

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST NIGHT MORRIS COUNTY WELCOMES 2010
WITH LOWER PRICES AND MORE EXCITEMENT THAN EVER

State's Largest and Most Affordable New Year's Eve Celebration Highlights Rock, Rap, Jazz, Comedy, Dance

MORRISTOWN, NJ, October 21, 2009 – As the largest New Year's Eve celebration in New Jersey, First Night® Morris County celebrates its 18th anniversary ringing in the New Year throughout downtown Morristown this December 31st. The celebration, which typically attracts about 10,000 people, provides a night of unlimited entertainment and two dazzling fireworks shows for one low price.

To ensure that First Night Morris County remains an affordable and accessible celebration, this year First Night will partner exclusively with the Community Theatre at Mayo Center for the Performing Arts in Morristown to present a special pre-sale featuring reduced-price admissions.

With artistic programming provided by the Arts Council of the Morris Area, First Night Morris County features nearly 100 performances ranging from jazz and rock to dance and comedy. The event begins at 7 p.m. on December 31, and ends with fireworks at midnight to ring in the New Year. Fireworks also are scheduled at 9:15 p.m.

"Every year, more and more families from Morris and surrounding counties choose to celebrate the New Year by enjoying live entertainment," said Debbie Williams, chairperson of First Night Morris County. "Our 18th celebration highlights our community diversity with world class performers that represent various countries, cultures and all ages."

First Night Morris County 2010 offers several features certain to make this New Year's Eve a special one:

* **First Night Performances, Exhibits and Activities:** More than 300 performers will offer over 90 shows – everything from rock, rap, jazz, pop, blues, bluegrass, folk and world music, to classical choral and instrumental music, comedy, theatre, dance, fine arts, magic, juggling, storytelling and more. First Night Morris County features artists geared toward every age and interest, including several children's performers.

* **First Night Fireworks:** There will be two fireworks displays, both visible from around the Morristown Green. Fireworks are scheduled for 9:15 p.m. and midnight.

* **First Chance:** A \$20 ticket or a book of five (5) tickets for \$100 is your chance to win up to \$20,000 or one of three other cash prizes. Proceeds support First Night Morris County. The lottery will be drawn on January 1, 2010 and winners need not be present to win.

* **First Night Overnight:** First Night has joined with Hyatt Morristown to offer participants a choice of special hotel rates and packages.

"Every year features exceptional musicians, dancers, singers, storytellers and visual arts exhibits with one goal in mind: to make New Year's Eve exciting and memorable," said the Arts Council's Dr.

Lynn L. Siebert, artistic programmer for First Night Morris County. "The high quality and broad range of this year's performers should delight and entertain all evening long."

Performances take place in 25 venues within walking distance of the Morristown Green, including The Community Theatre at the Mayo Center for the Performing Arts, Morristown High School, Hyatt Morristown, the County Administration Building, the Masonic Temple, the Morristown/Morris Township Library, and numerous places of worship. There is also shuttle transportation available.

First Night Morris County 2010 buttons provide access to all events and programs. For a limited time, First Night Morris County is offering admission buttons at the reduced price of only \$15, with a special pre-sale event from December 1 - December 15 exclusively at the Community Theatre at Mayo Center for the Performing Arts. Advanced purchase sales can be made at all other buttons outlets from December 16 - December 30 for \$20 per person, or "buy three and get one free" with a value 4-pack for only \$60. On New Year's Eve, buttons will be sold for \$25 each at the Hyatt Morristown and Community Theatre at Mayo Center for the Performing Arts.

For more information about the event, or to view the artistic program (with photos of performers) and a list of button outlets, please visit <http://www.firstnightmorris.com/>

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