

**PRESS RELEASE****EIGHT YOUNG PERFORMING ARTISTS WIN \$10,000 GRANTS**

**OTTAWA, July 27, 2009** – This year eight young performing artists will each receive a grant of \$10,000 from The Hnatyshyn Foundation to pursue their studies in September 2009. This brings to \$380,000 the amount awarded in university-level scholarships over the past five years by the Ottawa-based foundation.

In announcing the winners of the 2009 Developing Artists Grants competition in Ottawa today, Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C., President and Chair of the Board of The Hnatyshyn Foundation, said “The nominees for 2009 represent the depth of talent and perseverance that can be found in Canada’s young performing artists. The Hnatyshyn Foundation is privileged to celebrate their accomplishments by awarding these grants, investing in and supporting, at the most fundamental level, the development of world-class artists of tomorrow.” The grant winners were adjudicated anonymously by expert juries from among applicants nominated by educational and training institutions across Canada.

Joshua Peters of Winnipeg, Manitoba, will receive the classical music grant for orchestral instrument (strings). A seventeen-year-old violinist, he has just graduated from Kelvin High School In Winnipeg and will be starting a Bachelor of Music degree with a major in Violin Performance at the Schulich School of Music at Montreal’s McGill University.

The classical piano grant will be awarded to 18-year-old Lucas Porter of Port Williams, Nova Scotia. He completed the first year of a Performance Diploma Degree in piano at the Glen Gould School of Music in the spring of 2009.

The winner of the Oscar Peterson Grant for Jazz Performance is Luke Sellick of Winnipeg, Manitoba, a 19-year-old double bass player who is entering his second year at the University of Manitoba in the Jazz Studies program.

The classical ballet grant goes to 18-year-old Jackson Carroll of Toronto, Ontario, who will be undertaking an apprenticeship program at the National Ballet of Canada in Toronto. He has been training at the National Ballet School for the past several years..

The winner for contemporary dance is 22-year-old Kim Henry of Terrebonne, Quebec. She has just completed her first year of the three-year Professional Training Program at L’école de danse contemporaine de Montréal.

Leah Doz, aged 20, of Montreal, Quebec, is the winner of the Developing Artist Grant for English theatre acting. She will be starting her year of drama studies at the National Theatre School in Montreal this fall.

The French theatre acting grant will go to Danièle Gagné-Belley, a 23-year-old acting student from Quebec. She is currently studying at the Conservatoire de musique et d’art dramatique in Québec City where she will be starting her final year in the three-year acting program in the fall of 2009.

The graduate grant for classical vocal performance will be awarded to Stéphanie Lavoie, a 25 year-old soprano from Quebec. A student at the Quebec City Conservatory of Music since 2002, in the fall of 2009 she will enter the final year of a Diploma of Advanced Studies II in Music (equivalent to Master's level studies at a university).

The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a private charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's twenty-fourth Governor General. Its programs are funded by donations from government, foundations, corporations and individuals. The Department of Canadian Heritage has provided nearly \$2.4 million in matching funds to the Foundation.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Dawn Firestone

Executive Director

The Hnatyshyn Foundation

(613) 233-0108

[director@rjhf.com](mailto:director@rjhf.com)