

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

OTTAWA, July 18, 2007 – This year nine young performing artists, instead of the originally planned eight, will each receive a grant of \$10,000 from The Hnatyshyn Foundation to pursue their studies in September 2007. In announcing the winners of the 2007 Developing Artists Grants competition in Ottawa today, Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C., President and Chair of the Board of The Hnatyshyn Foundation, said that two awards are being made in the classical orchestral instrument category this year in recognition of the very high level of competition in that category.

“We had an extremely talented violinist and an exceptional trombonist as finalists,” said Mrs. Hnatyshyn. “Playing a wind instrument and playing a string instrument are obviously very different, but both of these young musicians were judged to be outstanding in their fields.” The grant winners were adjudicated anonymously by expert juries from among applicants nominated by educational and training institutions across Canada.

Victor Fournelle-Blain, a 19-year-old violinist from Sainte-Julienne, Quebec, will receive the classical music grant for orchestral instrument (strings). A graduate of the Académie Antoine-Manseau in Joliette, he is currently pursuing university-level studies at the Montreal Conservatory of Music.

Keith Dyrda of Oakbank, Manitoba, will receive the classical music grant for orchestral instrument (winds). An eighteen-year-old trombonist, he has just graduated from Springfield Collegiate in Oakbank and will be starting a Bachelor of Music degree in classical trombone performance at Montreal’s McGill University. Keith’s older brother, Jeffrey, won the Hnatyshyn Foundation grant for classical music in 2005 and is currently a violin student at McGill.

The classical piano grant will be awarded to 18-year-old Devon Joiner of Nanaimo, British Columbia. A graduate of Wellington Secondary School, Devon has just completed the first year of a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance at the University of British Columbia.

The winner of the Oscar Peterson Grant for Jazz Performance is Eli Bennett of Vancouver, an 18-year-old saxophonist who received his high school education through home-schooling. He will use his grant to study jazz performance at Humber College in Toronto.

The classical ballet grant goes to 18-year-old Alyssa Stevens of Surrey, British Columbia, who will be undertaking the full-time professional program offered by the Goh Ballet Academy in Vancouver. She has been training at the Goh Academy for the past several years while completing her high school education at Magee Secondary School.

The winner for contemporary dance is 20-year-old Megan Nadain of North Vancouver. A former student at the Anna Wyman School of Dance and Vancouver’s MainDance, Megan has also attended summer sessions at the Banff Centre. She has just completed her first year of the three-year Professional Training Program at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre.

Lindsey Angell, aged 23, of High River, Alberta, is the winner of the Developing Artist Grant for English theatre acting. A graduate of the Alberta High School of Fine Arts, she will be starting her final year of drama studies at Studio 58, the Theatre Arts Program of Langara College, in Vancouver this fall.

The French theatre acting grant will go to Claudiane Ruelland of Quebec City. The 23-year-old drama student, a graduate of the École secondaire de Neufchâtel and the Cégep de Sainte-Foy, is currently studying at the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec.

The graduate grant for classical vocal performance will be awarded to 24-year-old soprano Allison Cecilia Arends of Regina who is pursuing a Master of Music degree in Opera Performance at the University of Toronto under the tutelage of Mary Morrison. Allison has a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from the University of Victoria.

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.

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For more information, please contact:

Barbara Janes

Executive Director

The Hnatyshyn Foundation

(613) 233-0108

bdjanes@rjhf.com