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NEWS RELEASE

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CITYFOLK PRESENTS
AWARD-WINNING CAPE BRETON FIDDLER
Natalie MacMaster: Christmas in Cape Breton
DECEMBER 4 AT DAYTON MASONIC CENTER

Internationally renowned Canadian fiddler and step-dancer **Natalie MacMaster**, called “the most dynamic performer in Celtic music today” by the *Boston Herald*, returns to Dayton for a holiday concert *Christmas in Cape Breton* **Sunday, December 4, 2011**, at **Dayton Masonic Center**, located at 525 W. Riverview Avenue in downtown Dayton. The performance, which begins at **7:00 p.m.**, is presented as part of the 2011-2012 Cityfolk Celtic Series. Reserved seat tickets for the concert are \$20-\$35 and are available from the Cityfolk Box Office at (937) 496-3863. More information is available online at www.cityfolk.org.

Born in 1972 in Troy, Nova Scotia, Natalie MacMaster is internationally regarded as the foremost standard bearer for the traditional Cape Breton fiddling style. She has collaborated on record and in performance with an impressive array of musicians that includes Alison Krauss, Yo-Yo Ma, Carlos Santana, Paul Simon, Bela Fleck, Faith Hill, the Chieftains, Luciano Pavarotti, Mark O’Connor and several symphony orchestras.

MacMaster has won numerous important musical honors in Canada and the U.S., including Juno and East Coast Music awards, and has earned Grammy nominations for several of her albums. In 2006, MacMaster was made a member of the Order of Canada, a lifetime achievement award (and Canada’s highest civilian honor) that celebrates accomplishment in a number of fields.

Natalie MacMaster’s *Christmas in Cape Breton* is a very special holiday celebration that joyfully recreates the Christmas traditions and customs of her family home on Cape Breton Island off the east end of Nova Scotia. The tuneful program for the whole family blends familiar Christmas carols and songs with Cape Breton fiddle tunes, lively step-dancing and audience favorites. “We have a lot packed into the show,” says MacMaster of *Christmas in Cape Breton*. “We offer a bit of a

contemporary edge to some of our tunes, and other tunes are very beautiful and deep and more thought provoking. But for the most part it's light, happy, joyful music.

“There's some dancing in the show—lots of dancing, lots of Christmas music, a couple of real tender moments where my mother speaks to the audience. There are some Christmas carols, of course, and Christmas melodies played on the fiddle, and some traditions I share with the audience of Cape Breton during Christmastime.” MacMaster and her band—Mac Morin (piano), Nathaniel Smith (cello), John Chiasson (bass) and J.D. Blair (drums)—will be joined for a few songs by the Kettering Children's Choir.

MacMaster began playing fiddle at a young age, giving her first public performance at age nine. She recorded her first album, *Four on the Floor*, when she was 16. She followed that with a couple more self-released albums and then signed with Rounder. MacMaster's most recent album, released November 1, is *Cape Breton Girl*, her first studio recording in five years. The album represents a return to MacMaster's traditional roots in Cape Breton fiddling and is true to the spirit of that high-spirited dance music. “While my other albums have included traditional music they have also been more exploratory, more arranged,” she explains. “It's the piano and fiddle—the core instruments of Cape Breton music—that make up the bulk of the sound.”

The Cityfolk 2011-2012 Season of Events is supported by CompuNet Clinical Laboratories and WYSO 91.3 FM. Cityfolk also receives operating support from Culture Works, the Ohio Arts Council, and Montgomery County.

All Cityfolk events are accessible to the elderly and people with disabilities. Available services include audio amplification headsets, large-print or Braille programs, sign interpretation, audio description and wheelchair accessibility. For information about services available for a particular Cityfolk event, please call (937) 223-3655 or e-mail cityfolk@cityfolk.org.

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CITYFOLK IS A MEMBER OF CULTURE WORKS

The recipient of the 2009 Governor's Award for the Arts in Community Development and Participation, Cityfolk is Dayton's premier traditional and ethnic arts organization. Cityfolk, which is celebrating its 30th season of arts presentation in 2011-2012, won the first CMAAclaim Award in 2005, presented by Chamber Music America for outstanding achievements in the ensemble music field. Through its year-round program of concerts, in-school educational activities, annual Cityfolk Festival and other programs, Cityfolk brings to the Dayton area the finest folk, ethnic and traditional music and dance performances from around the world. For more information on Cityfolk's history, commitment to education and programming updates, call (937) 223-3655 or visit Cityfolk on the web at www.cityfolk.org.