



## WASHINGTON TRUST PRESENTS THE RISING STARS OF FIRSTWORKS

*Free Lunchtime Concert Series Celebrating Young Performers*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** (July 8, 2010) – Washington Trust and FirstWorks will bring live music and performance to downtown Providence through this year's FREE summer lunchtime concert series – The Rising Stars of FirstWorks. The three-week concert series kicks off on July 15 and runs each Thursday through July 29. All of the concerts will be held at noon at the Washington Trust branch in downtown Providence, at the intersection of Westminster and Orange Streets.

Now in its second year, The Rising Stars of FirstWorks series celebrates the diverse talents of Rhode Island's most inspiring young performers and renews Washington Trust and FirstWorks' shared commitment to community and artistic excellence.

The series opens on July 15 with **Voces de los Andes**, a group that celebrates the rich musical tradition of Bolivia and the Andean region of South America featuring the haunting and evocative sound of the panpipes. The family ensemble of musicians is led by Bolivian master "charango" player and singer Silvio Cuellar and includes five children between the ages of 10 and 17.

**Damhsa Irish Dance Studio** will perform a variety of Irish dances, with both modern and traditional choreography on July 22. Named after the Irish word for dance, the group was founded with the mission of giving children the opportunity to express their interest in Irish Dancing and Irish culture.

The series concludes on July 29 with a performance of the Chinese lion dance by the **Rhode Island Kung Fu Club**. This traditional cultural practice combines kung fu-inspired movement by two practitioners as the "lion" with accompanying percussion music to foster positive energy and good luck while warding away negative energy.

### *About FirstWorks*

FirstWorks connects art with audiences year-round through the exceptional vitality of artists' first appearances, children's first experiences with performance and the premiering of new works. Beginning with an unprecedented collaboration with Providence's Department of Art, Culture & Tourism, FirstWorks was launched in 2004 as a vehicle to build community, reach underserved audiences, and present extraordinary arts programs that elevate Providence's national profile. In the six years since, FirstWorks has produced ten groundbreaking arts festivals, attracted 55,000 participants, and engaged more than 100 nonprofit community organizations and schools.

*About Washington Trust*

The Washington Trust Company is a subsidiary of [Washington Trust Bancorp, Inc.](#), a \$2.9 billion corporation headquartered in Westerly, Rhode Island. Founded in 1800, [Washington Trust](#) is the oldest community bank in the nation and is the largest independent bank headquartered in Rhode Island. A state-chartered bank, Washington Trust offers a full range of financial services, including [commercial banking](#), [small business banking](#), [personal banking](#), and [wealth management](#) and trust services through its offices located in Rhode Island, southeastern Connecticut and eastern Massachusetts. The Corporation's common stock trades on The NASDAQ Global Select® Stock Market under the symbol WASH. Web site address: [www.washtrust.com](http://www.washtrust.com).

For more information about the Rising Stars concert series or for a preview of the FirstWorks Festival 2010 kicking off on September 25, visit: [www.first-works.org](http://www.first-works.org). This year's events will draw artists from around the globe for a celebration of theater, dance, music, new media and visual arts. Tickets are on sale now.

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