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Press Release – For Immediate Release

Performers from across Canada to appear at The Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival September 16 – 18, 2011

(Toronto, ON) The 15th Annual Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival continues to be one of the most anticipated events of the season, and especially so this year with the **120th Anniversary celebration of Ukrainian settlement in Canada**. The Festival is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant from **Celebrate Ontario** and a grant from **Buduchnist Credit Union** which will allow for Canadian performers of Ukrainian heritage from across Canada to entertain and dazzle the audience. To compliment the performers from the GTA, Ukraine and the USA, the following performers who will appear include:

Verkhovyna Ukrainian Song and Dance Ensemble from Edmonton made up of the Verkhovyna Choir and Dunai Dancers –a total of 45 performers will showcase "**The Letter**," an emotional and colourful musical and dance journey through the pages of Ukrainian Canadian history. The piece, dedicated to Ukrainians who helped develop this young country of Canada, is a riveting story of a woman's journey to a new land and life filled with struggles and promise. This performance is made possible by an additional generous contribution by its **lead corporate sponsor Buduchnist Credit Union**.

Akord Men's Choir from Ottawa which embodies the richness of Ukrainian choral tradition through the melodious synergy of a four-part choir. They perform a broad repertoire that highlights various Ukrainian choral masters.

Roman Brytan, host of CKER radio Edmonton. Guest M.C. at Festivals throughout North America.

Larisa Sembaliuk Cheladyn, acclaimed visual artist from Edmonton, has reached deeply into the community with her colourful and bold work. She combines reflections of relevant historical moments, environmental beauty, cultural influences and identities with poignant social statements. Larisa has just launched 4 pictures dedicated to the commemoration of the 120th Anniversary celebrations.

Roman Danylo, Star of Comedy Inc. from Vancouver is a top Canadian improviser, a TV and film actor, and traditional theatre actor.

Baritone Chris Dunahm, will showcase the Ukrainian Pioneer's Song: **EDNA STAR**. Lyrics written by Steve Andrusiak and music composed by Igor Zhylyak. For a preview Edna Star is available on i-Tunes.

Harmonia Trio, comprised of three sensational vocalists from Montreal who together popularize Ukrainian classical, folk and contemporary songs. They will be featuring their Lemko repertoire.

Kule Folklore Centre Exhibit, University of Alberta, premieres the Pioneer Experience Exhibit, celebrating 120 years of Ukrainian settlement in Canada. The exhibit chronicles life before migrating, the ocean voyage, arriving on the prairies, and finding a homestead prior to 1900. The Kule Folklore Centre is a unique teaching, research and archival resource about Ukrainian Canadians.

Lyra Trio, based in Winnipeg, has been entertaining audiences across Canada with several styles of traditional Ukrainian music styles. These three accomplished female vocalists and musicians play various instruments including the bandura, cello, violin and guitar.

Suzirya Ukrainian Dance Theatre from Calgary under the direction of Serguei Makarov, is well known for its eloquent fusion of ballet and tradition Ukrainian folk dance. Suzirya, meaning constellation of many stars, has entertained audiences worldwide with countless choreographic compositions embodying the culture and spirit of Ukraine.

Tyt i Tam Band (Pronounced Toot ee Tahm) from Saskatoon, performs a unique and progressive style of Ukrainian Zabava (dance-party) music. The five piece band including a fiddle and accordion has extensive knowledge of various styles of music that when fused together create a signature sound. This Band is an outstanding collaboration of tradition folk songs and contemporary flavour.

Discover Ukrainian culture in Canada and share the Ukrainian spirit at North America's Largest Ukrainian Street Festival. For performance times see www.ukrainianfestival.com

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