

OPENair

For Immediate Release

GREAT BIG SEA returns to OPEN AIR Labour Day

**Monday, Sept. 4
GREAT BIG SEA live at OPEN AIR**

TICKETS ON SALE June 3

McPherson Box Office (walk up or charge by phone: 386-6121)

Ditch & Lyle's Place (cash only)

www.ticketweb.ca

VICTORIA, BC, June 1— GREAT BIG SEA returns to Open Air following their successful two-day run in 2004. Known for their high-energy shows, GREAT BIG SEA fuses the traditional music of Newfoundland with modern pop by blending vocal harmonies with the mandolin, bodhran, fiddle and concertina. Their hard-driving approach has not only made them popular in Canada, where they've been nominated for four Juno awards, but has brought them a growing recognition throughout North America and Europe.

The band's eighth release, *The Hard and the Easy*, reached gold status in its second week. Each of the 12 songs on the album was selected for what it says about Newfoundland's music and history and for how well it fits within that musical canon.

"Several of the songs are from the turn of the last century, and besides the beautiful melodies, the poetry itself is really remarkable," says multi-instrumentalist Bob Hallett.

GREAT BIG SEA is presented by OPEN AIR and ATOMIQUE PRODUCTIONS as part of a concert series sponsored by ROGERS WIRELESS. Other artists performing at OPEN AIR this summer include FEIST (July 14) and CITY AND COLOUR (Aug. 18).

OPEN AIR is a summer-long series of events presented by the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA) in partnership with the City of Victoria and is produced by TNT Productions Inc. Located in Centennial Square, OPEN AIR also presents FLIX *al fresco!*, Big Band Boogie and the weekly Urban Farm Market For more information about OPEN AIR or volunteer opportunities, visit www.openairvictoria.com.

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