



Press release

For immediate release

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## **The Rhythms of the World Festival to take place in the Old Port of Montreal**

**Montreal, June 2, 2006** – The **Rhythms of the World Festival**, a non-profit organization aiming to promote understanding and cultural harmony, will be presenting its third Montreal edition and will take place in the Old Port of Montreal from July 28 to 30, 2006. After the first edition, held in the southwest part of the island, and the second in the Quartier International and surrounding areas, the **Rhythms of the World Festival** has struck a partnership with the Quays of the Old Port of Montreal to present its events at Quai Jacques-Cartier, situated alongside Old Montreal and the St. Lawrence River.

Under the honorary presidency of Isabelle Hudon (Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal) and in partnership with Loto-Québec, this one of a kind and lively festival will continue its celebration of the 5 continents by welcoming artists from different cultural backgrounds and will have a three-part program encompassing performing arts, visual arts and culinary arts.

Under performing arts, Montrealers and tourists alike will be able to groove to the sounds of world music by attending a bustling and pulsating weekend in the Old Port. A multicultural evening show on Friday, July 28th, will feature Salaam and the Women of the World show with Muna Mingole, Sandra Campanelli and Monica Freire. On Saturday, July 29th a crowd-drawing Latin evening event will be showcased, in collaboration with the Gillett Entertainment Group. Cultural Harmony Day will then take place on Sunday, July 30th, with Elian, Burlington Taiko and Paulo Ramos. As part of visual arts, there will be an art exhibition held at Bonsecours Market and showcased will be the likes of Marc Séguin, Natalie Reis, Poli Wilhelm, Mikhail Kudish, Raymon Fong, Melissa Gervais, Nancy Bourassa, Pascal Caputo, Fabrice Landry, Mathieu Lévesque, Justin Lalancette and many other visual artists stemming from different ethnic backgrounds. For this occasion, artists will present their creations inspired by the theme of cultural harmony.

As part of culinary arts, special lunch menus catering to the tastes of the world will be available in several ethnic restaurants of Old Montreal and its surroundings.

For the inauguration of the 2006 edition, the festival will launch its activities during a benefit cocktail dinner under the theme “Flavours of the World Gala” on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Montréal Science Centre. The event will offer many multi-cultural appetizers, exotic wines, a dance show and musical entertainment representing the different cultures of the world, as well as an art exhibition and many more surprises. The live painting collective Lattakeuse Dimage will create paintings live during the event which will be put on sale through a silent auction.

For the second consecutive year, the Velan award will be presented at the end of the evening to highlight the remarkable work of a fellow Canadian living abroad. The recipient of the 2006 Velan award will be Cynthia Hunt, founder of HEALTH inc. – a health, environment and education oriented organization in the Himalayas – who will be arriving directly from Ladakh in the Himalayas to receive her award. Her humanitarian work in the villages located at more than 16,000 feet in the mountains is well illustrated in the documentary directed by Pat Morrow and entitled “The Magic Mountain”. Moreover, part of the proceeds raised during the benefit gala will be donated to Young Musicians of the World, a non-profit organization with the mission to help young people and to preserve world music by building music schools that teach the traditional music in many different countries.

On top of being under the honorary presidency of Isabelle Hudon, the **Rhythms of the World Festival** has the privilege of having the following members on its honorary committee: Assaad Abdanour (CLIC Foods), Veronique Bugeaud (CCN Matthews), George Durst (Saratoga Media, House of Jazz), Carlos Ferreira (Ferreira Café), Vincenzo Guzzo (Cinemas Guzzo), Daniel l’Africain (Lozeau l’Africain, Chambre de commerce et d’industrie du Sud-Ouest de Montréal), Peter McAuslan (McAuslan Brewery), Duarte Miranda (Montreal International), Louise O’Sullivan (Jacques Cartier Personnel Consultants Inc.), Patricia Rimok (Conseil des relations interculturelles du Québec), Louise Roy (CIRANO), René Roy (Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec) and A. K. Velan (Velan Valves).

By being in the Old Port in 2006, the **Rhythms of the World Festival** will bear the great potential of creating innovative shows and attracting thousands upon thousands of people to its summer events. In doing so, the **Rhythms of the World Festival** aspires to become a key figure of Montreal’s cultural event scene and extend across other Canadian cities and the world.

The mission of the **Rhythms of the World Festival** is to foster understanding and harmony between cultures through sociocultural activities allowing for the development, promotion and distribution of the performing, visual and culinary arts.

Program, tickets and complete information on the website at [www.rhythms.tv](http://www.rhythms.tv)

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