

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALL FOR \$10,000 GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN AS MUSIC TEACHERS IN CANADA SING THE PRAISES OF MusiCan

**Past grant recipients report positive change in music education;
Musical instrument grant applications open May 1, 2008**

TORONTO, April 29, 2008 – Today MusiCan celebrates a recent survey* that proves with a fistful of money and a lot of heart, significant growth in music education is possible. The survey reported that recipient school students have been given the ability to explore different genres of music, seen the creation of new musical ensembles and many recipient schools have indicated an increased number of public performances since being awarded a grant. MusiCan, the charitable arm of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS), plans to continue its mission to elevate music education in Canadian schools, and is now accepting applications for 2008-2009 Band Aid grants.

**Schools will find more information on application criteria, including
downloadable Application Forms for Band Aid grants at www.musican.ca.
Applications will be accepted from May 1 - August 1, 2008.**

The Band Aid musical instrument grants provide Canadian public schools - elementary, secondary and separate – \$10,000 towards the purchase of new musical instruments. Past grant recipients continue to report positive effects of the increased inventory size and quality of musical instruments available at their schools, and an increased time spent on instruction instead of instrument repair.

"The grants have been incredibly successful at elevating the level of musical instruction available at the recipient schools," says MusiCan's Executive Director, Srinka Wallia. "MusiCan is committed to ensuring that all students can benefit from the advantages of musical education, from enhanced cognitive development and stimulation, to fostering a positive attitude toward school."

The grants have enabled many schools to create diverse new musical ensembles including jazz, steel pan and junior concert bands. The new programs allow access to a greater breadth of musical education, and an opportunity for students who may not otherwise have been able to afford to explore their musical potential. James Stadnyk, a music teacher at Harold Napper Public School in Brossard, QC, reported only positive results from the grant: "I have personally witnessed a phenomenal transformation as children step on to the stage as mere students, and rise as stars."

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The program was created in 1997 and is the only one of its kind in Canada. MusiCan continues to help keep music education alive in schools from coast to coast. MusiCan has donated more than 2.3 million dollars to music programs, impacting over 120,000 students, their schools and communities across the country.

About MusiCan:

MusiCan, the music education charity of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) is helping keep music alive in schools across Canada. MusiCan's mission is to ensure that children in Canada have access to a comprehensive music program through their school. MusiCan includes Band Aid musical instrument grants, the MusiCan Teacher of the Year Award, Scholarships and other music education initiatives. MusiCan is supported by various initiatives such as the platinum selling Juno Award nominee compilation CD, annual contributions by CTVglobemedia, 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 and individual and corporate contributions, including The Keg Spirit Foundation and Sirius Canada Inc. Since the Program's establishment in 1997, over \$2.3 million will have been donated impacting 164 post secondary music program graduates and 120,732 individual students, their schools and communities, from coast to coast. MusiCan has also honoured three extraordinary music teachers through the MusiCan Teacher of the Year Award.

*survey conducted in 2007 with recipient schools.

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