival

musical heritage of Quebec is among the richest and most engaging on earth, and these young keepers of this tradition are the finest Quebecois ensemble performing today.

Ready to light up the Dance tent once again is **Viento de Agua**, an explosive 13-piece band that unites the deep Afro-Cuban percussion traditions of Puerto Rico with a firey jazzy brass section. Their *bomba y plena* and *salsa* rhythms enraptured Festival audiences in 2002, and are guaranteed to do so once again!

Heather McCarthy, the Festival's Executive Director, said "The AFF is now entering its ninth year, and more than 150 performing groups have visited Bangor and made thousands of friends and fans. These artists are eager to return to the Festival's stages, and we look forward to their return trip."

These five groups are just the first of the list of artists who 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.

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.