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Summer Event Guide

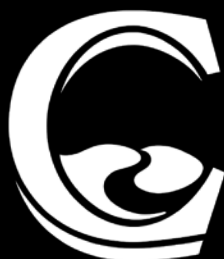


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Executive Director's Message

We're excited to unveil a vibrant summer lineup; music, theatre, comedy, film, and more. There's something for everyone. Many have asked us about the culture cuts so I've taken this opportunity to comment on the subject, from our perspective.

In 2023, Nova Scotia's creative sector contributed over \$2 billion to the province's GDP and supported over 16,000 jobs, outpacing forestry, fishing, and farming combined. Locally, we see major impacts as hundreds gather at the deCoste 70-80 times a year, driving economic and tax benefits that significantly exceed the funding we receive.

Facing a 20% funding cut is very difficult for our organization. We also recognize the need to balance priorities like healthcare and industrial development. Culture is not the problem, but rather a big part of the solution. Strong, vibrant communities attract families and professionals alike, helping fuel a successful province—not just in urban centres.

Pictou boasts rural Nova Scotia's boldest and most innovative culture hub, the result of major support from all levels of government. With over 40 years of support behind us, we will work with the province to build back better. We are focused on growth, partnerships, and resilience. You are critical to our success and growth. Keep on coming to shows. Share our promotions. Become a member, a donor, or a sponsor.

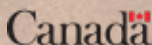
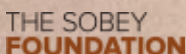
Troy Greencorn
Executive Director

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Thanks to our Partners!

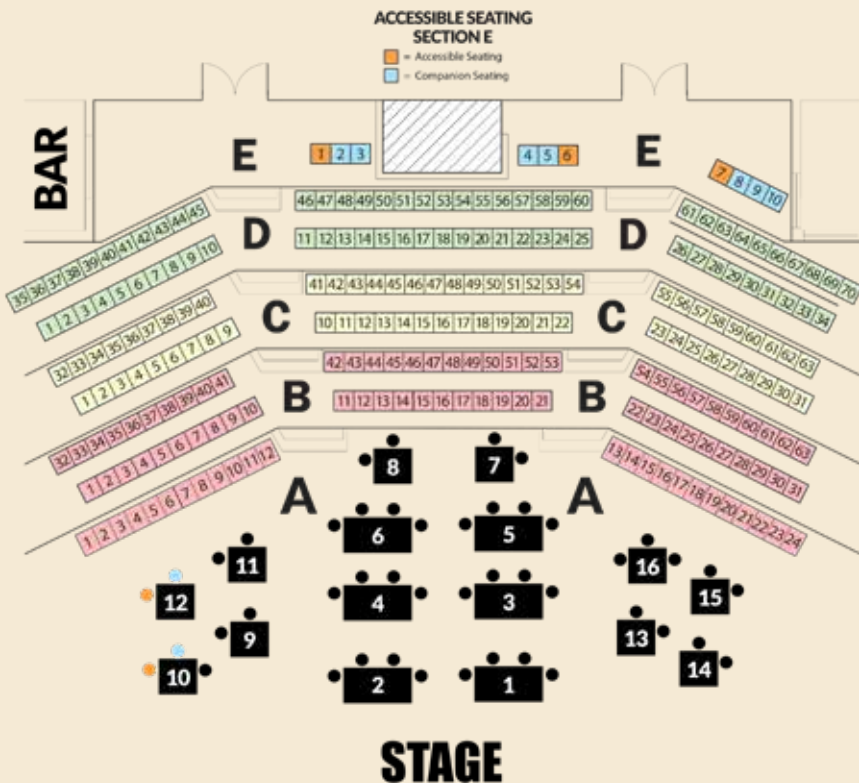
Sponsorship and donations play a vital role in helping us grow. They also offer your business valuable exposure to more than 25,000 patrons who attend events and visit our venue each year. Contact us to learn more. Thanks to the following great funders/sponsors:



Canada Council for the Arts / Conseil des arts du Canada

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.

Summer Seating Chart



Summer Seating Chart: See summer seating chart above. Unless otherwise stated, the floor is set in cabaret style, ideal for groups. Doors to theatre open 30 minutes before show starts. Shows will have reserved seating on both the raised levels and floor.

