

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2012 American Folk Festival announces first performers

BANGOR, Maine – Organizers of the American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront today announced the names of the first five performing groups who are scheduled to appear at the event in August. They are: *Marquise Knox*, *Dale Ann Bradley*, *The Aubrey Ghent Band*, *The Marshall Ford Swing Band*, and *Mary Jane Lamond with Wendy MacIsaac*.

2012 marks the start of the Festival's second decade of presenting a traditional arts music festival on Bangor's waterfront, and these performers are just some of the 16 groups that will participate in the August event.

Marquise Knox is 20 years old, a native of Granada, Mississippi and a legend in the making. Marquise hails from a musical family deeply entrenched in the Blues tradition. He learned how to play guitar from his grandmother whose family were sharecroppers and whose great, great grandparents were slaves. For him, Blues is his heritage.

Four times now, **Dale Ann Bradley** has been awarded the Vocalist of the Year title from the International Bluegrass Music Association, and Bangor audiences will see why when she brings her incomparably rich voice and east Kentucky sensibilities to the 2012 AFF.

The legendary **Aubrey Ghent** is a third generational lap steel guitarist. He was literally born into gospel steel, and has won national acclaim for his unique gospel style and highly skillful techniques. This summer, Aubrey Ghent and his band will bring this powerful tradition to Festival audiences throughout the weekend, including the traditional "Sunday Gospel Show" at the Railroad Stage.

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First Artists announced for 2012 American Folk Festival

With groups like the **Marshall Ford Swing Band** showing the way, Western swing is undergoing a renaissance. Blending early-century pop with jazz, blues, and southwestern folk traditions, Western Swing is enchanting, engaging, and ultimately dance-able.

The music traditions of maritime Canada are an important feature at each American Folk Festival, and this year those traditions will be showcased by singer Mary Jane Lamond and fiddler/dancer Wendy MacIsaac. With over two decades of international performing experience, these artists are looking forward to returning to the Festival's stages.

These artists are just the first of the lineup of artists who will perform at the American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront on August 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2012. The American Folk Festival celebrates the roots, the richness and the variety of American culture through music, dance, traditional crafts, storytelling and food. The Festival is supported entirely by public donations that make it possible to continue to present the Festival in our community.

For more information about the 2012 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.