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*Photos & interviews available upon request

**BETHEL WOODS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
KICKS OFF ARTS UNDER THE STARS
WITH EILEEN IVERS**

(June 25, 2008) BETHEL, NY – On Wednesday, July 9th celtic sensation **Eileen Ivers** will kick off Bethel Woods' new *Arts Under The Stars* series, held at the intimate Terrace Stage.

General admission tickets are on sale now for just \$25. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for an 8:00p.m. performance. Parking is free.

Eileen Ivers will change the way you think about the violin. Fiddler Eileen Ivers has established herself as the pre-eminent exponent of the Irish fiddle in the world today.

"It is a rare and select grade of spectacular artists whose work is so boldly imaginative and clearly virtuosic that it alters the medium. It has been said that the task of respectfully exploring the traditions and progression of the Celtic fiddle is quite literally on Eileen Ivers' shoulders. *The Washington Post* states, "She suggests the future of the Celtic fiddle."

She's been called a "sensation" by *Billboard* magazine and "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin" by *The New York Times*. "She electrifies the crowd with a dazzling show of virtuoso playing" says *The Irish Times*. Ivers' recording credits include over 80 contemporary and traditional albums and numerous movie scores. Her latest CD, entitled 'Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul' continues to display why Ivers is hailed as one of the great innovators and pioneers in the Celtic and World music genres.

Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul, London Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony at The Kennedy Center, Boston Pops, musical star of Riverdance, The Chieftains, Hall and Oates, Afrocelts, Patti Smith, Paula Cole, Al Di Meola, Steve Gadd, founding member of Cherish the Ladies, performed for Presidents and Royalty worldwide ...this is a short list of Ivers' accomplishments, headliners, tours and affiliations.

The daughter of Irish immigrants, Eileen Ivers grew up in the culturally diverse neighborhood of the Bronx, New York. Rooted in Irish traditional music since the age of eight, Eileen proceeded to win nine All-Ireland fiddle championships, a tenth on tenor banjo and over 30 championship medals, making her one of the most awarded persons ever to compete in these prestigious competitions.

Being an Irish-American, the intrigue of learning more about the multicultural sounds of her childhood took hold. After graduating magna cum laude in Mathematics from Iona College and while continuing her post-graduate work in Mathematics, Eileen fully immersed herself in the different genres of music which she experienced growing up in New York. Perhaps it was the mathematical mind coupled with her passion for seeking parallels in certain traditional music styles which contributed to what has become the signature sound featured in much of Eileen's recordings since the late 1980's.

In 1999 Eileen established a touring production to present the music which now encompasses Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul. This mix of African and Latin percussion and bass, Irish instrumentalists, and American soulful vocals headlines major performing arts centers, guest stars with numerous symphonies, performs at major festivals worldwide and has appeared on national and international television. The *L.A. Times* proclaims, "Ivers' presentation was music with the kind of life and spirit that come together when talented artists from different backgrounds find the linkages that connect all forms of music ...no wonder the audience loved every minute."

The ***Arts Under the Stars*** series will be presented at the Terrace Stage, designed in the style of a roman amphitheater, and located adjacent to The Museum at Bethel Woods. This program is designed to bring the community together in a stylish open-air setting, for a high quality, affordable and primarily mid-week arts series.

The debut season of *Arts Under the Stars* will be presented by The Chapin Estate. Additional Terrace Stage shows are confirmed through August 21 and include such musical luminaries as *The Klezmatiks*, *Chanticleer*, *Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience*, *John Pizzarelli Quartet*, *The Del McCoury Band*, *The Preservation Hall Jazz Band* and the *Spanish Harlem Orchestra*.

For a complete list of this season's performances or to learn about becoming a Friend of Bethel Woods and the exclusive benefits associated with membership, please visit www.BethelWoodsCenter.org.

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ABOUT BETHEL WOODS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Set within 2,000 bucolic acres in Sullivan County, New York, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is a world-class cultural destination, dedicated to bringing diverse, high quality performing arts and educational programs to the region. The not-for-profit Bethel Woods Center for the Arts' mission is to present compelling programs that educate, entertain and engage audiences of all ages, to improve the quality of life in Sullivan County. Located approximately 90 miles from New York City at the site of the original 1969 Woodstock Festival in Bethel, N.Y., Bethel Woods offers unique backdrops including the original festival site and the majesty of the surrounding countryside. It features a Pavilion Stage with 4,500 seats under cover and another 10,000 on a natural sloping lawn; the Terrace Stage, a 1,000 seat roman-style amphitheater; and a 300 seat Events Gallery, which present a diverse selection popular artists, orchestral performances, community events, and music and arts education opportunities. The Museum at Bethel Woods will serve as an educational facility and tourist destination which explores the unique American experiences of the 1960s and the role of the Woodstock festival through a multimedia extrasensory kaleidoscope of music, images, exhibits and artifacts. For more information, please visit www.BethelWoodsCenter.org.