

## **MusiCounts OPENS CALL FOR \$10,000 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

*Schools nationwide invited to apply for musical instrument grants starting May 1, 2009*

**TORONTO, April 22, 2009** – As Canadian music continues to make its mark, one organization remains dedicated to nurturing musical talent from the ground up. MusiCounts, Canada's music education charity, is keeping music alive in schools by providing grants for their music programs. Applications for 2009-2010 Band Aid grants are now open and schools nationwide are invited to apply.

**Schools can find more information on application criteria, including downloadable Application Forms for Band Aid grants at [www.musiccounts.ca](http://www.musiccounts.ca). Applications will be accepted from May 1 – August 4, 2009.**

Each year, MusiCounts provides dozens of Canadian elementary, secondary and separate schools with a \$10,000 grant towards enhancing their musical education programs. This year, MusiCounts will add a \$5,000 grant level in order to expand the reach and impact of the program.

Past recipients have used grants to increase their inventory and enhance the quality of the instruments available to their students. Recipients consider one of the greatest benefits of the program to be the shift in focus from instrument repair to instrument instruction.

The grants have impacted hundreds of thousands of Canadian students by allowing them to experience diverse musical programs, from jazz bands to African drumming and guitar ensembles. Students from Pre K to Grade 12 in urban, rural, remote and First Nations communities from coast to coast have benefited from MusiCounts' increased dedication to supporting music in schools.

"MusiCounts remains committed to providing Canadian students with equal opportunities to receive a comprehensive music education and experience the joy of music," says MusiCounts Executive Director, Srinka Wallia. "Our grants not only provide access to a greater breadth of musical instruction for young people, but also have a far reaching impact on their cognitive and social development."

The announcement of submissions for the 2009-10 Band Aid Grants follows the recent broadcast of a special message on The 2009 JUNO Awards by MusiCounts highlighting the value of music education and its power to transform young lives.

**For more information, please visit [www.musiccounts.ca](http://www.musiccounts.ca)**

### **About MusiCounts:**

MusiCounts, the music education charity of CARAS, is helping 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 platinum-selling 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 and SIRIUS Canada Inc. Since the Program's establishment in 1997, over \$3 million has been donated, impacting 190 post-secondary music program graduates and close to 200,000 students, their schools and communities from coast to coast. MusiCounts has also honoured four 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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