Hours: Mon–Fri, 10 AM–4 PM
*Plus hour & 1/2 before shows.

Tickets: Buy online, by phone, or in person

Payment: Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, Interac, cash

Encore & Premier members may hold seats or pay in instalments. Tickets must be completely paid two weeks prior.

Accessibility: Contact the box office for accessible seating or assistance.

Groups encouraged to book in advance.

Refunds:

- General Public: Credit only.
- Spotlight Members: Credit or refund (\$5 fee).
- Encore/Premier Member: Full refund or credit.

No refunds after 4 PM on show day.

Cancellations:

Programming subject to change.

Contact us:

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deCoste
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTRE

Canada Rocks

Wednesday, July 1

7:30 PM | \$40 | Members \$37 (fees & taxes extra)

We're celebrating Canada Day and kicking off summer in fine style. Pictou County's finest artists will gather to sing Canada's biggest hits. From the gritty poetry of Gord Downie to the powerhouse vocals of Shania Twain, from the anthemic rock of Bryan Adams to the folk soul of Neil Young — this concert is a love letter to the songs and artists that define us.

Featuring: Doris Mason (Musical Director), Albert Dunnewold, Ashley George, Cecely Gilby, Lisa McGrath, Petra Moriarty, John Muirhead, Sally O'Neil, Bruce Pettipas, Leah Sampson, Paul Tupper, and Derek Wilson.



"Gordie's success writing hits in Nashville is unmatched by any East Coaster – EVER! We are so lucky to get an insider's view of these stories and songs."
–Troy Greencorn

SONGS & STORIES

Gordie Sampson

Thursday, July 2

7:30 PM | \$40 | Members \$37 (fees & taxes extra)

Gordie Sampson is a Grammy-winning songwriter from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, who has built an extraordinary career in Nashville penning chart-topping hits. This show offers a rare chance to hear those songs performed by the writer himself, along with the stories behind them. Since moving to Nashville in 2005, he has co-written multiple No. 1 hits, including Carrie Underwood's "Jesus, Take the Wheel" and Luke Bryan's "Knockin' Boots," with songs recorded by artists like Miranda Lambert, Guy Clark, Snoop Dogg, Willie Nelson, Bon Jovi, Kenny Chesney, Dan + Shay, and Florida Georgia Line, among many others. He's cemented his reputation as one of Nashville's most successful Canadian songwriters.

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Membership Tiers

	SPOTLIGHT	ENCORE	PREMIER
Membership Price	\$50	\$65	\$100
 Membership: 2 people in 1 household	✓	✓	✓
 Discounts: selected deCoste performances (~ \$3 savings/ ticket)	✓	✓	✓
# of discounted tickets available for applicable shows	2	4	6
 Mail delivery of flyers & program books	✓	✓	✓
 Pre-sale access to tickets for selected shows	✓	✓	✓
 Minimum of 1 free Members Night performance annually	✓	✓	✓
 Minimum of two Member 2-for-1 performances annually (applies to base price)	✓	✓	✓
 Monthly birthday ticket draw (requires your D.O.B. in our system)	✓	✓	✓
 Ability to put tickets on hold (Pay 2 weeks in advance or release)		✓	✓
 Ability to make installment payments in advance of performance		✓	✓
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 Refunds/exchanges available with no \$5 service fee charged		✓	✓
 Ability to reserve seats in general admission section			✓
 2 Complimentary drink vouchers per season (Winter/Spring, Summer, Fall)			✓
 Monthly ticket lottery for predetermined deCoste select shows			✓
 10% discount on non-commercial rentals of deCoste (subject to date availability)			✓

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Visit decostecentre.ca/membership to join and to see a list of Member Partners and applicable discounts.



