

MusiCounts OPENS CALL FOR BAND AID MUSICAL INSTRUMENT GRANTS

Applications from schools nationwide can be submitted starting May 3rd

TORONTO, May 3, 2010 – As Canadian music continues to make its mark on the world map, one organization is working hard to build Canadian musical talent from the ground up. MusiCounts, Canada's Music Education Charity associated with The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS), is dedicated to keeping music alive in Canadian schools by providing grants for their music programs. Applications for 2010-2011 Band Aid Grants are now open and schools nationwide are invited to apply.

Schools can find more information on application criteria, including downloadable application forms for Band Aid grants at www.musiccounts.ca. Applications will be accepted from May 3 – August 6, 2010.

Band Aid Grants are awarded to Canadian elementary, secondary and separate schools with music programs that have great potential, but are in need of funding. Each year, MusiCounts provides dozens of schools across Canada with \$5,000 and \$10,000 Grants toward enhancing their musical education programs. Past recipients have used MusiCounts Band Aid Grants to increase the quantity and enhance the quality of the instruments available to their students. Recipients often consider the greatest benefit of the program to be the focus shift from instrument repair to instrument instruction.

More than \$3 million has been donated to-date through Band Aid Grants alone. These Grants have impacted over 250,000 Canadian students by allowing them to experience diverse musical programs, from jazz bands to drum and guitar ensembles. Students from Pre K to Grade 12 in urban, rural, remote and First Nations communities from coast to coast, regardless of socio-economic background, have benefited from MusiCounts' increased dedication to musical instruction.

Schools selected to receive Grants are subject to approval by the MusiCounts Advisory Committee. These schools are selected based on economic need, inventory and condition of the instruments, number of students, dedication of school staff and the overall impact the grant would make within the school community.

About MusiCounts

MusiCounts, Canada's music education charity associated with The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS), is helping to 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 JUNO Award nominee compilation CD; annual contributions by CTVglobemedia; EMI Music Canada Inc.; Sony Music Entertainment Canada Inc.; Universal Music Canada and Warner Music Canada Ltd.; as well as Songwriters' Circle presented by CMPA and SOCAN; Juno Cup presented by The Keg Steakhouse and Bar; and individual and corporate contributions, including Astral Media, Baldwin Pianos, Bob FM, Corus Entertainment, The RBC Foundation, Rogers Broadcasting Ltd., The Shore 104 FM, and SIRIUS Canada Inc. Since the Program's establishment in 1997, over \$3 and a half million has been donated impacting 214 post secondary music program graduates and over 250,000 individual students, their schools and communities, from coast to coast. MusiCounts has also honoured 5 extraordinary music teachers through the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award. For more information, please visit:

www.musiccounts.ca