



MusiCounts Calls for 2011-2012 Band Aid Grant Applications! Over a half million dollars in instruments to be awarded to schools across Canada

Toronto, ON – May 5, 2011 – MusiCounts, Canada’s music education charity associated with The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) is proud to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2011-2012 MusiCounts Band Aid musical instrument grants.

In the upcoming school year, over a half million dollars worth of instruments will be awarded through grants of \$5,000 and \$10,000 to go towards the purchase of musical instruments and equipment. These grants will enable schools to jump-start, revive and accelerate music programs from coast to coast.

Schools wishing to apply can do so by visiting www.musiccounts.ca any time between now and the application deadline on August 5, 2011. Grants are awarded to public schools (including separate school boards) only. Recipients are selected based on economic need; inventory and condition of instruments; number of students; dedication of school staff; and the overall impact the grant would make within the school community.

“Due to a number of factors, far too many children in Canada lack the resources they need to enjoy the benefits of a quality music education. Making that problem worse is the fact that far too many schools in Canada are challenged by the cost of running an extensive music program. Delivering these grants helps to provide schools with the much needed materials required to ensure that children everywhere have the opportunity to enjoy the many positive advantages of learning to play an instrument,” says Steve Cranwell, Executive Director, MusiCounts.

The Band Aid musical instrument grant program helps schools whose music programs have great potential, yet are deemed to be in need of funding to ensure their sustained growth. In the 2010-2011 school year alone, MusiCounts proudly awarded \$560,000 worth of instruments, impacting 71 schools and communities. The grants affect thousands of young Canadians and support diverse music programs that include concert and jazz bands, drum and guitar ensembles and a myriad of other music programs. Coast to coast, all schools from the elementary level to high schools, in urban, rural, remote and First Nations communities, are encouraged to apply.

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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; EMI Music Canada Inc.; Sony Music Entertainment Canada Inc.; Universal Music Canada and Warner Music Canada Ltd.; as well as the Juno Songwriters' Circle presented by CMPA and SOCAN; Juno Cup presented by The Keg Steakhouse and Bar; and individual and corporate contributions, including Astral Media, Bell Media, Corus Entertainment, OMD, Rogers Broadcasting Ltd., The Shore 104 FM, SIRIUS Canada Inc., and the Slight Family Foundation. Since the Program's establishment in 1997, more than four million has been donated impacting 238 post secondary music program graduates and over 325,000 individual students, their schools and communities, from coast to coast. MusiCounts has also honoured 6 extraordinary music teachers through the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award. For more information, please visit: www.musiccounts.ca

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