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CANADIAN SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES 2006 GALA PERFORMERS INCLUDING WILLIE NELSON, k.d. lang, MARIE-MAI, BEDOUIN SOUNDCLASH, AND RUFUS WAINWRIGHT: CBC-TV TO BROADCAST GALA SPECIAL ON MONDAY, MARCH 6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – TORONTO – JANUARY 3 – Internationally renowned stars Willie Nelson, k.d. lang, and Rufus Wainwright will join a roster of Canada's biggest performers to honour Canadian songwriters and songs at the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame 3rd annual Gala on Sunday, February 5, 2006 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. CBC Television will broadcast a one-hour special presentation of the 2006 Gala on Monday, March 6 at 9 p.m. (9:30 p.m. NT), including salutes to Modern Era inductees Gilles Vigneault and Leonard Cohen and Legacy Award recipients Anne Murray and Lucille Dumont, who will be honoured for their outstanding contributions to Canadian songwriting.

The gala evening will include some rare musical collaboration. Singer/songwriter Andy Kim will be joined by Bedouin Soundclash to perform his inducted song, *Sugar Sugar*, and the Stampeders will sing *Sweet City Woman* with country sensations Doc Walker. Martin Léon and Jessica Vigneault will perform the renowned song *Mon Pays* in honour of Quebec songwriting icon Gilles Vigneault, and hot-selling artist Marie-Mai will perform his *Pendant Que* accompanied by Fred St-Gelais. Jully Black and Jarvis Church will duet on Oscar Brand's timeless *A Guy is a Guy*.

Also confirmed to perform at this year's Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala are: Sarah Slean, Amélie Veille, Louise Pitre, Claire Pelletier, Jully Black and Jarvis Church, and Jimmy Rankin.

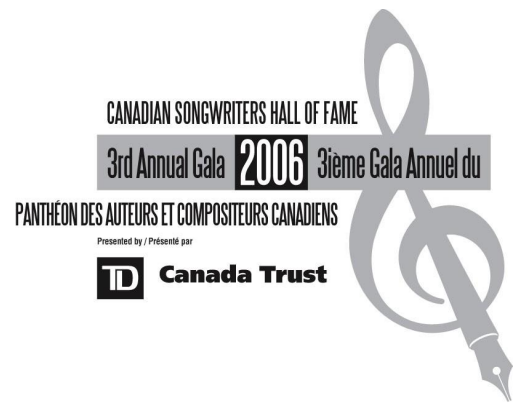
"CBC Television is proud to be the first television partner of the CSHF and to deliver to Canadians a one-hour special of rare, passionate performances and once-in-a-lifetime tributes to our country's greatest songwriters. March 6 is a night for all music lovers to pen in their calendars," said Creative Head of CBC TV Variety, Fred Nicolaidis.

The CSHF 3rd Annual Gala, hosted by CBC Radios' Andrew Craig and Radio-Canada's Sophie Durocher, will be broadcast nationally on Monday, February 6 on CBC Radio One from 11 a.m. - noon and on CBC Radio Two will from 8 - 10 p.m. As well, Radio-Canada's Espace Musique will air highlights from 10 a.m. - noon.

Five songwriters, twenty-six songs and three Legacy Award recipients will be honoured at the Gala, including big band giant Carmen Lombardo, record industry pioneer Herbert Samuel Berliner, composer and lyricist Lionel Daunais, and early jazz master William Eckstein. Past inductees in the hall of fame include Gordon Lightfoot, Claude Léveillée, Burton Cummings and Randy Bachman, and Raymond Lévesque.

Returning to the CSHF as the 3rd Annual Gala producer and writer is David Kitching, whose work on the CSHF 2nd Annual Gala garnered kudos from both the Canadian music industry and public alike.

"It is a pleasure once again to produce this unique celebration of music that brings the work of amazing Canadian songwriters to life. The musical highs of last year's show made for one of the most gratifying



moments in my career and I'm sure that, considering the stunning artists confirmed for this year's gala, we're in for another evening of chills and wonderment," said Kitching,

Tickets to the hottest music event in town are extremely limited, with only 50 seats still available for purchase. Visit www.cansong.ca or call 416.469.9619.

The Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame (CSHF) /Le Panthéon des Auteurs et Compositeurs Canadiens 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 founding partners are: EMI Music Canada, the Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent on Records (FACTOR), the SOCAN Foundation, 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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For further information, bios and photos, please visit www.cansong.ca.

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