Amelia Parker



Heather Cameron & Kenny Stewart



Kitchen Criminals

Caladh Avenue **Kitchen Party**

Tuesday, July 7

7:30 PM | \$25 | Members 2-for-1 (fees & taxes extra)

Nothing defines East Coast music more than a bunch of fiddles and tunes in a kitchen. For almost 45 years, the deCoste has brought traditional music from the kitchen to the stage. Come out for a fun evening of talent from close to home. We will kick off the evening with local award-winning fiddler and deCoste team member Amelia Parker. Next, we will feature Heather Cameron and Kenny Stewart. Rounding out the show will be the Kitchen Criminals. The only thing they are guilty of is increased traffic to the bar, uncontrollable foot tapping and spontaneous dancing.



SUMMER LAUGHS

Lorne Elliott

Wednesday, July 8

7:30 PM | \$25 | Members 2-for-1 (fees & taxes extra)

Lorne Elliott is a Canadian comedian, writer, and musician known for his quirky humour and distinctive storytelling style. Blending wit, wordplay, and gentle absurdity, he gained national recognition through radio and television, including appearances on CBC programs like *Madly Off in All Directions*. Elliott's performances often mix stand-up with music, showcasing his talents as a songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. With a career spanning decades, he remains a beloved figure in Canadian comedy for his originality and charm. The deCoste is please to welcome Lorne back to Pictou.



A Celtic Serenade

Cassie & Maggie

Thursday, July 9

7:30 PM | \$33 | Members \$30 (fees & taxes extra)

Their story intersects with Pictou and the deCoste Centre throughout their career. They have been playing our stage since childhood and have helped to forge our strong relationships with Antigonish audience members. These award-winning sisters from Nova Scotia are celebrated for their dynamic blend of traditional Celtic roots and contemporary folk. Known for their captivating harmonies, virtuosic fiddling, and energetic step dancing, they have toured internationally, earning acclaim for both their musicianship and storytelling. Their performances honour East Coast traditions while bringing a fresh, modern vitality to the folk music scene.



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Alora Ells



Petra Moriarty



Lily Gunn



Ella Gunning Parker

New Voices

Hosted by: Jud Gunning

Wednesday, July 15
7:30 PM | \$25 | Members 2-for-1 (fees & taxes extra)

New Voices, hosted by Jud Gunning, shines a spotlight on the next generation of musical talent in Nova Scotia. Featuring emerging artists Alora Ells, Lily Gunn, Ella Gunning Parker, and Petra Moriarty, this showcase celebrates fresh voices rooted in country and folk traditions. Each performer brings a unique perspective and sound, highlighting the depth and promise of the province's rising artists. Join us for an inspiring evening of heartfelt music and storytelling as these young performers take the stage.



IN CONCERT

Gordie MacKeeman and His Rhythm Boys

Thursday, July 16

7:30 PM | \$33 | Members \$30 (fees & taxes extra)

Gordie MacKeeman and His Rhythm Boys have captivated audiences at major festivals around the world, earning a reputation for their high-energy performances and exceptional musicianship. Led by fiddling powerhouse Gordie “Crazylegs” MacKeeman, this dynamic group delivers an electrifying mix of country, bluegrass, and rockabilly. Their latest album *Dreamland*, highlights the band’s versatility and signature sound. Featuring award-winning talent and Gordie’s unforgettable step dancing, their live show is vibrant, infectious, and guaranteed to leave audiences amazed.

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The Irish Descendants

DOUBLE
ALBUM
LAUNCH



Our tribute
to **Stan
Rogers**

Tuesday, July 21

7:30 PM | \$40 (fees & taxes extra)

After Stan Rogers' passing in 1983, Newfoundland folk singer Con O'Brien began a remarkable 42-year career shaped by Rogers' storytelling. Deeply inspired by songs of East Coast life, O'Brien carried that influence forward. In winter 2026, his JUNO Award-winning band, The Irish Descendants, gathered in Bay Bulls, NL, to record *Gone But Not Forgotten*, a heartfelt double album tribute to Rogers' legacy, celebrating his enduring impact and inviting new generations to discover the stories, people, and places that define Canada's identity. We are thrilled to be part of the launch tour as it heads to Stanfest for a major launch.



