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Regional Artists Share their Love for the Thousand Islands Region

Clayton, NY – TIPAF at the Clayton Opera House will be opening the Summer 2010 Season by presenting “Lost Channels” generously sponsored by Driver’s Village. This will be a folk-pop concert by Great Lake Swimmers accompanied by a visual presentation by the bestselling author and photographer, Ian Cristine, on Saturday, June 26 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at the Opera House box office, by calling 686-2200, or online at ClaytonOperaHouse.com.

Great Lakes Swimmers is a Toronto-based band led by vocalist and songwriter Tony Dekker; GLS has evolved from a sparse, delicate and hushed unit into a well-rounded folk rock band, sacrificing none of their original intimacy while upping both the volume and tempos when necessary. Dekker’s voice is a voice that is capable of conveying heartache and comfort all in the space of a single phrase.

Dekker frequently chooses to record in rural locations, which for the most recent album, "Lost Channels," meant the Thousand Islands region. Ian Coristine, regional historian and local photographer, invited GLS to record in the Thousand Islands, helping them gain access to record in unique acoustic environments like Singer Castle on Dark Island.

Ian Coristine is well known for his breath-taking aerial photography of the Thousand Islands. He's had five books of photography of the Thousand Islands published, the final being "The very best of Ian Coristine's 1000 Islands", which will be displayed during the concert. Ian discovered his love of the Thousand Islands while flying his Challenger and began taking photographs from his plane. After buying one of the Thousand Islands and successfully publishing five books, Ian began collaborating with Great Lake Swimmers on their album "Lost Channels."

According to Dekker this specially-created music "was meant as a complement to Ian's photographs and his unique perspective of the Thousand Islands area." While the band plays, the photos that Dekker refers to will be shown on a slide show to tie in with the music for the full artistic effect that anyone can appreciate, especially those who identify with the Thousand Islands.

Though Great Lake Swimmers are able to fill large halls, the Clayton Opera House provides a small, personal setting for both GLS and Ian to share their art with the community. As Tony Dekker said, "In some ways I think our music is best represented in small, intimate venues, especially if there is a

historical relevance there. I find that there's a greater connection with the audience, and we really see these kinds of concerts as special events. There's an intangible quality about playing in these settings that we are really thrilled by as musicians.”

Get ready—in the next few weeks, the Opera House will be hosting a slew of other events, including the beginning of TIPAF's Sunday Series with Ticia Marra's Studio on Sunday, June 27 at 4:00 pm and the Orchestra of Northern New York will be performing on Thursday, July 1 at 7:30 pm, presented by TIPAF and sponsored by the Northern NY Community Foundation. Also on Saturday, July 3 at the Opera House, the Rock-For-The-River concert will be held by Save the River beginning at 7:00 pm.

For more information regarding these and other upcoming Opera House events, please stop by the Box Office, call at 315-686-2200, or visit the website at www.ClaytonOperaHouse.com.

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Photo Caption: Great Lake Swimmers, pictured above, will be performing at the Clayton Opera House on June 26 at 7:30 pm.