



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Tragically Hip to Present Fourth Annual MusiCounts  
Teacher of the Year Award**

***Toronto music teacher to receive \$10,000 and trip to 2009 JUNO Awards***

TORONTO, November 27, 2008 - MusiCounts, Canada's music education charity associated with CARAS, has named Alex Voros of North York's Chaminade College School as the fourth annual winner of the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award. The first teacher in Toronto to receive this honour, Voros will be presented this prestigious award today by artist sponsor, multiple JUNO Award-winning band and Canadian Music Hall of Fame inductee The Tragically Hip.

Voros has been devoted to teaching music for over 30 years, eight of which he has spent at Chaminade. For his tireless commitment to both music and his students, Voros will receive a handcrafted award commissioned by Canadian glass artist Shirley Elford, designer of the JUNO Awards statuettes, a \$10,000 cash award and an invitation to attend the 2009 JUNO Awards in Vancouver to be held from March 26 -29, 2009. The school's music program will also benefit from a \$10,000 grant.

Since 2005, the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award has recognized the accomplishments of exceptional music teachers who have had an impact on students' lives and who have made a significant contribution to music education within their community.

"We are delighted to honour Alex who has committed himself not only to teaching music but to inspiring each and every one of his students," said Srinka Wallia, Executive Director, MusiCounts. "I would also like to express my gratitude to The Tragically Hip and Universal Music Canada for their extraordinary support of this Award."

"With Chaminade's diverse student population, Alex has created a safe haven for many at-risk youth to grow creatively," said Principal Michael Wallace, who nominated Voros for the award. "He is a model of dedication to his discipline and to the teaching profession at large." Many parents of Voros's students share these thoughts, believing that Alex has fostered a passion for music within their children that was previously non-existent.

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Voros's successes go beyond the walls of his classroom. Under his leadership, Chaminade College School boasts several bands – the largest consisting of over 70 members. These ensembles have beaten out both U.S. and Canadian bands in North American competitions, and many of his students have continued on to post-secondary music education.

The love for music that Voros instills within the more than 200 students he teaches each year is something that they will carry with them for a lifetime. His dedication to music education, along with his ability to inspire his students, is a few of the many reasons he has been recognized as Toronto's first recipient of the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award.

### **About The Tragically Hip**

Formed in 1983 in Kingston, Ont., members of The Tragically Hip include Gordon Downie (vocals), Rob Baker (guitar), Paul Langlois (guitar), Gord Sinclair (bass), and Johnny Fay (drums). During the mid-1980s, the group built a loyal following and in 1987 released their first self-titled album. In 2002, the Hip was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame and the Canadian Music Hall of Fame in 2005. Other accolades include an Honourary Fellowship presented by the Royal Conservatory of Music (2006) and the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards (2008). Their long list of Juno Awards include Most Promising Group of the Year (1990), Canadian Entertainer of the Year (1991 and 1993), Entertainer of the Year, Group of the Year (1995), Group of the Year, Album of the Year (1997), Best Rock Album (1999), Best Single (2000), Best Rock Album (2001) and Music DVD of the Year (2006). They have just completed recording the follow-up to their platinum-selling album *World Container* which is slated for release by Universal Music Canada in Spring 2009.

### **About MusiCounts:**

MusiCounts, the music education charity of CARAS, is helping keep music alive in schools across Canada. MusiCounts' mission is to ensure that children in Canada have access to a comprehensive music program through their school. MusiCounts includes Band Aid musical instrument grants, the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award, Scholarships and other music education initiatives. MusiCounts 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 sponsored by The Keg Steakhouse and Bar; and individual and corporate contributions, including Astral Media, The Keg Spirit Foundation and SIRIUS Canada Inc. Since the Program's establishment in 1997, over \$3 million will have been donated, impacting 190 post-secondary music program graduates and close to 200,000 students, their schools and communities from coast to coast. MusiCounts will have also honoured four extraordinary music teachers through the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award. For more information, please visit: [www.musiccounts.ca](http://www.musiccounts.ca)

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