

For immediate release

ANDORRA by **CARIBOU** WINS 2008 POLARIS MUSIC PRIZE

(September 29, 2008 – 10:00 p.m.) Toronto, ON – Dundas, Ontario's **Caribou** was named the winner of the third annual Polaris Music Prize in a gala ceremony held tonight at Toronto's Phoenix Concert Theatre. Dan Snaith is the sole member of Caribou, and he takes home \$20,000 for *Andorra*, the Canadian Album of the Year.

Previous winners were Final Fantasy for *He Poos Clouds* in 2006, and Patrick Watson for *Close To Paradise* in 2007.

Said Snaith, "Wow, if I seem completely overwhelmed it's because I am. I feel so lucky and so proud to be included in such an incredible group of albums both in the shortlist and the long list. Thank you so much. The Polaris is such an amazing forum for music that might not otherwise get recognized to such an extent."

Caribou is the project of musicians and mathematician Dan Snaith. Previously known as Manitoba, Snaith has been making unique statements in electronic music, fusing hopscotch melodies and filtered electronic sunshine with influences as diverse as the spiritual free jazz of the early 70s, North American indie music of the 90's and the post acid house UK techno since his early teens. *Andorra*, Caribou's fourth full-length album, was heralded by critics as not just an electronic album, but as a pop masterpiece deemed "a beautifully choreographed mess" by Rolling Stone Magazine. After touring the world for a solid year, Dan has returned to his London studio to record a new album.

More than 400 people attended the gala, among them key players in the Canadian music, media and corporate worlds. They were treated to performances by Vancouver's **Black Mountain**, London, Ontario city mates **Shad** and **Basia**, Toronto's **Holy Fuck**, Ottawa's **Kathleen Edwards**, Montréal's **Plants and Animals**, and Charlottetown's **Two Hours Traffic**.

The winner for Album of the Year was selected by the 11-member gala grand jury, in turn chosen from 178 members of the larger jury comprised of music journalists, bloggers and broadcasters. Through a process of winnowing down, they voted on, then determined the best Canadian album released between June 1, 2007 and May 31, 2008. The grand jury was sequestered in the Phoenix parlour while the event was taking place.

Liisa Ladouceur, who oversees the voting for Polaris, talked about the intensity of the process.

"For the first time in Polaris' history, there were three clear frontrunners after the first ballot. Ultimately the album selected was one that touched the most jurors for the greatest number of reasons. They felt this record can be loved by anyone and everyone."

The 11-member gala grand jury were: Mike Bell (Calgary Herald), Denise Benson (Eye), Evelyn Côté (ici), Lana Gay (CBC Radio 3, CFOX), Kevin Kelley (Newfoundland Herald), Joshua Ostroff (AOL Canada), James Stewart Reaney (London Free Press), Li Robbins (CBC Radio), Hannah Simone (MuchMusic's The New Music), Darryl Sterdan (Winnipeg Sun) and Frank Yang (Chromewaves).

Ten albums were shortlisted for the 2008 Polaris Prize. In alphabetical order, they are:

Basia Bulat – *Oh, My Darling*
Black Mountain – *In The Future*
Caribou – *Andorra*
Kathleen Edwards – *Asking For Flowers*
Holy Fuck – *LP*
Plants and Animals – *Parc Avenue*
Shad – *The Old Prince*
Stars – *In Our Bedroom After The War*
Two Hours Traffic – *Little Jabs*
The Weakerthans – *Reunion Tour*

For the second year in a row, the gala was hosted by CBC Radio 3's Grant Lawrence. Sirius Satellite Radio and Radio 3 broadcast the event live across North America on Sirius channel 86, and around the world on the web at radio3.cbc.ca. The gala was also captured for a future TV broadcast on CITY TV stations across the country. The broadcast date will be announced in October.

About the Polaris Music Prize

The Polaris Music Prize is a not-for-profit organization that annually honours, celebrates and rewards creativity and diversity in Canadian recorded music by recognizing and marketing the albums of the highest artistic integrity, without regard to musical genre, professional affiliation, or sales history, as judged by a panel of selected music critics. For further information, including rules, jury and sponsors, please visit www.polarismusicprize.ca.

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