

**BARENAKED LADIES PERFORM IN CELEBRATION  
OF \$5,000 MUSICCOUNTS GRANT  
TO ALEXANDER MUIR / GLADSTONE AVE JR. & SR. PUBLIC SCHOOL**

***Grant supports one of Canada's most diverse music programs***

TORONTO, March 22, 2010 – MusiCounts, Canada's music education charity associated with The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS), gathered with more than 350 Alexander Muir / Gladstone Avenue Public School students and staff today to celebrate a 2009-2010 MusiCounts Band Aid grant.

Highlighting the celebration was an appearance by eight-time JUNO Award winners, Barenaked Ladies. Not only did they give an intimate performance, but they also took some time to talk about the importance of music education and how it has influenced their lives.

Melanie Berry, President and CEO of CARAS and MusiCounts, also spoke at the presentation. "It is schools such as Alexander Muir / Gladstone Avenue Jr. & Sr. Public School that embody our belief in the importance of music education. To have had twice-a-week music instruction despite the shortage of instruments is a heartwarming story of dedication. Every school should be so lucky to have the outstanding support of talented teachers who inspire and empower students every day."

One of over 60 such grants awarded nationwide in 2010 by MusiCounts, today's grant celebrated a truly excellent music program. Each student at Alexander Muir/ Gladstone Ave. has music instruction twice a week, thereby helping to bridge cultural barriers within a school where 69.4 per cent of the students' home language isn't English. Located in an at-risk neighbourhood, the school runs a number of programs, including Orff, African drumming, Indonesian gamelan, a concert band and orchestra. Prior to the grant, the school often borrowed instrument kits from the school board. The grant money purchased instruments for the Orff program as well as saxophones and trumpets.

**About Barenaked Ladies**

Founded in 1988, Barenaked Ladies took Canada by storm with their five-song indie cassette, *The Yellow Tape*. Over the next decade-plus, their albums *Gordon*, *Rock Spectacle*, *Stunt* and *Maroon* went multi-platinum in the U.S., and Barenaked Ladies became a top-selling, award-winning concert draw across North America and the U.K. with their frenetic blend of high-energy melodic-pop, crack musicianship and spontaneous repartee. Barenaked Ladies (now a four piece with Ed Robertson, Kevin Hearn, Jim Creeggan and Tyler Stewart) have racked up 18 Juno nominations and 8 Juno wins, along with multiple Grammy nominations, sold more than 14 million albums worldwide, written a plethora of hit singles (including "One Week," "Pinch Me" and "If I Had \$1000000") and amassed an international fanbase whose members number in the millions. Their 11<sup>th</sup> studio album *All In Good Time* will be released in Canada on March 23, 2010.

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## **About MusiCounts**

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 sponsored by CMPA and SOCAN; Juno Cup sponsored 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](http://www.musiccounts.ca)

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