

## **MUSICOUNTS CELEBRATES \$10,000 BAND AID GRANT TO HARBORD COLLEGIATE**

### ***Seven-time JUNO Award-winner Feist joins festivities in Toronto***

TORONTO, December 19, 2008 – MusiCounts, Canada’s music education charity associated with CARAS, and more than 800 high school students and staff at Harbord Collegiate Institute gathered today as seven-time JUNO Award-winner Leslie Feist celebrated Toronto’s landmark school as the recipient of a 2008-2009 MusiCounts Band Aid Grant. Awarded annually, the \$10,000 grants provide musical instrument funding to schools across the country to help sustain their music programs.

Established in 1892, Harbord Collegiate Institute continues to inspire its students through its extensive music education programs. Students are invited to participate in orchestra, concert and jazz bands and varying types of choral programs (cantemus, concert and jazz) under the direction of Assistant Curriculum Leader, Creative Arts and music teacher Renata Todros.

“We strongly believe in the ability of music to transform a person,” said Principal Rodrigo Fuentes. “This grant will help us continue to inspire young people while teaching them life skills that will help them mature into responsible – and talented – adults.” Fuentes added that the students were equally inspired by Feist’s support and encouragement.”

“Harbord Collegiate Institute exemplifies MusiCounts’ belief in the importance of music education,” said Srinka Wallia, Executive Director, MusiCounts. “We are very pleased to celebrate this grant to such a well-deserving school and delighted that Feist could join us today.”

Harbord Collegiate Institute is one of 68 schools in Canada to be awarded a MusiCounts Band Aid grant this year.

#### **About Feist**

Seven-time JUNO award-winner and multi-Grammy nominated Feist, has introduced her distinct sounds, style and influence to the world with the release of her award-winning album *The Reminder*, the follow-up to 2004’s acclaimed *Let It Die*. *The Reminder*, released May 1, 2007 on Arts & Crafts, is certified Double Platinum in Canada and has gone on to sell over one million copies worldwide. The 2008 JUNO Awards in Calgary saw Calgary native Feist take an award in all five categories nominated, including Artist of the Year and Album of the Year.

**For additional information about Feist**, please visit [www.listentofeist.com](http://www.listentofeist.com)

For high-resolution photos and biography information, please visit [www.canvasmedia.ca/feist](http://www.canvasmedia.ca/feist)

Or contact: Stephen McGrath, Canvas Media, 416 203 2203 ext 230 / [Stephen@canvasmedia.ca](mailto:Stephen@canvasmedia.ca)

**MusiCounts**, the music education charity associated with The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, 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)

-30-

**Media Contact:**

Tiffany Astle, Holmes Creative Communications, 416.628.5603 / [tastle@hccink.com](mailto:tastle@hccink.com)