



2011 MusiCounts Fred Sherratt Award Recipients Announced

Toronto, ON – June 29, 2011 – MusiCounts honoured the 2011 Fred Sherratt Award recipients in a presentation today at the Bell Media building in downtown Toronto. The 5-year partnership with CTVglobemedia, now Bell Media, gives the award to outstanding post-secondary graduates of Canadian music programs from the twelve partner colleges and universities. Special guests on hand for the ceremony were Fred Sherratt and Melanie Berry, President & CEO, CARAS/The JUNO Awards & MusiCounts. Each recipient was given a monetary award of \$3500 as well as an all-expenses paid trip to Toronto to attend the reception and take in a behind the scenes tour of MuchMusic and Bell Media Radio.

This year's recipients are:

Ellian Bell – *Harris Institute, Toronto, ON*
Eli Bennett – *Humber College, Toronto, ON*
Anthony Biafore – *The Art Institute of Vancouver, Vancouver, BC*
Hazel Burns – *The Banff Centre, Banff, AB*
Michael J. Copley – *Selkirk College, Nelson, BC*
Samuel Gemme – *Musitechnic, Montréal, QC*
Cameron Hurd – *Fanshawe College, London, ON*
Jason Lewis – *St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS*
Andrew Rasmussen – *Capilano University, Vancouver, BC*
Laura Swankey – *Grant MacEwan University, Edmonton, AB*
Stephanie Taralson – *Red Deer College, Red Deer, AB*
Jeramie White – *Trebas Institute, Toronto, ON*

(Please see below for further information on each recipient)

"The transition from one's career as a student to a professional career is not always an easy one, but it is MusiCounts' hope that the Fred Sherratt Award Scholarships help to provide an inspiration to each of the recipients to continue pursuing their dreams," said Melanie Berry, President & CEO, CARAS/The JUNO Awards & MusiCounts.

About Fred Sherratt

Fred Sherratt is a broadcasting pioneer who was instrumental in building CHUM, served as Vice-Chairman of the company from 2000-2003 and prior to that held a number of roles including Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He was inducted into the Canadian Association of Broadcasters Broadcast Hall of Fame in 1995, in 1993 received the Ted Rogers Senior / Velma Rogers Graham Award for his "pioneering spirit and contribution to the broadcasting system", and in 2008, received the Ontario Association of Broadcasters' inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award and was also honoured by CARAS in 2009 with the Walt Grealis Special Achievement Award.

-more-

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 comprehensive music programs through their schools regardless of socio-economic circumstances. 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 Awards nominee compilation CDs; annual contributions by Bell Media; 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, Corus Entertainment, Rogers Broadcasting Ltd., Ontario Media Development Corporation, The Shore 104 FM, SIRIUS Canada Inc., and the Slaight Family Foundation. Since the Program's establishment in 1997, more than four million dollars 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

2011 MusiCounts Fred Sherratt Recipients:

Ellian Bell - Harris Institute – Ellian was a high honours graduate of the Arts Management Program at Harris Institute here in Toronto. She was able to achieve consistent academic excellence and is described as a major contributor to the college's social and interpersonal environment. Before attending Harris Institute, Ellian previously earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Victoria. Currently, Ellian is the Executive Assistant at Full Capacity Concerts.

Eli Bennett (Vancouver, BC) - Humber College – A graduate from Humber College in Toronto, Eli was described by his mentors as perhaps the strongest student at Humber in 25 years. Eli was a perfect student, coachable, and maintained a 90% average. Also a great composer of original jazz music, he recently recorded his first full length CD, containing 80% original material. Eli is well on his way to becoming a world class musician, and arguably, has already become one.

Anthony Biafore (North Bay, ON) - The Art Institute of Vancouver – Anthony graduated from the Professional Recording Arts program at the Art Institute of Vancouver with an impressive grade point average of 3.7. Anthony demonstrated his passion, commitment and discipline in pursuing everything to do with audio from the first day he stepped into class. Quickly getting on track in the audio industry soon after graduating he is already in a position to thrive in the future.

