



## **2011 United Irish of Dayton Celtic Festival to Feature Four Headliner Bands**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT BILL RUSSELL 937-430-7650, BILLERUSSELL@GMAIL.COM

Unprecedented for a free event, the 2011 United Irish of Dayton Celtic Festival, presented by United Irish of Dayton in partnership with Five Rivers MetroParks, will feature FIVE headline bands. Each band is highly acclaimed in the world music scene and entertain a diverse fan following.

“In celebration of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, for the first time ever, we offer FIVE headliners. Starting with traditional Irish musicians The Fuchsia Band straight from County Cork Ireland, Celtic rockers Enter the Haggis from Canada, the Elders from our country’s heartland, world music powerhouse Scythian, and concluding with the hottest band in World and Celtic music today – Gaelic Storm” said Festival Entertainment Director Bill Russell.

The Fuchsia Band is a group of four lads from Cork Ireland who play, dance, sing and spread cheer as Irish musicians have done since time immemorial. The lads perform traditional instrumental music and many selections with commanding vocals by Máirtín de Cógáin. The Fuchsia Band members are Brian McGillicuddy, Eoin Verling, Michael Heffernan and Máirtín de Cógáin a singing, dancing, story-telling bodhrán player who also is a noted playwright and actor.

Enter the Haggis features Celtic rock full of anthemic choruses that will have lovers of both Irish music and rock raising their glasses with cheerful abandon. Over the past three albums and five years, Toronto’s Celtic rock band Enter The Haggis has found itself at the center of a grassroots success story ever teetering on the brink of mainstream success. From playing Celtic festivals to headlining them, and from the festival circuit to selling out multiple nights in rock venues, ETH has blazed a path with heavy and almost constant touring up and down the East Coast, to Canada, the West Coast and back again, winning over success one fan, one town, one region at a time. The band has made waves in the musicality of the genre, landing Billboard and iTunes World Music charting as well as major television appearances on shows like Live With Regis And Kelly, A&E Breakfast With the Arts and PBS’ popular program Out of Ireland, with its multi-influence style of Celtic rock. It’s the kind of overall sound and devotion package that has created not only die-hard fans, but “Haggis Heads” that follow the band from gig to gig.

Since forming in 1998, The Elders have set the American music scene on its ear, thanks to a skillful mix of amped-up roots rock, augmented with powerful vocals, blazing instrumentals and top-notch song writing. The line up consists of a group of wicked-fine Kansas City musicians with a passion for Celtic music, and a charismatic Irishman with a love of all things American. This combination makes for cross-pollination that is high octane and progressive, yet rooted in tradition.

The Elders continuously attract capacity crowds throughout the US and abroad. Their fan base is ever-expanding, consisting of people of all ages, from all walks of life, many who follow the band from gig to gig, sometimes driving for hundreds of miles to see their energetic performances. One needs only to visit the Fan Mail page to see the extraordinary effect their music has on people

Scythian is a Washington DC-based Celtic-flavored world music group of classically trained musicians who went from performing on the streets of Old Town Alexandria in 2002 to, more recently, playing some of the largest music festivals in the U.S. This year Scythian is joined by our own local Dayton group – Special Delivery Horns.

Rousing and raucous, Scythian plays kicked-up Celtic and world music. Take a pair of classically trained dueling fiddlers, toss in a rhythm guitar and the occasional funky accordion, then power it with the driving rhythm of a jazz percussionist, and you've got the ingredients for a show you won't soon forget. Their high-energy, adrenaline-peddling, interactive brand of music has one goal in mind: to get people on their feet and dancing. Their repertoire ranges from traditional and contemporary Celtic and folk music to the alluring and dramatic strains of Gypsy and Eastern European tunes, and then crosses back over the border to pick up some good old-fashioned bluegrass licks.

Gaelic Storm, which has made several performances at the festival, offers a dynamic stage show featuring rousing, upbeat vocals, wild energetic dance tunes, haunting ballads and infectious madcap humor. In 1997, Gaelic Storm made an appearance in the blockbuster film "Titanic". Since their big-screen debut, the band's fan base continues to multiply with each new album, turning the one-time-pub-band into one of the premier touring acts in the Celtic/World music genre.

Gaelic Storm's compelling originals and fresh arrangements steeped in Celtic traditional melody combined with their unique blend of world rhythms continue to broaden the musical horizons of the Celtic music genre. Highlights from their decade-spanning career include seven Billboard Chart topping albums, a DVD, a full-length concert film featured on HD.net in 2007-2008, song placement on two EA Sports Games, a 2008 Hallmark greeting card featuring their song "Kiss Me I'm Irish", and countless television and radio appearances.

Dayton Celtic Festival goers can also enjoy performances from the following regional and local musical and dance groups: Bluestack, Kennedy's Kitchen, Fieldstone, The Bloody Tinth, Dulahan, Homeland, 9 Castle Close, Fannigan's Isle, Rocky Creek, The Roving Rogues, Bob Ford and the Ragamuffins, Father Son and Friends, Miami Valley Pipes and Drums, St Andrew Highland Dancers, Celtic Academy of Irish Dance, McGovern Ceili Dancers, and the Royal Scottish Country Dancers.

The 2011 United Irish of Dayton Celtic Festival is a free event thanks to sponsors Five Rivers MetroParks, Guinness, WDTN-TV2, The Ohio Arts Council, Montgomery County, Graphica, Kettering Health Network Sports Medicine, University of Dayton Special Programs and Continuing Education, The Dublin Pub, Key-Ads, Day-Met Credit Union, and ActiveDayton.com.

For complete information, visit [www.unitedirishofdayton.org](http://www.unitedirishofdayton.org) or call (937) 372-9788.