



## 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HARMONY ARTS FESTIVAL

by Lara Freimond

"Harmony" - as it is known to staff, locals and festival regulars will once again transform the Ambleside waterfront into the North Shore's premier destination for visual and performing arts fans for the 17th year this summer. The 10-day event attracts approximately 65,000 visitors who take in everything from a sunset concert in John Lawson Park to walking the ArtBeat in Ambleside Village.

*Harmony* creates a unique and memorable experience for all those it touches. This year, while continuing to present top quality performing artists to the community in free concerts on three stages, the festival gets back to its roots by renewing its focus on visual arts. Festival goers can look forward to an enhanced ArtBeat program in which artists are paired up with local merchants to create a window display that not only shows off the art but also draws people into the stores. This was how the festival originally started and it is a favourite of many because they can simply walk down the street and feel as if they are in an art gallery.

Another decision that will please visual arts supporters is the commission of Ross Penhall to create this year's festival image. Penhall, a West Vancouver resident, is a locally popular and internationally recognized artist who has a long history of supporting the arts in his community through projects such as *Artists for Kids* and *Arts Umbrella*. "Having an original piece by Ross Penhall as our 2007 image is sure to make our always popular festival t-shirts an especially hot commodity this year", says Richard Berg, now in his 5th year as Festival Producer.

As always, audiences can look forward to a variety of high-

energy and talented acts in John Lawson Park every evening of the festival. This year's eclectic series includes JUNO Award winning band *The Paperboys* (August 3); the hot sounds and rhythms of *Locura* (August 4); the big band sounds of "Dr. Swing" *Dal Richards' Orchestra* (August 5); the soaring vocals of *Kim Kuzma* (August 6), the beautiful young chanteuse *Alita Dupray* (August 7); the rootsy music of indie best seller *Babe Gurr* (August 8); the funk/soul/jazz music of *Soulstream* (August 9); multi-award winning performer, singer and songwriter *Lisa Brokop*, (August 10); the tight vocal harmonies and contagious energy of *The Breakmen* (August 11); and to close the festival the incomparable talent and incredible showmanship of *Bobby Bruce's Nearly Neil* and *The Solitary Band* (August 12).

Kids will also find lots to keep them entertained. There are *KinderTunes* concerts for toddlers and preschoolers and *Creative Kids Day* will feature crafts and concerts by popular children's entertainers. Visual arts will be featured in a number of venues including the *Ferry Building Gallery*, *Silk Purse Arts Centre*, *West Vancouver Memorial Library* and both *Delany's Coffee House* *West Vancouver* locations (*Dundarave* and the *Village at Park Royal*).

WHAT: Harmony Arts Festival

WHEN: August 3 to 12

WHERE: West Vancouver

TICKETS: Free

INFO: (604) 925-7268 or visit [www.harmonyarts.ca](http://www.harmonyarts.ca)