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EXPO 2005 AICHI

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No. 24: September 18-24, 2005

This FINAL Week at the Canada Pavilion

This week: Welcome to the final week of Expo 2005! September 19 is Victoria Day at the Canada Pavilion with representatives from Victoria, British Columbia and its sister city of Morioka, Iwate Prefecture; don't miss 15-year-old blues virtuoso from Ontario, Jimmy Bowskill; enjoy the powerful rhythms of eclectic Francophone-Acadian band, BLOU; catch a performance by Similia, a unique flute and guitar duo from Québec; award-winning children's author from Montréal Bertrand Gauthier reads in the Manulife VIP Lounge; celebrate the final days of Expo with two special concerts at Expo Plaza and at Expo Hall; finally, join us for a special treat on closing day!

For more information on these activities or to request an interview with any of the participants, please contact the Communications team at the Canada Pavilion at 0561 64 5788. Media can also contact us by e-mail at info@expo2005canada.gc.ca.

Performing on the Global Common 2 Stage

September 17: **Darren Sigismund Quintet (11:30 am)**

Canadian trombonist and composer Darren Sigismund is emerging as a significant new voice on the Canadian and international music scene after having completed successful tours of Asia and Western Canada. He leads an exciting quintet project entitled, Strands, which features his original compositions. Strands conveys a dynamic blend of Jazz, Latin and Classical influences. For more information on Darren Sigismund or the Strands quartet, visit www.darrensigismund.com.

September 18-20: **Jimmy Bowskill (3:30 pm)**

Jimmy Bowskill, 15-year-old blues virtuoso from Ontario, taught himself to play and sing by interpreting by sight and sound but in his own natural style. He burst onto the music scene at the tender age of 11 when he was invited to join Canadian icon Jeff Healey onstage, and he has continued to play with top musicians ever since. Jimmy has taken Canada by storm, touring and performing across the country, notably at the world-renowned Montréal Jazz Festival and the Tremblant Blues Festival. Jimmy's incredible success story has been profiled on several national and regional television programs, and he has already released two albums. His most recent release, *Soap Bars & Dog Ears*, has been nominated for a prestigious Juno Award, Canada's top honour in the world of music. What makes Jimmy so special as a performer is not only his young age but his incredibly mature soul. Don't miss your chance to see this young performer as he takes the stage at Expo 2005. For more information on The Jimmy Bowskill Band, please visit www.jimmybowskill.com. This week, Jimmy will also be performing at Expo Hall, where he will be joined by Canadian rock star Sam Roberts and Francophone Acadian band BLOU.

September 18-20: **BLOU (12:30 pm)**

The story of Acadian band **BLOU** begins at a music festival in Nova Scotia in 1994, where

the Acadian people fell in love with them right away. Lead by Patrice Boulianne, **BLOU** made its way across Acadia, playing at numerous cultural festivals, events, cabarets, and nightclubs before they became a quintet in 1997. In 1998, the group released its first album, *Acadico*, which was published under independent label and was a great success in the Atlantic Provinces and across the nation. In 1999, BLOU had the honour of becoming the first Acadian group to have an album in circulation in France, giving them international status. Since then, BLOU has toured all over the world. In Canada, they are well loved by both the French and English-speaking public. They have been recognized for their talent and uniqueness by several awards and prizes, including the 2003 ZOF Award for the Francophone Canadian artist most recognized on the international market. BLOU will also be featured in a special concert on September 21 with blues virtuoso Jimmy Bowskill and rock star Sam Roberts. For more information on BLOU, please visit www.blou.ca.

September 21, 22, 24 (3:30 pm); September 23 (11:30 am): **Similia**

Formed in 1998, Similia is composed of identical twins Nadia Labrie, who plays the flute, and Annie Labrie, who plays the guitar. The duo specializes in contemporary Canadian repertoire, which they interpret with flamboyant energy and great sensitivity. Born in Québec, both Nadia and Annie were classically trained at top Canadian music institutions and found tremendous success in their solo careers before their talent and passion for music brought them together as Similia. In addition to countless performances in North America, Annie and Nadia have captivated audiences in Europe and in Mexico. As Duo Similia, they have already released two albums on the Analekta label, which are distributed in Japan and around the world. Their recent release *Nota Del Sol* was extremely well-received and earned the pair a prestigious 2004 Felix Award, given by the ADISQ, organization representing Québec companies and professionals of the record, entertainment, and video industry. On top of their performances on Global Commons 2, Similia will join an impressive line-up of Canadian classical artists on September 24 for a special concert at Expo Hall. For more information on Similia, please visit www.similia.ca.

