

CANADIAN SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES DEPARTURE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN, PETER STEINMETZ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – TORONTO – December 2, 2008 – The Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame (CSHF) Le Panthéon des Auteurs et Compositeurs Canadiens (PACC) announced today that Peter Steinmetz, has come to the end of his term as Chairman of the CSHF and will be stepping down.

During his tenure, both as pro bono legal counsel since the creation of the CSHF and in recent years as Chairman of the board of directors, Peter drew upon his invaluable expertise as one of Canada's leading entertainment lawyers and his sixteen years' experience with CARAS, first as pro bono legal counsel and for ten years as CARAS President and Executive Producer of the Juno Awards (1983-1992), to help develop and shape the CSHF into the rare, truly bilingual and relevant cultural organization it is today.

Steinmetz also served as co-executive producer of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Annual CSHF Induction Galas and the initial three Words To Music CBC-TV Specials produced from those Galas that saw celebrations of some of Canada's greatest songwriting talent, including Joni Mitchell, Jean-Pierre Ferland, Leonard Cohen, Gilles Vigneault, Paul Anka and Claude Dubois, all of whom were present for their inductions.

These TV specials were acknowledged with a total of 8 Gemini nominations and 2 Awards: the first for k.d. lang's heart wrenching performance of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* from the 2006 Gala, and the other for Measha Breuggergosman's breathtaking interpretation of Joni Mitchell's *Both Sides, Now* from the 2007 Gala.

Throughout his career in the music industry, Steinmetz has always maintained, "the bottom line is the song". Indeed, his dedication to the CSHF mandate – to honour, celebrate and educate Canadians about the outstanding accomplishments of Canadian popular music songwriters and those who have contributed significantly to their legacy – has been unflagging.

Executive Director and Co-Executive Producer Dominic Denny said, "Peter's legacy to the CSHF is secure. His capacity to help navigate and interpret the complex and at times deeply unsatisfactory rules governing funding for show's like ours has been an inspiration. I will miss him both as a Chairman and mentor; we owe him a significant debt of gratitude for his dedication over the years."

His departure will be effective from December 1, 2008. The board of the CSHF, as well as key stakeholders, sponsors and partners, send their sincerest thanks to Mr. Steinmetz for his passion and tremendous contribution to the organization and for helping to preserve Canada's rich songwriting heritage.

The CSHF Board of Directors will announce a successor and new board in the coming weeks.

Mr. Steinmetz is a partner in the Toronto law firm of Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP and is also Vice-Chairman of the Ontario Media Development Corporation.

The Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame (CSHF) /Le Panthéon des Auteurs et Compositeurs Canadiens (PACC) is a bilingual, a-political, non-profit organization which is a partnership 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 core-funding partners are: the 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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