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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BLUE RODEO'S JIM CUDDY
PRESENTS A \$10,000 MUSICAL INSTRUMENT GRANT TO HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ON BEHALF OF THE CANADIAN ACADEMY OF RECORDING ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Band Aid presentation made to Adelaide Hoodless School

Hamilton, ON: Canadian music superstar, Blue Rodeo's **Jim Cuddy**, today presented a \$10,000 musical instrument grant on behalf of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences' (CARAS) Band Aid program to students at Adelaide Hoodless School, Hamilton, Ontario.

The presentation featured a live performance by Adelaide Hoodless School music students who showcased their talents on the new instruments purchased with the grant funding.

"It is always rewarding to witness first-hand a school band that has new instruments, to see how happy they are and how valuable the experience is," said Cuddy. "As someone who believes in the importance of music education and MusiCan, I am thrilled that I can support Canada's blossoming young talent, giving them opportunities that they might not otherwise have."

The event demonstrates the importance of MusiCan – the CARAS Music Education Program, which helps address the erosion of music education in Canadian schools. Band Aid, a component of MusiCan, provides \$10,000 grants in the form of musical instruments to schools whose music programs have great potential, yet are in need of funding to ensure their sustained growth.

"It makes a real difference when a Canadian music star like Jim Cuddy supports the Band Aid program," said Melanie Berry, President of CARAS. "Students are thrilled and inspired by the experience and really connect with the meaning music has in their lives."

Singer/songwriter Jim Cuddy is pre-eminently known as the lead singer of one of Canada's most successful bands, Blue Rodeo which he formed in 1984 with his high school friend Greg Keelor. The band first gained recognition in 1986 with the launch of their debut album *Outskirts* and they've been on fire ever since. Throughout the band's twenty plus years in the music industry, they've released twelve albums which include ten in-studio albums, one live album and a greatest hits collection, all of which have helped garner the band seven JUNO Awards including four JUNO Awards for Group of the Year.

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Adelaide Hoodless School is one of 37 recipient schools across the country awarded a \$10,000 Band Aid musical instrument grant this year. "The arts are very important to the development of children," said Kevin Heer, Principal, Adelaide Hoodless School. "Here at Adelaide we offer a wide variety of programs that support the arts. The infusion of new instruments into our music program will enhance the music program and support our students to value the arts and especially Canadian music."

Many Canadian superstars have lent tremendous support to MusiCan, providing inspiration and vision to thousands of students. Band Aid grant presentations have been made by **54•40, Alanis Morissette, Audrey de Montigny, Doc Walker, Great Big Sea, Hawksley Workman, Jane Bunnett, Jann Arden, Jelleestone, Jim Cuddy, Jimmy Rankin, Jully Black, Kalan Porter, Kathleen Edwards, Keshia Chanté, Matt Mays, Melissa O'Neil, Nickelback, Remy Shand, Rex Goudie, Ryan Malcolm, Sam Roberts, Sarah Harmer, Shania Twain, Shaye, Susan Aglukark, The Ennis Sisters, The Tragically Hip** and others.

Including this year's grants, CARAS will have donated over one million dollars to music programs, impacting 75,000 young Canadians from coast to coast.

MusiCan is supported by various initiatives such as the platinum selling Juno nominee compilation CD, the Juno Awards 35th Anniversary box set – Oh What A Feeling 3, annual contributions by EMI Music Canada Inc., SONY BMG Music Canada Inc., Universal Music Canada and Warner Music Canada Ltd., as well as Songwriters' Circle sponsored by CMPA and SOCAN, Juno Cup, FACTOR, MIAC (Music Industries Association of Canada) and individual and corporate contributions.

For more information on MusiCan and to find out how you can lend your support, please visit www.carasonline.ca.

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