



Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy:
A Celtic Family Christmas

Saturday, December 7
Attucks Theatre, Norfolk
7:30 pm

Internationally acclaimed award-winning musicians Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy, and their seven children, are inviting audiences to be a part of their holiday celebration: A Celtic Family Christmas on Saturday, December 7 in the Historic Attucks Theatre. Tickets are available online at www.vafest.org and www.ticketmaster.com.

For more information on Attucks at 100 and a full calendar, please visit Attucks100.com.

Since marrying in 2002, two of Canada's brightest stars have been captivating audiences with their exceptional musical skills and obvious joy at playing the fiddle together. Being a part of musical families, Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy were born into their musical careers. Hailing from Cape Breton Island, Natalie received her first fiddle at the age of nine, launching a career that has lasted for over 30 years. Her first recording was released when she was only 16 and she has never looked back. Natalie has received numerous awards in the US and Canada, recognizing her dedication, musical talent, and importance to Cape Breton's fiddling tradition and international identity. Natalie's performances leave her audiences craving more as she mystifies them through stylistic diversity without losing the traditional Cape Breton flair. Her stage presence, the elegance with the bow, the intricate technique with the fiddle, and the embrace of the Cape Breton tradition that wows her admirers at countless shows every year.

Perfecting his astonishing talent since the age of three, Donnell has literally spent his entire life with a fiddle in his hand. His parents, a fiddle-playing father from Ontario and a step-dancing mother from Cape Breton, were his source of inspiration and guidance. As the musical leader & front-man of Leahy for over 15 years, it is no surprise his own style emerged; it is said he created a new genre of music simply known as "Leahy." Combined with his mesmerizingly strident, exultant, and high-energy performances, this style has become Donnell Leahy's musical signature.

ABOUT ATTUCKS AT 100

Attucks at 100 is the year-long celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Norfolk's historic Attucks Theatre. Designed by architect Harvey Johnson and built in 1919, this Norfolk icon is the oldest remaining theater in the U.S. that was completely financed, designed, and constructed and operated by African Americans. It was named in honor of Crispus Attucks, an African American who was the first patriot to lose his life in the fight for American independence, in the Boston Massacre of 1770.

Located on bustling Church Street, one of the oldest thoroughfares in the city and home to a proud African American community, the Attucks Theatre was often referred to as the "Apollo of the South." Through the years, the Attucks showcased a host of legendary performers including big band hit-makers Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Cab Calloway and Billy Eckstine; chart-topping singers including Ella

Fitzgerald, Dinah Washington, and Nat King Cole; pioneering artists like operatic star Marian Anderson and blues queen Bessie Smith; jazz royalty including Dizzy Gillespie, Sarah Vaughan, Louis Armstrong, Lionel Hampton and Errol Garner; comedians Redd Foxx, Slappy White and Moms Mabley; R&B trailblazers Smokey Robinson, Sam Cooke, and The Flamingos; and such homegrown stars as Norfolk's Gary U.S. Bonds and Portsmouth's Ruth Brown. Today, the Attucks is home to great performances of all kinds, including concerts, dance performances, theater, comedy and more.

For information on more Attucks at 100 events, visit www.Attucks100.com.

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