Songs of the Candle

Road to Stanfest Edition

Wednesday, July 22

7:30 PM | \$40 | Members \$37 (fees & taxes extra)

We are back with another candlelit songwriter's gathering. Pictou County's own Dave Gunning will host Saskatchewan-born songstress Connie Kaldor, Cape Breton's Rose Morrison, and Australia-based Mark Lang, the producer of Dave's latest record, *Field Notes*. All three will be headed to Canso right after the show to participate in the 30th anniversary edition of the Stan Rogers Folk Festival. If you can't head to Canso, here is a great chance to preview the magic as Canada's finest share the stage with an Australian veteran of festivals and theatre stages. The ambiance of the candles make this a perfect night out.

**Format/Seating: Artists in semi-circle on main stage, reserved on levels, cabaret on floor.*

***Links available on our website to learn more about each artist.*



IN CONCERT

La Famille LeBlanc

Thursday, July 23

7:30 PM | \$33 | Members \$30 (fees & taxes extra)

La Famille LeBlanc, from New Brunswick's Acadian heartland, brings generations of tradition to the stage. This family ensemble—parents and their three daughters—shares rare 19th-century Acadian and Celtic songs through rich harmonies, fiddle, concertina, whistle, and piano. Drawing on a deep musical lineage, their performances blend heritage with original compositions. Their music honours the resilience and spirit of Acadian culture while offering a vibrant, contemporary interpretation that resonates with audiences of all ages.



Sharing the Experience



Syrian children enjoyed the experience of *Frozen in Time* this past March.



Several Riverview Home residents are preparing to watch *Frozen in Time*.



New Hope Clients after Dave Gunning's performance in February.



Social Butterflies (seniors) after an awesome meal & show by Alfie Zappacosta.

“I had the best night in a long time.”

—Brian, a New Hope Client

This past winter, the deCoste Centre's Arts for All program helped several community groups experience live performances through complimentary and discounted tickets—made possible by generous support from our *Please Be Seated* campaign and 50/50 donors.

Following Dave Gunning's February album launch, clients from New Hope shared heartfelt feedback, with one attendee, Brian, saying, “I had the best night in a long time.”

In March, seniors who first connected at the *Social Butterflies* event last September reunited for a sociable evening of dining and Alfie Zappacosta's performance, supported by the Pictou County Community Health Boards.

A highlight of the season was welcoming residents from Riverview Homes to *Frozen in Time*. Some even attended in costume, adding extra magic to the experience. As Julie Dignan, the Coordinator of Community Development at Riverview Homes, noted, “These outings are an extra special treat for our residents, made accessible through the program's support”. We were also pleased to host a group of Syrian children through CAiRNs, who thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

With ongoing community support, Arts for All will continue to make these meaningful experiences possible.



HOT FLASH COMEDY

Syd Bosel

Tuesday, July 28

7:30 PM | \$25 | Members 2-for-1 (fees & taxes extra)

Comedian Syd Bosel has quickly built a strong connection with audiences across Canada, bringing her sharp wit and relatable storytelling to stages like the deCoste Centre. A regular headliner with Jokers Canada and Hot Flash Comedy, she has been featured on CBC's *The Debaters*, *Just for Laughs*, and *Laugh Out Loud*. Winner of the 2025 Yuk Yuk's Yuk Off, Syd continues to gain national recognition. Originally from Vancouver and now based in Comox, BC, her debut album, *Thanks for Swinging By*, captures her honest and distinctive comedic voice.



LENNON

A MUSICAL JOURNEY

Wednesday, July 29

7:30 PM | \$30 | Members \$27 (fees & taxes extra)

The story of The Beatles is reimagined through the eyes of the enigmatic John Lennon. Featuring an original score by **Roy A. Munro** and narration by **John Spyder Macdonald**, this intimate production traces Lennon's journey from Liverpool to global fame and beyond. Starring **Sally O'Neill, Karen Laundon, Cecely Gilby, Randy Gilby, Brad Stewart, Greg MacDonald, John Meir**, and with musicians **Al Sutherland, Paul Tupper, John Muirhead, Bruce Pettipas**, and **Alex Lank**—an unforgettable night of music and storytelling.

