



MUSICOUNTS TO ANNOUNCE THE 2011-2012 BAND AID GRANTS & PRESENT THE FIRST INSTRUMENT TO HAWTHORNE II BILINGUAL ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

BARENAKED LADIES FRONTMAN ED ROBERTSON AND CANADIAN ASTRONAUT CHRIS HADFIELD MAKE PRESENTATION

Friday, September 30, 2011, (Toronto) MusiCounts, Canada's music education charity associated with The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, along with the help of special guests Ed Robertson of Barenaked Ladies and Canadian Space Agency Astronaut Chris Hadfield, announced the recipients of the 2011-2012 Band Aid Grants today. \$600,000 will be awarded through 69 grants, in both \$5,000 and \$10,000 increments, impacting 85 schools across Canada. In this year alone, over 18,000 Canadian children will have their lives impacted through these grants.

FULL LIST OF RECIPIENT SCHOOLS ATTACHED

This year's grants impact young Canadians and support diverse music programs that include concert and jazz bands as well as drum and guitar ensembles. The grants are given to school with grade ranges of pre-kindergarten to grade 12 in elementary, junior high, and high schools in urban, rural, remote and First Nations communities from coast to coast. Band Aid Grants are awarded to elementary, secondary and separate schools in Canada and are selected based on economic need: inventory and condition of instruments; number of students; dedication of school staff and the overall impact of the grant would make within the school community are factors taken into consideration in choosing the grant recipient schools.

The event was also a presentation of the first instrument to 2011-2012 Band Aid Grant recipient, Hawthorne II Bilingual Alternative School. Hawthorne II Alternative Bilingual School is a kindergarten through grade six elementary school. They have an enrollment of 200 students per year. It is the only school of its kind (Bilingual, Alternative) in the Toronto District School Board. They have had a music program for six years that has included vocal music but no instrumental music instruction. They have borrowed instruments from nearby schools when possible but with the 2011-2012 MusiCounts Band Aid Grant, the school will be able to purchase its own instruments, allowing for a more enriching musical education environment.

-more-

About Ed Robertson

Ed Robertson is the lead singer and guitarist for Barenaked Ladies, who over the course of the past twenty-one years, have racked up eight Juno Awards and 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. The band also wrote and recorded the theme song to the hit television series, “The Big Bang Theory.” Their latest release, Hits From Yesterday & The Day Before was released on September 27th 2011.

About Chris Hadfield

Chris Hadfield joined the Canadian Space Agency in 1992. In November 1995, he flew on space shuttle Atlantis for mission STS-74 and became the first and only Canadian to visit the Russian Space Station Mir. His second space mission, STS-100, occurred in April 2001 aboard space shuttle Endeavour. During this mission to the International Space Station, he marked Canadian history once again as he became the first Canadian to perform a spacewalk when he installed Canada’s contribution to the Space Station, Canadarm2, the new Canadian-built robotic arm. In 2009, he served as the backup for Canadian astronaut Dr. Robert Thirsk for Expedition 21/21, a long-duration spaceflight. For his third spaceflight, he is scheduled to launch aboard a Russian Soyuz Rocket as part of Expedition 34/35 in November 2012. During the second part of his six months stay in orbit, he will be the first Canadian Commander of the International Space Station.

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 Slight Family Foundation. Since the Program’s establishment in 1997, close to five million dollars will have been donated impacting 262 post-secondary music program graduates and over 400,000 individual students, their schools and communities, from coast to coast. MusiCounts will have also honoured 7 extraordinary music teachers through the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award.

For more information, please visit: www.musiccounts.ca

-30-

For more information or to attend please contact:

Indoor Recess Inc.

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