

BOBS AND LOLO PERFORM WITH LOCAL STUDENTS IN CELEBRATION OF \$10,000 MUSICCOUNTS GRANT TO LARKHALL ACADEMY

ST. JOHN'S, NL, April 15, 2010 – MusiCounts, Canada's music education charity associated with The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS), today celebrated a 2009-2010 MusiCounts Band Aid grant awarded for the purchase of new instruments for more than 350 Larkhall Academy students.

Highlighting the celebration was a performance by multi-award-winning educational singers Bobs & Lolo. The Vancouver duo had the audience singing along to songs from their 2010 JUNO Award nominated album, *Action Packed*. The pair took time to talk about the importance of music education, and how it has affected their lives.

Melanie Berry, President and CEO of CARAS & MusiCounts, spoke at the presentation. "Larkhall Academy is exactly what MusiCounts stands for. Thanks to the Academy's outstanding music teacher, Susan Lee, the students are empowered to explore and reach their full potential through music. We are very proud to support a program like the one here at Larkhall."

One of over 60 such grants awarded nationwide in 2010 by MusiCounts, the grant celebrated today truly assists a school that helps students overcome personal challenges and fully realize themselves. Larkhall Academy fosters growth in children from Kindergarten to Grade Six, regardless of their financial, behavioral and/or motivational problems.

Some students require more active learning experiences and thanks to the tireless efforts and dedication of music teacher Susan Lee, they get the engagement they need to fully realize their potential. It's no wonder that music class is among the students' favourites, despite the fact that musical instruments previously had to be rented. The MusiCounts grant went towards the purchase of a variety of instruments from flutes to trumpets, saxophones to a bass guitar, and more.

Also in attendance at today's presentation were some of the loyal supporters of MusiCounts including the Slight Family Foundation, The Keg and Sean Munroe, RBC Regional Vice-President for Newfoundland & Labrador who today confirmed a generous donation to MusiCounts.

About Bobs and Lolo

Bobs & Lolo are dedicated to connecting children to the natural world with music, movement and make-believe. Sharing stories that engage, inspire and educate, they teach kids to care about themselves, their neighbours and the planet. Growing up on Vancouver Island, Robyn Hardy and Lorraine Pond have always shared a love of the natural world and a passion for working with children. Creating the dynamic duo Bobs & Lolo has allowed them combine their diverse academic backgrounds with a mutual love of teaching and the creative arts. Robyn (Bobs) is an enthusiastic and caring individual with a passion for teaching and conservation education. She has a Bachelor of Arts (honours degree majoring in linguistics) from the University of Victoria and a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia. On stage she loves to sing, dance, clap, snap and tap! Lorraine (Lolo) is an energetic, motivating performer with a flair for creating connections between young audiences and the natural world. After completing a Bachelor of Human Kinetics at the University of British Columbia, she spent five years as an environmental educator at the Vancouver Aquarium. On stage she loves to sing, dance, wiggle, slide and glide!

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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