Annual Northumberland Quilt Guild



Show & Sale

Friday, July 31 &
Saturday, August 1

10 am to 4 pm

\$5 Admission

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FILM SCREENING AND Q&A



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Clairtone

A FILM BY RON MANN

Tuesday, August 4

7:30 PM | \$10 (fees & taxes extra)

Acclaimed director Ron Mann delves into the meteoric rise and fall of Clairtone Sound Corp., the audacious Canadian electronics company founded by Peter Munk and David Gilmour in 1958.

Renowned for its superbly designed and engineered hi-fi stereos and color TVs, Clairtone soared to international success, becoming a symbol of Canadian ingenuity and modernity. Clairtone's most dramatic chapter unfolded in Pictou County, NS, where a vast, state-of-the-art factory opened in 1966 to great fanfare. Then, just as quickly as it took off, Clairtone collapsed.

Narrated by Nina Munk, Peter Munk's daughter, Clairtone reveals the story of one of Canada's most ambitious—and short-lived—companies.

Following the screening, we will host a Q&A with director Ron Mann and narrator Nina Munk, reflecting on Clairtone's legacy in Nova Scotia and beyond.





IN CONCERT

J.P. Cormier

Wednesday, August 5

7:30 PM | \$35 | Members \$32 (fees & taxes extra)

J.P. Cormier is a celebrated Canadian singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist known for his extraordinary versatility and musicianship. A thirteen-time East Coast Music Award winner and Canadian Folk Music Award recipient, he has built a remarkable career spanning more than three decades. From early performances at the Grand Ole Opry to taking the East Coast music scene by storm with his acclaimed album *Another Morning*, J.P. continues to captivate audiences with his skill, heart, and authenticity. We look forward to welcoming him back to the deCoste Centre!



Stu Marchand



Albert Dunnewold



Scott Decoste



Mike Chapman

Songs by My Heroes

Outlaw Songs Edition

Thursday, August 6

7:30 PM | \$28 | Members \$25 (fees & taxes extra)

The outlaw country music genre includes legendary artists like Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, Guy Clark, Jerry Jeff Walker, Hank Williams Jr., Towns van Zant and Steve Earle. They brought outlaw country to mainstream appeal, bringing storytelling, authenticity, and rebellious spirit to a wider audience. Collaborations revived careers, influenced future artists, and solidified the outlaw movement's legacy within country music history.

Join Pictou County music legends Stu Marchand, Scott Decoste, Albert Dunnewold, and Mike Chapman as they celebrate the outlaws and their contemporaries in this wonderful evening of song.



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O'Hanlon

Three Generations of Song

Tuesday, August 11

7:30 PM | \$25 | Members 2-for-1 (fees & taxes extra)

It is rare to see three generations unite to celebrate a lifetime of Irish music. Rooted in Canso, Nova Scotia, the Hanlon family carries a rich tradition. Brothers Jim and John began at their mother Mamie's piano, later recording albums, playing festivals, and leading sessions across the region, including memorable shows at the Michelin Club. Nephew Chris followed their path, while great-nephew Pete Lumsden proudly carries the legacy forward, blending Irish roots with contemporary folk, pop, and original songwriting today. Join the family as they bring this family session to the deCoste stage.



SONGS & STORIES

Jim Henman, Lisa Richard, & Dave Carroll

Wednesday, August 12

7:30 PM | \$33 | Members \$30 (fees & taxes extra)

This extraordinary lineup blends talent, storytelling, and musical mastery. Jim Henman, founding member of April Wine and a Canadian Songwriting Hall of Fame inductee, brings rich musical roots. Dave Carroll, known for “United Breaks Guitars,” has earned global recognition and award nominations. Lisa Richard captivates with heartfelt performances, including collaborations in Nashville and award-winning songwriting. Featuring master guitarist Warren Robert, this intimate showcase delivers unforgettable stories and songs from three exceptional artists in a truly one-of-a-kind performance.



Canadian Supergroup **Spoons**

Thursday, August 13

7:30 PM | \$38 (fees & taxes extra)

Spoons are a Canadian new wave and synth-pop band formed in Burlington, Ontario in the late 1970s. Rising to prominence in the early 1980s, they became known for catchy hooks, electronic textures, and hits like “Nova Heart” and “Romantic Traffic.” Fronted by Gord Deppe, the band helped define Canada’s new wave sound, earning multiple awards and enduring radio play. Decades later, Spoons continue performing, maintaining a loyal fan base and influencing generations of Canadian pop and alternative artists.



