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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

February 27, 2008

Calgary's Host City Celebrations Will Set the Stage for 2008 JUNO Awards™ with a Free Outdoor Concert Featuring Top Canadian Acts Finger Eleven, Sloan, Bedouin Soundclash, The New Odds and The Dudes

Calgary, AB - Calgary will serve up a stellar opening act for the 2008 JUNO Awards™ with a free outdoor concert featuring top Canadian acts Finger Eleven, Sloan, Bedouin Soundclash, The New Odds and The Dudes downtown at Olympic Plaza on Thursday, April 3, 2008. The show kicks off at 5 p.m. and will run until 11 p.m.

"This is Calgary setting the stage for the 2008 JUNO Awards™, and rain or shine, we know it will be one of the best outdoor concerts this city has ever seen " said Terry Rock, President & CEO of Calgary Arts Development and Co-chair of the Calgary Host Committee for the 2008 JUNO Awards™. "Thanks to our partners at Energy 101.5FM and Fuel 90.3FM, we were able to bring in top-notch Canadian talent for this show, and we're especially pleased to see up-and-coming local act The Dudes performing alongside Finger Eleven, Sloan, Bedouin Soundclash, and The New Odds."

This is a free outdoor concert, and all Calgarians and visitors are invited to take part in this special host city celebration to welcome the 2008 JUNO Awards™ to town. Expected attendance is approximately 20,000 people. The show will run from 5 p.m. to approximately 11 p.m. with the five acts playing on one stage downtown at Olympic Plaza.

The show will run rain, snow or shine! Additional details regarding on-site media logistics and road closures will be available in the coming weeks.

SPONSORS

The Weekend Kick Off Concert is generously supported by lead sponsors ENERGY 101.5FM and FUEL 90.3FM.

Lead sponsors for the Calgary Host Committee for the 2008 JUNO Awards™ and the Calgary. Music Lives Here Initiative are CALGARY ARTS DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM CALGARY, THE CITY OF CALGARY, the GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA, and DEVON CANADA.

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ARTIST BACKGROUNDER: Olympic Plaza Kick-off Concert

Plugging Calgary into the 2008 JUNO Awards™. FREE outdoor concert on Thursday, April 3 with five of Canada's best music acts: Finger Eleven, Bedouin Soundclash, Sloan, The New Odds, and The Dudes

Finger Eleven



Finger Eleven is a band that has earned a devoted Canadian following. Their first album, *Letters from Chutney*, was recorded under the name Rainbow Butt Monkeys with money won from a rock band search contest on a radio station out of St. Catharines, Ontario. They became Finger Eleven for their breakthrough *Tip*, released in 1997. In 2000 they released *The Greyest of Blue Skies*. Their 2003 release, self-titled album *Finger Eleven*, was a commercial success, spawning the single "One Thing" which reached #16 in the US. Their most recent album titled *Them vs. You vs. Me* was released on March 6, 2007. The first single and video "Paralyzer", was at the top of the charts throughout 2007. Finger Eleven has been nominated for three JUNO Awards this year including Single of the Year, Group of the Year and Album of the Year.

Sloan



Sloan is a power pop quartet from Halifax. The band was formed in 1991 when Chris Murphy and Andrew Scott met at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design; Patrick Pentland and Jay Ferguson joined soon after. In 1992, the band created their own record label, Murderecords and released the Peppermint EP. Later in 1992 they released their full-length album *Smear* on Geffen Records. *Spin Magazine* named it one of the "Best Albums You Didn't Hear" in 1994. A 1996 reader poll by *Chart!* ranked it as the best Canadian album of all time, only two years after its release. In 1996 they released the widely praised *One Chord to Another* on the Murderecords label. They continue to release albums, including 1999's live album *4 Nights at the Palais Royale*. In 2006, they released their eighth disc, *Never Hear The End Of It*, which contained 30 tracks, all on a single CD.

Bedouin Soundclash



Juno-award winning Bedouin Soundclash released the much-anticipated follow-up to hit record *Sounding A Mosaic* on August 21, 2007. Titled *Street Gospels*, the album features the single "1259 Lullaby" which appeared on the hit series GREY'S ANATOMY as well as the infectious first single "Walls Fall Down". Bedouin Soundclash formed in 2001, naming the group after Israeli fusion artist/producer Badawi's 1996 release - which pays homage to nomadic Arabic poet tribe the Bedouins.

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Bedouin Soundclash

2005's sophomore release *Sounding A Mosaic* exploded onto commercial radio and video stations across Canada with the hit single "When The Night Feels My Song". The song's massive rise to popularity ended up scoring the band a #1 video on MuchMusic, the #2 most played track at Canadian radio, "Best New Group or Solo Artist (CHR)" award at the Canadian Radio Music Awards 2006, and a JUNO for "New Group of The Year" in 2006. Bedouin Soundclash has been nominated for "Best Pop Album" and "Video of the Year" for "Walls Fall Down" at the 2008 JUNO Awards.



The New Odds

The Odds were a Canadian alternative rock band in the 90's. They released their debut album, *Neopolitan*, in 1991. That album's most famous single was the controversial "Wendy Under the Stars." In 1993, the band released *Bedbugs*, which attracted attention for its lead single "Heterosexual Man". The band followed up with *Good Weird Feeling*, their most commercially successful album, in 1995, which featured the hit singles "Truth Untold" and "Eat My Brain," which found a place on the Craig Northey-produced soundtrack to the Kids in the Hall movie *Brain Candy*. The Odds' final album, *Nest*, was released in 1996. The track "Someone Who's Cool," originally written for the *Friends* soundtrack, broke into Top 40 in the US and was a number one

hit single in Canada. The band amicably broke up in 1999, releasing a greatest hits/singles compilation in 2000, entitled *Singles: Individually Wrapped*. A second compilation, *The Essentials*, was released in 2005. In 2007, Craig Northey, Doug Elliott, Pat Steward and Murray Atkinson performed old and new songs on the Barenaked Ladies' Ships & Dip cruise as The New Odds.



The Dudes

In 1996 the Dudes became a band. They thought it would help them get girls. It might have. The Dudes quickly gained a loyal following in the Calgary rock scene. The early live shows were high steppin' good times. The musicianship was far from polished, but something special was starting and the people surely felt it. They're still feeling it. There is a house in Calgary with it's own name. They call it "Rock Central". It's here The Dudes' story begins. The Dudes played loudly and endlessly in one of the filthiest basements you'd ever see. They got good. Then they got better. They kept getting better. The boys grew close and life was fun. But it was also real. They

didn't like working, but they did it anyways. Bob was a carpenter. Dan was a bike messenger. They saved their money and bought the best instruments they could. They toured the country. They toured it again. They didn't want to stop. Scott joined the band sometime around 2001, Jon in 2006. The Dudes new brand of lovely rock music is moving and unforgettable. Now, even more so. The Dudes are: Dan Vacon, Bob Quaschnick, Jon Hopkins and Scott Ross.