Hazel Burns (Kelowna, BC) - The Banff Centre – Hazel was a senior work-study student at The Banff Centre this past summer. She showed great dedication to excellence in her work. In fact, she was made a senior producer workstudy this year, due to her talent and skill in working with classical musicians. She also has a degree from McGill University in Sound Recording and earlier studies from Recording Arts Canada. Her past instructors are confident that she will succeed as a talented producer and recording engineer in Canada in the future.

Michael J. Copley (Calgary, AB) - Selkirk College – A graduate from Selkirk College in Nelson, BC, Michael is a hard worker, a gifted musician, and an excellent performer. He has already displays confidence on stage and he is an organized an efficient band leader. It is through his songwriting that Michael truly shines. His lyric writing is mature and speaks to a wide range of topics with insight and clarity. His fabulous voice always does justice to his compositional intentions.

Samuel Gemme (Ste. Julie, QC) - Musitechnic – A graduate from Musitechnic in Montréal, Samuel's interest in music started with his first drum set at the age of eight. Moving into his teens, he also began to sing, play the guitar and the piano. At 17 he enrolled at Musitechnic and graduated just one year later with grades much higher than the class average. July 2010 saw the launch of his band's album followed by a 15-show North American Tour.

-more-

Cameron Hurd (Innisfil, ON) - Fanshawe College – Cam had excellent academic standing in the majority of his courses within the Music Industry Arts program at Fanshawe College, in London, Ontario. This past year, Cam was president of the Coalition of Music Industry Students. His exceptional leadership skills enabled him to lead and direct many projects including fundraising events, merchandising of the Music Industry Arts products, and organizing, managing and running the annual Music Industry Arts/Audio Post Production Awards Night.

Jason Lewis (Riverview, NB) - St. Francis Xavier University – Jason recently completed his senior recital in partial requirement for his Bachelor of Music degree at St. Francis Xavier University, in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. It was excellent, and showed evidence of four years of hard work and dedication on his part. In this way, he had constantly shown himself to be a role model for the younger students in the department. He was tangible evidence to the rest of the students that hard work really does pay off.

Andrew Rasmussen (Vancouver, BC) - Capilano University – Andrew is an outstanding musician and was an integral part of all the premier ensembles at Capilano University in Vancouver for many years. He is an extremely versatile musician and has great empathy for fellow musicians. An excellent student in the classroom and highly respected outside by his peers, he is a natural student leader. Never content to rest on his laurels, Andrew shows constant improvement, always looking to increase his skills.

Laura Swankey (North Vancouver, BC) - Grant MacEwan University – Majoring in vocal performance, Laura was a very dedicated student who was highly respected by both faculty and her peers at Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton. She performed in countless concerts and graduation recitals and has an extensive background in vocal jazz, excelling in vocal improvisation. She was an active and integral part of the music program and was the featured vocalist in the Jazz Combo and Jazz Band. Laura was an outstanding student and received several awards for academic excellence while enrolled in the music program.

Stephanie Taralson (Sylvan Lake, AB) - Red Deer College – Stephanie Taralson scored 99% and 100% on several courses throughout her two year music diploma program at Red Deer College. Stephanie was the second place winner in the piano category of the annual Performance Scholarship Competition, and completed a very successful piano recital in March. She also helped with sectional rehearsals in the Chamber Choir. Stephanie is a natural leader and was elected Music Society President by her peers, with the Music Society thriving under her leadership.

Jeramie White (Toronto, ON)- Trebas Institute – Graduating from The Trebas Institute in Toronto, Jeramie comes from a musical background, playing instruments like the piano, violin, saxophone, and started composing, producing, recording, mixing his own music and along with his brother, at the early age of 16, formed a production and entertainment company. Graduating with a 96% average overall, Jeramie now holds a position at AVW-TELAV, the biggest a/v company nationwide.

For more information please contact:

Indoor Recess Inc.

Joanne Settington – ph. 416.703.5217 / e. joanne@indoorrecess.com

-30-