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Saturday, August 15

2 PM | \$15 plus fees & taxes. (\$40 plus fees & taxes / per family)

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Produced by special arrangement with Plays for New Audiences

A butterfly finds the perfect little house in the woods. Then a mouse moves in. Then a frog. Then a rabbit. Then a rooster. But is there room for one very large bear? The Biggest Little House in the Forest is a joyful puppet adventure about friendship, generosity, welcome, and the magic of making room for one more. Gentle, imaginative, and full of heart, it is a warm and whimsical family show about building a home together.



A SUMMER CÈILIDH

Rachel Davis & Darren McMullen

Tuesday, August 18

7:30 PM | \$33 | Members \$30 (fees & taxes extra)

Rachel Davis and Darren McMullen, award-winning members of beloved Celtic group Còig, bring their long-awaited duo project to the stage. Their debut album *Home* blends traditional tunes, original songs, and reimagined classics, highlighting their exceptional musicianship and expressive vocals. With a deep-rooted connection to East Coast traditions, their sound is both refined and heartfelt. Recognized with multiple awards and nominations, Rachel and Darren deliver performances marked by warmth, chemistry, and a fresh take on contemporary folk.



IN CONCERT

Beòlach

Wednesday, August 19

7:30 PM | \$33 | Members \$30 (fees & taxes extra)

Beòlach, a celebrated Celtic ensemble with deep roots in Cape Breton, features acclaimed musicians Wendy MacIsaac, Mac Morin, Màiri Rankin, and Matt MacIsaac. Known for their innovative arrangements of Irish, Scottish, and Cape Breton tunes, they deliver performances filled with energy, precision, and engaging storytelling. Their award-winning album *All Hands* has earned national and international acclaim. With more than two decades of history, Beòlach continues to captivate audiences through exceptional musicianship and a vibrant, contemporary take on traditional music.



Featuring Zeph Caissie
Academy of Irish Dance



Richard Wood Trio

Thursday, August 20

7:30 PM | \$35 | Members \$32 (fees & taxes extra)

Richard Wood, one of Prince Edward Island's most celebrated musicians, is renowned for his fiery, traditional Celtic fiddling and electrifying stage presence. A multi-award-winning artist and five-time ECMA winner, he has captivated audiences worldwide, from Carnegie Hall to international festivals. With a career spanning more than 30 years, Richard has shared stages with icons like Shania Twain and The Chieftains. Proudly representing Canada, his performances are dynamic, masterful, and rooted in East Coast tradition, earning him recognition as one of the country's most compelling live performers. Joining Richard on stage will be Zeph Caissie Irish Dance Troupe.

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3 Pianos

Doris Mason, Kim Dunn, &
Owen “O’Sound” Lee

Thursday, August 27

7:30 PM | \$28 | Members \$25 (fees & taxes extra)

We’re thrilled to welcome back Kim Dunn, Owen “O’Sound” Lee, and Doris Mason to the deCoste stage! These powerhouse performers have built impressive careers—both solo and alongside legends like Rita MacNeil, Classified, and Denny Doherty. What began as a special event has become an annual favourite, loved for its unforgettable blend of masterful songwriting, stunning piano performances, heartfelt stories, and plenty of laughs.

COMING THIS FALL

September

- 8 Abba Revisited
- 26 Lloyd Spiegel—Australian Roots & Blues

October

- 18 John McDermott

November

- 4 Men of the Deeps 60th Anniversary
- 17 Cowboy Christmas—George Canyon & Aaron Pritchett
- 24 Ennis Sisters (NL, Holiday)
- 26 The Grand Tour (Holiday Show)
- 29 Tara MacLean with Bayfield String Quartet (Holiday Show)

December

- 4 A Gunning Cormier Christmas
- 9 Home For Christmas (Heather Rankin, Rachel MacLean, Dale Miller)
- 10/11 Christmas in Cape Breton
- 17 Irish Descendants Christmas
- 19 Country Boys Christmas



Ennis Sisters



John McDermott



Men of the Deeps

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