

High-resolution downloadable images of Ben Folds and Riverdance are available on Wolf Trap's Web site: http://www.wolftrap.org/Media_and_Newsroom/Photos_for_Publication.aspx

May XX, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wolf Trap's Filene Center Schedule Transitions into June with Wildly Talented Self-Trained Pop Pianist Ben Folds, Followed by a Four Day Run of the Internationally Popular *Riverdance*

Vienna, VA—Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts concludes its first month of summer productions with two return performances on opposite ends of the musical spectrum. In only his third Filene Center appearance, former Ben Fold's Five front man and successful solo pop-pianist **Ben Folds** arrives on Wednesday, May 28 to perform selections from his pending 2008 release. Closing out the month with a four day run from May 29 through June 1 is Irish dance, song and music fusion sensation ***Riverdance***, featuring a solo artist debut from Fredericksburg, Virginia native, Laura Yanez.

Ben Folds

Wednesday, May 28 @ 8:00 p.m.
\$38 in-house, \$28 lawn

Winston Salem, North Carolina native and leading pop-music pianist Ben Folds returns to Wolf Trap's Filene Center for a high-energy performance that draws on material influenced by music greats like Elton John and Billy Joel. With a pending new album due out this fall, patrons can expect to hear new Folds material, in addition to hits from previous studio releases, *Rockin' the Suburbs* and *Songs for Silverman*.

In addition to his talents as a self-trained pianist, Folds also plays the bass guitar and drums, which led to a percussion scholarship to the University of Miami. Post college, Folds launched a brief acting career and enjoyed a stint with new wave band Majosha before returning to North Carolina in 1994 to form the reputable pop/rock trio, Ben Folds Five. As the front man, Folds aimed to focus more on music's classical elements, replacing the normally dominant guitar with catchy, commercially viable riffs on the keys. The group released three successful albums together before Folds split to pursue a solo career.

Throughout the past nine years, Folds has released six compilations and live albums, three studio albums, and five EPs. His music has enjoyed widespread commercial success, making *The Billboard 200* list seven times and, in 1997, reaching the Top 10 with “Brick.” In 2006, Folds created five songs for the soundtrack to the children’s film, *Over the Hedge* and produced his LP, *Supersunnyspeedgraphic*, which *All Music Guide* says “collects the best moments from 2003’s *Speed Graphic* and *Sunny 16*, 2004’s *Bens . . .* and *Super D*, and 2005’s *Landed*.” With a massive fan base and continuous hit songs, Folds continues on his quest to redefine the tenets of traditional rock music.

Riverdance

*Thursday, May 29 – Sunday, June 1 @ 8:00 p.m. with matinee
2:00 p.m. performances on Sat. & Sun.
Tickets range from \$70 to \$20*

The internationally celebrated fusion of Irish dance, song and music that is *Riverdance* returns to the Filene Center stage at Wolf Trap for its eighth consecutive year. Wolf Trap remains the only D.C.-area venue ever to stage this production. Composed by Bill Whelan, produced by Moya Doherty and directed by John McColgan, this massive cast combines the richness of Irish music with the magic and sensuality of the dance through diverse performances ranging from folk ballet to narrative poetry.

Since its world premiere at the Point Theatre, Dublin in February 1995, *Riverdance* has played over 10,000 performances, and been seen live by more than 21 million people in over 300 venues throughout 32 countries across 4 continents. The cast has played to a worldwide television audience of nearly 2 billion; sold over 2.5 million copies of the Grammy Award-winning CD (certified Platinum in the US) and over 9 million videos, making it one of the best-selling entertainment videos in the world.

Aside from cherished performance segments by collective groups of synchronized dancers, *Riverdance* features a number of solo acts, including Laura Yanez, the *Riverdance* Singers soloist, and native of Fredericksburg, Virginia. This tour marks her debut appearance as part of the *Riverdance* cast, and at Wolf Trap.

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Tickets can be purchased by calling 1 (877) WOLFTRAP; or online at www.wolftrap.org.

For more information, call Wolf Trap at (703) 255-1868.

Wolf Trap is metro accessible! Our environmentally friendly shuttle travels from the West Falls Church metro stop every 20 minutes two hours prior to show time. For more information, please visit,

http://www.wolftrap.org/Plan_Your_Visit/Access_by_Metro.aspx