



SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST 2008 • SAMEDI LE 1^{ER} MARS 2008
TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS • CENTRE DES ARTS DE TORONTO

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ICONIC CANADIAN MUSICIANS TO DAZZLE GUESTS AT THE 5TH ANNUAL CANADIAN SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME GALA

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien to present award to Modern Era inductee Paul Anka

(**Toronto – February 26, 2008**) - The Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame 5th Annual Gala has added the final sprinkling of stars to its already exciting evening.

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien will induct Modern Era inductee Paul Anka into the Hall of Fame; while past CSHF inductee, and iconic Quebec songwriter Raymond Lévesque will inductee Modern Era inductee Claude Dubois.

Quebec rockers **Yelo Molo** will take to the stage for a performance of Raôul Duguay's *La Bitté à Tibi*; francophone sensation **Anik Jean** will perform André Lejeune's *Une promesse* and **Emilie-Claire Barlow** will honour the late Alex Kramer with a rendition of *Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens*. **Kyle Riabko** will join Suzie McNeil on a rendition of Les Emmerson's classic *Signs*. This year's host **Gregory Charles** will play double duty, taking to the stage to perform in honour of Modern Era inductee Paul Anka.

"This year's Gala is an exciting mix of established talent and new up-and-coming Canadian artists all sharing a common desire to honour our music creators" said Dominic Denny, CSHF Executive Director and Co-Executive Producer. "March 1 is a night that any Canadian music lover would not want to miss."

The climax of the evening's entertainment will be performances by Modern Era inductees **Claude Dubois** and **Paul Anka**, who will be accompanied by close friend and acclaimed producer/pianist **David Foster**.

These new additions will join previously announced artists including Jully Black, Serena Ryder, Oliver Jones with Dione Taylor and the Faith Chorale, Martine St. Clair, Toulouse, Boom Desjardins and Rufus and Martha Wainwright with Lily Lanken and Anna and Kate McGarrigle.

Broadcast partner CBC Radio Two will air a special interview with Paul Anka on Sunday, March 2nd at 7pm, followed by the broadcast of the Gala at 8pm. In addition, CBC Radio One will air a one-hour special at 2pm and 10pm on March 3rd. CBC Television will broadcast a one-hour special on Monday, March 3rd at 7pm featuring salutes to Paul Anka and Oscar Peterson.

Tickets are incredibly limited and can be purchased via ticketmaster.ca or 416-870-8000. Balcony tickets are available for \$75 while orchestra level, which include the post-Gala dessert reception are available for \$200.

About CSHF Performers:

Anik Jean

From a young age, Anik Jean was interested in the world of blues and entertainment. By the age of 11 she was convinced she wanted to pursue a career as an author/composer. Attending a David Bowie concert further confirmed her aspirations, steering her down the path to become the celebrated Francophone musician she is today. Quickly learning the fundamentals of guitar, flute and piano, she pursued her dreams and released her first album in 2005, *Le Trashy Saloon*. Her hit *Je Suis Partie* climbed the charts, followed by her next single, *Junkie de Toi*, which soared even higher. The success of her first album earned her a spot opening for the Rolling Stones in Montreal in 2006. Her new recording, *Le Ciel Saigne le Martyre*, is an intense rock album featuring collaborations with Earl Slick, Mike Garson, Sam Harrisson and Antoine Gratton.

Emilie-Claire Barlow

Canada's incomparable vocal-jazz jewel dazzles audiences worldwide with her energetic live performances. Distinguishing herself by retaining all creative control, Barlow arranged and produced the string section on her album *The Very Thought of You*. Since its June release, the album has enjoyed several weeks as the no. 1 Jazz Album on iTunes Canada. The newest album follows her 2005 *Tribute* and her successful holiday album *Winter Wonderland* (2006).

Kyle Riabko

It's hard to believe that Kyle Riabko has been touring for 10 years considering he just celebrated his 20th Birthday. From a 10 year old guitar prodigy touring across Canada to arena tours in Japan, America, Canada and Australia opening for John Mayer, Keb Mo and Maroon 5, he's already a road warrior of sorts. An extended road trip, which led up to the recording of his full-length album, *Before I Speak*, was the most demanding form of musical boot camp, playing in front of crowds who had absolutely no idea who he was. He's currently a principal actor in the upcoming season of *Instant Star*, the teen drama from the makers of *Degrassi High* and after recently signing with the prestigious CAA Agency, auditioning for numerous film and Broadway parts.

Yelo Molo

The group met in 1992, releasing their debut album *Ecoute!* in 1999. Known for their contagious humour and on-stage antics, the group has garnered enormous popularity across Quebec. Nominated for four ADISQ awards in 2002, the group is a hit on the Quebec television circuit. Their fourth and latest album, *\$how Business* was released in 2004.

About the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame:

The Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame (CSHF) /Le Panthéon des Auteurs et Compositeurs Canadiens is a collaboration of the Canadian Music Publishers Association (CMPA) and the Songwriters Association of Canada (S.A.C.) with the assistance of the Société professionnelle des auteurs et des compositeurs du Québec (SPACQ). The CSHF's generous founding contributors are: the Canadian Music Publishers Association (CMPA), EMI Music Canada, the Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Recordings (FACTOR), SOCAN, Sony BMG Music Canada, Universal Music Canada, and Warner Music Canada. The CSHF acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Music Fund for this project.

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