Performing at Expo Plaza

September 21 (12:00 pm): “**Grande Finale of Concerts**”:

The Jimmy Bowskill Band, BLOU and The Sam Roberts Band

The Canada Pavilion is pleased to announce this special event, part of its “Grande Finale of Concerts” to celebrate the final days of Expo. At Expo Plaza, Jimmy Bowskill, 15-year-old blues virtuoso and Francophone Acadian band BLOU will be joined by Canadian rock star Sam Roberts. Sam Roberts is the front man of his five-piece rock group hailing from Montréal. Signed to Universal Music Canada, Sam toured extensively in support of his major-label-debut disc, *We Were Born in a Flame*, both in Canada as well as internationally. Sam’s rise to fame included being presented with three Junos, Canada’s most prestigious music award, for “Album of The Year,” “Artist of the Year” and “Rock Album of the Year.” For more information on Sam Roberts, please visit www.samrobertsband.com.

Performing at Expo Hall

September 24 (1:30 pm and 4:30 pm): “**Grande Finale of Concerts**”:

Similia, Measha Bruegggosman, Lucas Porter and Lisa Yui

As part of its “Grande Finale of Concerts”, the Canada Pavilion is pleased to host an

afternoon of performances by some of Canada's finest classical artists at Expo Hall. The afternoon will be dedicated to the Canadian classical repertoire, and featured guests will include flute and guitar duo from Québec Similia; internationally acclaimed soprano from New Brunswick Measha Bruegggosman; gifted 13-year-old pianist from Nova Scotia Lucas Porter; and remarkable Japanese-Canadian classical pianist from Alberta Lisa Yui. Similia and Measha Bruegggosman will take the stage from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm while Lucas Porter and Lisa Yui will share the spotlight from 4:30 pm to 5:45 pm. Canadian Classics is sure to be the perfect finale to Canada's cultural program at Expo 2005!

Visiting This Week in the Manulife VIP Lounge of the Canada Pavilion

September 19: City of Victoria Day

Part of the Canada Pavilion's Sister City days, this event will promote political, business and cultural relationships between the cities of Victoria, British Columbia and Morioka, Iwate Prefecture. The mayor of Victoria will visit the Canada Pavilion with a special delegation to meet with the mayor of Morioka and a number of Japanese business and trade representatives. Victoria Day at the Canada Pavilion will also be an opportunity to promote tourism, culture and commerce in this beautiful West Coast city with a special "Springtime in Victoria" prize! One lucky Canada Pavilion visitor will be presented with two nights in Victoria courtesy of Accent Inns, one of the city's family-owned Suite hotels, a "Butchart Gardens Day" experience at one of Canada's finest West Coast display gardens and a warm welcome from other attractions and businesses in Victoria.

September 23: Bertrand Gauthier

As an author, editor and publisher, Bertrand Gauthier has long been a passionate advocate of quality literature for young people. A native of Montréal, Québec, Mr. Gauthier is the Founder and President of *La Courte Échelle*, a publishing house specializing in readers aged 2-16 which has published over 200 titles (including 21 penned by Gauthier himself). As an author, Mr. Gauthier has created some of children's literature's most beloved characters, enjoyed by young people as far as Japan and Greece. Bertrand Gauthier will read from his book *Je suis Louna et je n'ai pas peur de rien* at the Manulife VIP Lounge on September 23 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

Special Event at the Canada Pavilion

September 25 (9 am): Farewell Pancake Breakfast

On September 25, the Canada Pavilion will be closing its doors after six successful months of operation. On the last day of Expo 2005, we wish to thank our visitors for their patronage with a delicious pancake and maple syrup breakfast (while quantities last). Join us on this final Sunday morning to sample a typical Canadian breakfast!

Please note that the Canada Pavilion will close its doors at

7 pm on Sunday, September 25.

Thank you for your understanding!

For more information, visit the Canada Pavilion Web site at

www.expo2005canada.gc.ca

Did you know...

The Canada Pavilion at Expo 2005 proudly welcomed its three-millionth visitor last week on September 9, 2005. This milestone is an important one since it signifies the pavilion officially doubled the initial overall objective of 1.5 M visitors. Over the course of the last six months, the Canada Pavilion has attracted an average of more than 17,000 visitors each day and by September 25, expects to have welcomed close to 3.25 million visitors. We wish to thank of all of our friends and visitors for making our presence in Aichi an overwhelming success!