FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Canadian Music Centre’s New Music for Young Musicians reveals 2013 Commissions

(Toronto, ON) – The Canadian Music Centre’s Ontario Regional Office is happy to recognize the five composers who will be commissioned in 2013 as part of the New Music for Young Musicians program. Thanks to the generous multi-year investment from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, CMC-Ontario has been able to offer five commissions for new educational music works over a three year period culminating in this round of recipients. Here are the five composers, and information about each of their proposed works:

Alan Torok has been selected to write a set of ten short pieces, entitled States of Mind, for intermediate string orchestra that cultivates a variety of technical challenges such as matching intonation, bow speeds, contact points across an ensemble, syncopation, and irregularity of rhythm. Alan began his musical career in 1970, and has received wide recognition as a composer and classical guitarist. Alan is currently the head of the music department at Toronto’s Claude Watson Program for the Arts.

Allison Cameron has been selected to write a multi-movement work for beginner string orchestra that uses short melodic sections focusing on rhythmic precision and ensemble playing, and longer melodic segments that emphasize phrasing and bowing. Allison has been composing for over twenty years, and she has fashioned a distinct sound that is conceptually complex and emotionally resonant, rich in experiment and improvisation, and she is enthusiastic about diverse musical traditions.

Richard Mascall will write a multi-movement work that characterizes prominent animal figures from Ojibway mythology. Each movement will utilize basic string techniques: pizzicato, natural harmonics, and different bowing techniques. Richard is a violinist and he teaches privately in the Grey-Bruce Region of Ontario. Richard was the composer-in-residence at the Georgian Bay Symphony (2006-10), and is the founding music director of the Georgian Bay Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Monica Pearce is writing a set of three miniatures for advanced beginner double bass with piano accompaniment. The three miniatures, with the working title Basement Apartments, would focus on playing in thumb position, alternating bowing with pizzicato, as well as introducing rhythmic complexity to low notes in close proximity. Monica is one of the founding artistic directors of the Toronto-based Toy Piano Composers Collective, and she is the General Manager of the Canadian League of Composers.

Nick Storring will write an intermediate-level work for solo harp that uses lyricism as a means to explore slower tempi and depth of emotion, while also introducing some alternative and extended techniques. The piece will be interspersed with graphical/instructional elements allowing improvisatory input and interpretative choices for the performer. Nick is a Toronto based composer, cellist, and improviser with a wide palette of interests from warped dance music
to electroacoustic music, and experimental pop to chamber music, as well as collaborations with “non-Western” traditions.

About New Music for Young Musicians

New Music for Young Musicians is the CMC’s key vehicle for the commissioning, publishing and showcasing of high quality new music specifically designed to advance the talents of young Canadian musicians. Commissioned works are published to professional standards, deposited with CMC’s free lending libraries and made available for purchase through CMC Music Services. These same works are placed in the collections of music education organizations, ensuring that teachers and their students have broad and easy access to exciting new Canadian music.

Through this project, commissioned composers are paired with a consulting educator who provides insight into writing effectively for a given instrument or ensemble. The educator helps the composer write a piece that will be gratifying artistically, while also functioning as an effective learning resource.

CMC-Ontario is proud to continue its work on New Music for Young Musicians with the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and in memory of the late Norman Burgess: a noted musician, educator, consultant and dedicated past chair of CMC-Ontario Council who had a passion for fostering innovation, creativity and excellence. Program support from the Norman Burgess Memorial Fund for New Music for Young Musicians allows CMC-Ontario to fulfill Norman’s wish for a larger and richer collection of high quality Canadian music for young players.

For more information about New Music for Young Musicians and the Norman Burgess Memorial Fund, click here!

To learn more about the Ontario Trillium Foundation and its community investment programs, click here!

About The Canadian Music Centre

The Canadian Music Centre exists to stimulate the awareness, appreciation, and performance of Canadian new music by making the music of its Associate Composers available through the Centre’s library and archival collections, information resources, and publishing and distribution services. For more information visit www.musiccentre.ca