

For Immediate Release

Date: November 23, 2010

Canadian Music Centre BC Region

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CMC COMPOSER IN THE CLASSROOM COMES TO BC

The Canadian Music Centre British Columbia Region is proud to announce:
CMC Composer in the Classroom

The CMC BC Region has joined forces with three of BC's largest orchestras, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Victoria Symphony Orchestra, and the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra, by collaborating with each of their Composer-in-Residence, **Scott Good**, **Rodney Sharman**, and **Imant Raminsh**, respectively. Students at four schools in Vancouver, Deep Cove, and Kelowna will be involved in this dynamic initiative; **Lord Byng Senior Secondary**, **Queen Elizabeth Elementary**, **Seycove Secondary**, and **Mount Boucherie Secondary** schools.

Students have the exciting experience of working directly with a CMC Associate Composer and producing interdisciplinary collaborations with fellow students in other areas of the school, including creative writing, film, visual arts, and drama. Through the mentorships and collaborations, the students are given compositional tools and the unique knowledge, experiences and insights from the Associate Composers that are needed for them to discover their own compositional "voices".

The **TELUS Vancouver Community Board** has donated generously to this program and recognizes that the Composer in the Classroom project is an innovative and exciting approach to bringing the teaching of creativity to the classroom.

"Projects that stimulate individual creativity as well as encourage personal development through mentorship are important to our board members," said Nini Baird, chair of the TELUS Vancouver Community Board. "We are proud to support the Canadian Music Centre's Composer in the Classroom program which will not only achieve these goals, but will also bring much needed awareness of Canadian music and composers to youth across the province."

The vision of this project will help prepare BC students for the challenges of the 21st century through the teaching of the creative process through composition, while inspiring a lifelong love and appreciation of Canadian music.

Here is what a parent wrote, with respect to her daughter's experience of having Rodney Sharman as a mentor through the Victoria Symphony Orchestra's NEW Program:

"You have had a profound effect on her confidence as she tries on the multi-faceted role of 'composer'.... you have offered my daughter – and all the other students – a unique, authentic, 'real world' learning experience that is second to none. As a parent I am forever grateful."



Left to right: Bob Baker (CMC BC Region), Howard Jang (TELUS Vancouver Community Board), Rodney Sharman (CMC Associate Composer), Odette Kurth (Lord Byng Senior Secondary School), Cindy Pitchford-Yeung (Lord Byng Senior Secondary School)

The CMC BC Region gratefully acknowledges the support of the TELUS Vancouver Community Board.