



CASINO RESORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 8, 2009



RIVER ROCK CASINO RESORT
PRESENTS

SPIRIT OF THE WEST

A ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

LIVE AT THE RIVER ROCK SHOW THEATRE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

Richmond, BC – It all began in 1983 when musicians Geoffrey Kelly, John Mann and J. Knutson got together and formed a folk rock band that they called Evesdropper. Armed only with a love of music and a fear of real work, the three recorded their first album the following year but not before changing their name to Spirit of the West. Then in 1989, Warner Bros. Records signed the band and shortly thereafter, they released the album, *Save This House* which led to a tour across Canada and the UK.

The band then released *Faithlift* in 1993 which turned out to be their best-selling album peaking at #27 on RPM's Top 100 albums and featured the hit single, "And If Venice Is Sinking" along with "Sadness Grows" and "5 Free Minutes." They released their next album, *Two Headed* in 1995 which produced the hit, "Tell Me What I Think." That same year, they went into rehearsal for *Open Heart Symphony* and what had started as two concerts with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra mushroomed into a live album plus a television special which aired on Bravo. The shows not only featured several renditions of Spirit of the West's best known songs but also songs that were written specifically for the symphony concerts.

Through the years, there have been some personnel changes but Mann and Kelly remain with the group to this day. In 2008, they celebrated their 25th anniversary with the anthology, *Spirituality: A Consummate Compendium 1983 – 2008*. Upon its release, the album reached the Top 10 on iTunes.ca as well as on Amazon.com. Also that year, they were inducted into the Western Canadian Music Association's Hall of Fame. This year, they opened for Great Big Sea on their "Fortune's Favour" tour. Spirit of the West will be performing at the River Rock Casino Resort in March, 2010 for a St. Patrick's Day celebration.

TICKETS ON SALE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 @ 10:00 AM

DOORS 7:00 PM SHOW 8:00 PM

Tickets: \$39.50 (+ Service Charges) – Cabaret Seating

Tickets available at all Ticketmaster Outlets or charge-by-phone (604) 280-4444 or order on-line at www.ticketmaster.ca

All shows: 19 years and over unless noted

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