



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Winnipeg Folk Festival Honours Outstanding Contributors**

### ***Gord Finch and Dave Cousins – 2012 Glass Banjo Recipients***

**WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Canada** – The Winnipeg Folk Festival presented the Glass Banjo award to two recipients on July 7, 2012. The Glass Banjo is the festival's highest honour, recognizing volunteers, supporters, partners and those who have made a significant contribution to the festival. Since its inception in 1974, the festival has given 35 of these awards.

Sound Art has been providing audio equipment for the Winnipeg Folk Festival since 1993. Over the years, the relationship has grown and every year Sound Art continues to deliver on the backline needs for the festival. Whether the festival added more stages, expanded the length of the festival or grew year round programming, Sound Art was always there to ensure that the professional quality expected for the event would be met. In making the presentation Board Chair, Gerry Couture thanked Dave Cousins, owner and founder of Sound Art for making the festival sound so good.

The second award was presented to Gord Finch, affectionately known by his festival friends as "sparky". Gord joined the festival team in 2001 as site electrician. Since that time, he has worked tirelessly at each festival to ensure every area of the festival is powered up and ready to operate. He has been instrumental in a whole host of electrical upgrades over the past decade that have significantly improved our ability to present a world class festival and allowed us to keep up with the growth of the event. When Gord celebrated his 70th birthday in 2008, we thought he might want to think about retiring. His commitment to, and love of the festival continues, and keeps him coming back every year. Mike Baudic, incoming board chair made the presentation to Gord on behalf of the festival.

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Since its inception in 1994, the Glass Banjo has been awarded to these special festival friends.

#### **PAST GLASS BANJO RECIPIENTS**

- 2011** Province of Manitoba, Funder  
Bill Merritt, Past Festival Business Manager
  
- 2010** Terry Sargeant, Past President  
Big Rock Brewery, Sponsor
  
- 2009** Manitoba Hydro, Sponsor  
The Potter Family, Site Crew
  
- 2008** Inland Audio Visual, Sponsor
  
- 2007** Ron Oswald, Board Member  
Jack Cram and Francene Adelman, Daytime Stage Coordinators  
CanWest Global Foundation, Sponsor
  
- 2006** Andy Szukiewicz, Birds Hill Provincial Park Maintenance Manager  
Assiniboine Credit Union, Sponsor
  
- 2005** Danielle Carignan and Alexander Svenne, La Cuisine Coordinators
  
- 2003** Mayor Glen Murray, City of Winnipeg  
Suzi and Rich McClear, KAXE Public Radio
  
- 2002** Randy Woods, Main Stage Host  
Peter Paul Van Camo, Winnipeg Free Press
  
- 2001** Winnipeg Foundation  
Darlene "Toots" Toews, Graphic Designer
  
- 2000** Brenda Douglas, Past President, CBC
  
- 1999** Birds Hill Provincial Park, Michael Handler, Past President



- 1998** **Mitch Podolak**, Founder  
**Harry Paine**, La Cuisine Coordinator  
**Rosalie Goldstein**, Past Artistic Director
- 1997** **Burkhard Weiss**, Festival Tents  
**Jon Singleton**, Treasurer and Board Member  
**Beth Shore**, Board Member and Travel Agent
- 1996** **Karen Lawlor**, Past Staff and Main Stage Coordinator  
**Jane Graham**, Past President  
**Bob Smith**, Site Manager
- 1995** **Kim St. Hilare**  
**David Landy**, Photographer
- 1994** **Karen Dana**, La Cuisine Coordinator  
**Leslie Hambleton**, La Cuisine Coordinator

### **About the Winnipeg Folk Festival**

[www.winnipegfolkfestival.ca](http://www.winnipegfolkfestival.ca)

With one of North America's premier outdoor music festivals as its signature event, the Winnipeg Folk Festival is a year-round, not-for-profit arts organization that presents live music, arts events, and education and outreach programs designed to benefit the community. The festival also operates a performance space and music store in Winnipeg's historic Exchange District. The 40<sup>th</sup> annual Winnipeg Folk Festival will take place July 10-14, 2013 in Birds Hill Provincial Park, Manitoba, Canada.

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