

# 2010 PERFORMER OVERVIEW

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## **Jamie Adkins** in *Circus Incognitus* from **Québec Canada**

The triumphant return of this famous circus star and Cirque du Soleil veteran will dazzle and astonish audiences as they follow him on his journey of self-discovery and his struggle to overcome his biggest fear. Along the way, he hilariously turns everyday objects into props for unforgettable balancing, clowning and juggling you won't soon forget.

## **Black Violin** from the **United States**

Black Violin revolutionizes the traditional music genres with their unique blend of classical music and contemporary hip-hop beats. The two frontmen, classically trained violists, along with their DJ and drummer, unite generations and inspire new waves of musicians to expand their ideas of what music is and what music can be.



## **Gansango** in *Benn Lanu (We Are One)*, **Senegalese** dancers

Gansango Music & Dance is a group of talented international artists that combine traditional and modern dance and music from West Africa. With heart pounding drumming, dancing and singing, and with each dancer in perfect unison, audiences will gleam new meaning of what it means to be *one*.

## **Cimarrón** from **Colombia**

The most accomplished *llanera* group in Colombia, Cimarrón is group of well-traveled folk musicians and dancers that play lively *joropo*, a very fast-paced and complex style of music played with harp, guitars, cuatro, bandola, cajon, and maracas. They explore and experiment with their heritage while retaining the essence of tradition.



## **Tahqua** in *The Spirit of Kooeex* from **1<sup>st</sup> Nations**

Tahqua creates a bridge between ancient traditions and their contemporary experience using an exciting blend of funk music, hip-hop, soul, jazz, rock and blues combined with theatrical performance, dance, visual art, poetry and spoken word created fresh for *Giant Magnet*.

**Bunraku Bay Puppet Troupe** in *Kotobuki Shiki Sanbaso* and *The Lion Dance* from USA/Japan

These two lighthearted performances use puppets, costumes and props to purify the theater, scatter good fortune to audience members, and tell the story of a lively lion with magical powers who brings intelligence and good health to anyone he bites. The end of *The Lion Dance* opens up the stage to hands-on training from Bunraku masters allowing audience members to learn the art of puppetry.



**Figuretheater Wilde & Vogel** in *The Hobbit* from Germany

Mixing eerie stage atmospherics, brilliant craftsmanship and manipulation of puppets, bravura acting and live music, Figuretheater Wilde & Vogel recreate the J.R.R. Tolkien classic in their North American Premiere of *The Hobbit*. Their rendition of the story opens up an intimate and magical world that will whisk away audience members.

**World Samplers:**

Three different Samplers are emceed by James Whetzel and are designed especially for teachers looking to take their students on a field trip to see multiple performances for an affordable price. The three Samplers are Asia Here and Now, The Americas and A World of Laughter. Each Sampler features a festival headliner and one or more local acts.



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