

Wild West Hoedown gets east coast spin with Friday headliner Alan Doyle



By Brock Weir

This year's two-day Wild, Wild West Hoedown will kick off with a decidedly eastern flare with Friday night headliner Alan Doyle.

The Great Big Sea frontman was announced the Friday night headliner, joining a roster that already includes country star Paul Brandt as the Saturday night draw.

The party gets underway Friday, September 16, with Mr. Doyle, as well as a full Texas-style barbecue, door prizes, a Prospector's Raffle with a grand prize of \$75,000, which will be drawn the following night, a cash bar, and the new Hoedown Junction.

The party continues with Mr. Brandt on Saturday, September 17.

Tickets for the Friday night event are \$50 with Saturday tickets pegged at \$75. All proceeds from the annual event will benefit 15 York Region charities.

Doyle has many credits to his name, going well beyond that of a singer/songwriter, branching out to acting, producing, and writing.

As the lead singer of Great Big Sea for over two decades, he released his solo album, 'So Let's Go' last year, a follow-up to his debut solo 'Boy on Bridge.'

'If there's an overarching theme on this record, it is one of optimism, not that this is in contrast to my previous doom-laden songs,' said Doyle in a statement, adding the new album is 'freer' than the first. 'On my last solo record, I wanted to explore musical backyards of friends of mine in different parts of the musical world. On 'So Let's Go,' folks will hear much more stuff from my backyard and all the traditional and Celtic influences I grew up with, married with the most contemporary collaborators out there.

'I always want people to have the greatest night of their life when the house lights go down.'

So, if you want to be on hand when the lights go down in Aurora this September to potentially have the greatest night of your life, you'll need a ticket.

They are now available online. Visit www.hoedown.ca and click Tickets for more information.