



MEDIA RELEASE

“IlluminAqua Announces *Bravo Star*”

For Immediate Release – Tuesday, June 8, 2009



Welland – The finishing touches are taking place at the Merritt Park Amphitheatre and the Welland Recreational Canal Corp (WRCC) is pleased to announce the ensemble cast for the first IlluminAqua show on June 12, 2009. Opening for the Destino Tenors will be none other than the winner of Bravo’s Gemini Award winning hit TV show, *Bathroom Divas*, Elton Lammie, after a crowd-warming set from Michael Gabriel.

Elton Lammie, winner of the *Bathroom Divas*, is proof that the voice comes from within. The B.C.-born Roy Orbison tribute singer with a penchant for cowboy hats had the necessary talent and determination to beat out natural, classically trained opera singers. Elton has the ability to wow the crowd with his beautiful voice and intense performance of an Aria or two. Since winning, ironically Elton and his band won a nationwide country music star search just two months after winning the Divas contest, and the depth of his talent can unexpectedly show up much to the delight of an unsuspecting crowd. Elton has continued his training as an opera singer and continues to tour all of North America performing, expanding his opera repertoire regularly.

Warming up the stage for the Destino Tenors and Elton Lammie will be Michael Gabriel. Michael will be the first artist to take the stage and will delight the IlluminAqua crowd with his beautifully crafted melodies. Michael Gabriel trained and performed as a classical singer in Vancouver and has travelled extensively around the world performing. Michael brings his classical guitar to the IlluminAqua stage to play songs from his two albums, “*Certainty of Change*” and “*In This Together*”.

“These wonderful performers, from opener to headliner, the Destino Tenors, provide the perfect ambience for the first evening at the permanent amphitheatre,” remarked Bob Mahler, WRCC Chair. IlluminAqua, a Top 100 Festival in Ontario award winner, opens the season on Friday, June 12, 2009. Gates open at 6:30 pm and the lighting of the Fire Pods and concert will begin at 7:30pm. The WRCC is pleased to offer the 2009 IlluminAqua Season as free admission events and will be looking to audiences to support the series through donations and the purchase of *Series Supporter* pins.

The *Series Supporter* pins are available now at Seaway Mall Customer Service, Café on Main, Cool Licks, Ye Ole Squire and the Pita Pit. A forty dollar donation gets you a *Series Supporter* pin which entitles you to two complimentary beverages at any IlluminAqua production, discounts and packages from participating merchants (both on and off site), reserved seating in the Merritt Park Amphitheatre (reserved until fifteen minutes before show time), and complimentary wine tastings at each IlluminAqua production. “The *Series Supporter* pin is a way for the community support the continued celebration of the Arts & Culture Series for a fraction of what a ticket would cost for any one of the IlluminAqua shows,” suggested Stephen Fischer, Creative Director of IlluminAqua and WRCC Business & Operations Manager. “The *Series Supporter* pin is a simple way to donate and assist in the development of arts & culture in our community while providing excellent value for patrons”, Fischer continued.

Series Supporter pins, IlluminAqua merchandise and artists merchandise will also be available on site.

Information is available at www.illuminacqua.com. Email us at info@illuminacqua.com or call 905-735-1700 ext 2311

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For further information regarding this media release, please contact:
Stephen Fischer, WRCC Business & Operations Manager,
Tel: (905) 735-1700 ext. 2311
Cell: (905) 658-3033