



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Heritage Home Resonates with Canadian Composers' Music

Canadian Music Centre Offers Listening Lounge at Chalmers House for 11th Doors Open Toronto

(Toronto, ON) – On May 29th starting at 10 a.m. the Canadian Music Centre welcomes Torontonians for a second time as a Doors Open Toronto site. Doors Open is a city-wide event that gives a sneak peek into buildings normally unknown to the public. Beyond displaying the interesting architecture of Chalmers House – the Centre's turn of the 20th Century home – the CMC will also offer unique musical programming that ties into the period of the house's original construction.

Chalmers House is a designated heritage building and home to the music of over 750 Canadian composers. The CMC celebrated 25 years in Chalmers House in 2009, which happily coincided with the organization's own 50th anniversary. Chalmers House is named after the Chalmers family, in tribute to their generosity towards the CMC. But it was originally built in 1892 by Charles J. Hill for the family of Arthur Symonds, a noted Toronto financier. Since then, the house has undergone several transformations. For example, when the CMC acquired the building in 1982, it had been carved into a number of tiny spaces to make do as a rooming house.

Chalmers House has a unique Richardsonian style double turret structure to its front facade, the taller of which is capped by specially imported clay tiles and a flamed finial. The first floor street-facing windows also display beautiful original stained glass, which is mimicked in modern versions in the large 2nd floor boardroom. While the building interior was fully renovated by renowned Toronto-based Moriyama and Teshima Architects in 1984, and refreshed in 2009 as part of the CMC's 50th anniversary, there are still several interior features that speak to Chalmers House's original beauty, including wood work, brick work, stained glass and fireplaces.

Beyond experiencing the architectural elements of Chalmers House, CMC will offer original music programming that fits with the Doors Open theme. In the 2nd floor boardroom, CMC will hold an all-day ***Heritage Listening Lounge*** using audio recordings and scores of music from its collections that relate to the time of the building's construction. Visitors can pull up a comfy board chair, listen to the sounds created by the pioneers of Canadian classical music like Edward Manning, Leo Smith and Calixa Lavalée, follow along with the musical scores, and experience music from the time of Chalmers House's earliest days.

The ***Heritage Listening Lounge*** is just one of over twenty events in CMC's 2010-2011 **New Music in New Places** festival series, designed to showcase the work of Canada's talented composers outside of the concert hall and in the community.

EVENT DETAILS

- WHO:** Canadian Composers including **Gena Branscombe, Alexis Contant, Calixa Lavalée, Edward Manning and Leo Smith**
Canadian Music Centre – Ontario Region
- WHAT:** The Canadian Music Centre's **New Music in New Places** festival series presents the **Heritage Listening Lounge**, a relaxed format appreciation of music from turn of the 20th Century Canada, during **Doors Open Toronto**. For further details visit <http://www.musiccentre.ca/nmi.cfm> and www.toronto.ca/doorsopen/
- WHEN:** **Saturday May 29, 2010, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
- WHERE:** **Chalmers House**
20 St. Joseph St., Toronto, ON M4Y 1J9
Nearest TTC: Wellesley Station.
Nearest Bus/Streetcar: Bay St. bus, St. Joseph St. or Wellesley St. stops.
- HOW MUCH:** **FREE**

New Music in New Places acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Music Fund, administered by The SOCAN Foundation.

The complete ***New Music in New Places*** concert schedule is available online at <http://www.musiccentre.ca/nmi.cfm>

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ABOUT THE CANADIAN MUSIC CENTRE:

Formed in 1959, the Canadian Music Centre is Canada's only organization mandated to collect, distribute, promote and publish the music of Canada's composers to the benefit of audiences across the nation and around the world. A national office and five regional centres in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and Sackville advance the organization's mandate through a full range of programs and services that benefit a growing roster of 750+ Associate Composers, while being specifically designed to meet the needs of a broad range of communities.

CMC holds what is considered the largest and most unique public lending collection of Canadian composers' music in print and on record, as well as unique information resources about Canadian composers and their work, all of which is accessible through www.musiccentre.ca. We now hold some 20,000 scores and acquire over 400 new works per year. The depth and breadth of the collection ensures that there is a wealth of Canadian music available to satisfy many different tastes, as well as to reflect the vibrant spectrum of Canadian musical creativity.

Beyond its free-lending library and the 10,000+ *CentreStreams* online archival audio collection, CMC also manages its own award-winning recording label, Centrediscs, and sells more than 1,300 CD titles featuring music of its Associate Composers and other Canadian independent recording producers.