FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, November 5, 2013

CMC presents Ping! A showcase of educational chamber music

(Toronto, ON) – The Canadian Music Centre just completed a successful showcase of recently commissioned educational pieces for string orchestra, and is happy to announce the Ping! Chamber Music showcase taking place on November 28. The event will include the premieres of works by emerging composers Monica Pearce and Nick Storring as well as Toronto Premieres of pieces written by Darlene Chepil Reid and Patrick Horn. The event will feature performances by cellist Shauna Rolston and composer-pianist Heather Schmidt, who are celebrating the release of two music albums on the Centrediscs label.

Ping! is a recurring CMC event that features recently commissioned works that have been developed as part of the New Music For Young Musicians (NMFYM) project, which received a $158,900 province-wide grant in 2010 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario. NMFYM connects composers, teachers and students in order to develop new and exciting educational music. Over the last nine years, the project has focused on repertoire for string instruments and has been commissioning composers across Ontario through the Norman Burgess Fund. The four commissions presented at this concert have been written in the past two years by composers in Thunder Bay and Toronto.

We invite musicians, music teachers, and music enthusiasts to join us for an exciting concert programme. You will also have the opportunity to learn more about the NMFYM project, and the various ways you can participate and access new music education resources.

Event: Ping! Chamber Music Showcase
Featuring music by: Patrick Horn, Monica Pearce, Darlene Chepil Reid, Heather Schmidt, Nick Storring
Date: Thursday, November 28, 2013
Time: 7:00pm followed by a reception
Location: 20 St. Joseph Street, Toronto (Chalmers House)
Admission: Free!

About New Music For Young Musicians

New Music For Young Musicians is a project of the Canadian Music Centre. It began as a nation-wide millennium project in 2000, commissioning new Canadian educational works. Given the relatively low number of Canadian educational works, this is a critical step in having music students engage with contemporary Canadian musical culture. Over the last nine years it has continued in Ontario with a focus on music for string instruments. The project is designed as a professional development activity for composers who are paired with a music educator specializing in a given instrument or ensemble. Through consultations and workshops with the educator and students, the composer
develops a piece that is artistically gratifying, and also effective as a teaching resource.

About Norman Burgess and the Norman Burgess Fund

Norman Burgess was a noted performer, clinician, adjudicator, examiner, and consultant in Canada, and abroad. He studied at the University of Saskatchewan and completed his doctorate in music education with distinction at Indiana University. Burgess was an active musician, and performed frequently as a soloist, chamber and orchestral player. He also directed numerous ensembles, including the Mount Royal Junior Orchestra and the Calgary Fiddlers.

Late in his life, Norman Burgess was associated with the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, where he consulted and advised on the national examination system, served as the Dean, and founded the RCM Centre for Learning Through the Arts. He also led the formation of a city-wide partnership of arts organizations and school boards in Toronto to collaboratively develop and deliver arts-based curriculum. His voluntary efforts were equally impressive: the Board of Directors of the Calgary Philharmonic, the Calgary Youth Orchestra, the Youth and Education Committee of the Toronto Symphony, among other organizations. Norman Burgess was particularly known at the CMC as Chair of the Ontario Regional Council and as a member of the national board.

Norman Burgess passed away in September 2004, and the Norman Burgess Fund was established to commemorate his dedication to education, and love of new music. The Norman Burgess Memorial Fund operates as a juried commissioning fund for the creation of new pedagogical string music as part of the NMFYM project.

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

About Centrediscs

Centrediscs, recording label of the Canadian Music Centre, with 6 JUNO Awards and 34 nominations, 3 ECMAs and 5 nominations and 9 WCMAs and 7 nominations to date was created in 1981 as Canada’s foremost label of Canadian contemporary concert music, recording the works of its CMC Associate Composers. Centrediscs has put out 185 CD and DVD releases to date. Visit www.centrediscs.ca for more information.

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