

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Céline Dion Presents 2007 MusiCan Teacher of the Year Award  
to Gatineau, Quebec Teacher**

**GATINEAU, October 18, 2007** – On behalf of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS), Executive Director of MusiCan, Srinka Wallia announced that Bernard Hébert is the recipient of this year's MusiCan Teacher of the Year Award. Hébert is the music teacher at Polyvalente Nicolas-Gatineau High School in Gatineau, Quebec. The prestigious honour was celebrated today at the high school as Hébert was surrounded by former and current students and local dignitaries.

As a special surprise Hébert and his wife were flown to Las Vegas earlier in the week to meet with international recording star, Quebec native and Artist sponsor of this year's Award, Céline Dion who bestowed the Teacher of the Year honours on Monsieur Hébert. As part of the Award, Monsieur Hébert received \$10,000, a handcrafted award commissioned by Canadian glass artist Shirley Elford, and an invitation by CARAS to attend the 2008 JUNO Awards being held April 4-6 in Calgary, Alberta. The school's music program will also benefit from a \$10,000 donation.

"It is a great pleasure to recognize a teacher who has had such a tremendous impact on his students and community," says Melanie Berry, President, CARAS. "I would also like to express my appreciation to Sony BMG Music (Canada) Inc. and especially, Céline Dion for her extraordinary support and for taking the time out of her busy schedule to meet with Mr Hébert and present the award to him."

"I am delighted to present this prestigious award to Mr Hébert," comments Céline Dion. "His dedication and contribution to enrich his students' lives with music, is making our world a much better place."

Céline Dion, the biggest selling female artist of all time, selling over 180 million albums worldwide, will release, Taking Chances, her first English studio album in over 3 years, on November 13th, 2007. On December 15th, Céline will take her final bows on the Colosseum stage at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, where she has enjoyed a record-breaking five-year run of sold-out performances and critical acclaim, with her spectacular show, "A New Day..." Céline begins her year-long worldwide tour in February 2008, visiting 5 continents, over 25 countries and more than 100 cities.

The MusiCan Teacher of the Year Award recognizes the accomplishments of one outstanding music educator who has had a far-reaching impact on the lives of their students and community. I am truly humbled to have been chosen as the recipient of the 2007 MusiCan Teacher of the Year. It was a great honour and privilege to meet and receive the Award from Céline Dion. On behalf of all the hard working music teachers in Canada, I want to thank MusiCan for this unforgettable experience! ", said Mr. Hébert.

Monsieur Hébert has been teaching music for 32 years, 28 of those at Nicolas-Gatineau High School. In that time he has brought the joy of music to over 5,000 students. Hébert has entered his students in several band competitions and still plays every instrument he teaches.

Nicolas-Gatineau High School Principal, Claude Beaulieu who nominated Hébert says, "Mr Hébert is a great teacher and a wonderful human being who deserves the recognition for giving the passion of music to thousands of students. He has always been there for everyone."

### **About MusiCan**

Through MusiCan, 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 every child in Canada has access to a comprehensive music program through their schools. 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 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 this year's contributions and since the Program's establishment in 1997, over 2.3 million will be 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.

For more information on MusiCan and to find out how you can lend your support, please visit [www.musican.ca](http://www.musican.ca)

### **About Sony BMG Music (Canada) Inc.**

SONY BMG MUSIC (CANADA) INC. is the Canadian subsidiary of SONY BMG MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT, a global recording music joint venture with a roster of current artists that includes a broad array of both local artists and international superstars, as well as a vast catalogue that comprises some of the most important recordings in history. SONY BMG MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT is 50 % owned by Bertelsmann A.G. and 50% owned by Sony Corporation of America.