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RUSH TO BE HONOURED WITH THE 2015 ALLAN WATERS HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Toronto, ON (January 15, 2015) — The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) today announced **Rush** – Geddy Lee, Alex Lifeson and Neil Peart – as the recipient of the 2015 Allan Waters Humanitarian Award, sponsored by Bell Media. The JUNO Award-winning and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame trio exemplifies the spirit of the award through their music and devotion to philanthropy and humanitarian causes, both of which have touched millions of lives and spanned generations.

The Allan Waters Humanitarian Award recognizes outstanding Canadian artists whose contributions have positively enhanced the social fabric of Canada. Named after CHUM Ltd. founder Allan Waters, the award is made possible by funding from BCE-Bell Media Benefits. It will be presented to Rush at the **2015 JUNO Gala Dinner & Awards** on **March 14, 2015** in Hamilton, Ontario.

"We are sincerely grateful to be recognized as this year's recipients of the Allan Waters Humanitarian Award. We are proud, honoured and humbled to be in the company of all Canadians who find it within their hearts to help those in need." - Rush

"We are proud to be recognizing Rush's noble legacy with this award," said Allan Reid, President & CEO, CARAS/The JUNO Awards & MusiCounts. "The group's dedication to countless charities and organizations over the course of their career is truly remarkable. Their tenacity and spirit serves as an inspiration to all of us, and we salute them for all of their exceptional work."

"Bell Media congratulates Rush on being honoured with this year's Allan Waters Humanitarian Award," said Phil King, [President, CTV, Sports, and Entertainment Programming](#). "As true rock icons, Rush embodies Canada's innate spirit of compassion. Their generous support of and commitment to numerous worthy causes over their prolific career make them truly worthy of this prestigious award."

With more than 40 million records sold worldwide and countless sold-out tours, Rush is not only one of the most inventive and compelling groups in rock history, but remains one of the most popular. According to the RIAA® Rush's sales statistics place them third for the most consecutive gold/platinum studio albums by a rock band, topped only by the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. In addition to their commercial success, Rush has also been recognized with nine JUNO Awards and seven Grammy nominations, including one for the acclaimed documentary "Rush: Beyond The Lighted Stage." The group has remained unwaveringly committed and daring throughout their musical journey, and the same characteristics can be used to describe their charitable dedication.

Over the course of their four-decade-long career, the members of Rush have thrown their support behind a wide variety of worthy causes often privately and sometimes publicly. From their earliest shows at Toronto's historic Maple Leaf Gardens, the band started working with the **Toronto Food Bank** to encourage fans to bring food for those in need. Eventually deciding to do their first charity concert at Maple Leaf Gardens to benefit the **United Way** in the early '80s, and an **amFAR** show to benefit Aids Research in the early '90s, engaging themselves and their fans in positive pursuits naturally became part of the Rush ethos.

As dedicated advocates of human rights, in 2008 Rush donated \$100,000 from a Winnipeg concert's gate to the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights**. In the same year, on their Snakes & Arrows Tour, the band donated \$100,000 from their show in New Orleans to Brad Pitt's **Make It Right Foundation** to assist in the revitalization of the city post Hurricane Katrina, and sponsor the construction of a house in The Lower Ninth Ward dubbed "The House that Rush Built."

From their 2010 Time Machine Tour onwards, Rush has donated \$1 from every concert ticket sold to various charities including **Doctors Without Borders**, a total which will soon surpass \$2 million over these last five

years. In 2013, the band performed an incredibly successful benefit concert at Red Deer's Enmax Centrium with all proceeds going to the Canadian Red Cross to help victims of the flooding that devastated many regions of southern Alberta. The event raised over \$575,000 and was one of the largest donations made to the **Alberta Flood Relief**.

Rush has also been a passionate supporter of **Little Kids Rock**, a national non-profit organization that works to restore and revitalize music education programs in disadvantaged U.S. public schools. In efforts to provide percussion instruments to schools, the group created a premium Neil Peart Paragon Cymbal Pack, each of which came with a free splash cymbal personalized, autographed and dated by the Rush drummer himself. This cause-based marketing initiative went on to raise over \$50,000 for Little Kids Rock. Working with their endorsement companies, they have set up partnerships for their signature items which have seen many positive charitable efforts such as Neil Peart with DW, Sabian and ProMark, where one campaign raised over \$60,000 for **Child Advocates**. Alex Lifeson has donated royalties from his signature Alex Lifeson Les Paul Access guitar to the **Dominic Triano Foundation** for guitar music scholarships.

The band members have also donated their time, funds and awareness through their personal interests and events. An avid baseball fan, Geddy Lee donated close to 400 signed baseballs by former Negro League baseball players from his personal collection to the **Negro Leagues Baseball Museum** in Kansas City in 2008. Alex Lifeson is a supporter of **Casey House**, as well as **The Kidney Foundation** to which he donates his paintings to assist in their fundraising. During the band's South American tour in 2010, Neil Peart was moved by the rescue of the trapped miners in Chile. When he wrote a story about his experiences touring in South America, he rallied Rush fans and his readers to make a \$1 donation for his story. Neil matched their donations, and together they raised \$10,000 for the **Chilean Red Cross**.

For over 10 years, Geddy Lee has been an active board member for the **Grapes for Humanity Canada** charity, an organization that raises funds to benefit humanitarian causes around the world with the assistance of the international wine community. Geddy Lee and Alex Lifeson co-host their bi-annual "Grapes Under Pressure" wine event supporting the local wine growing regions of Ontario. All three members of the band support this cause through their Grapes Under Pressure eBay auction of Rush memorabilia. These combined events have raised over \$500,000 to date.

Rush's vast catalogue includes such classics as 1974's self-titled debut, 1976's *2112*, 1981's *Moving Pictures*, 1996's *Test For Echo*, and 2002's *Vapor Trails*. Rush released their 20th studio album, *Clockwork Angels* in 2012 via Anthem/Roadrunner Records. The critically acclaimed collection marks their first studio recording since 2007's *Snakes & Arrows*, and debuted at #1 in Canada and #2 on the Billboard 200 matching the highest chart debut of the band's career. Rush was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame in 1994, made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1996 and inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2010. They have received a star on both Canada's Walk of Fame (1999) and Hollywood Walk of Fame (2010). Rush received the highest artistic honour in Canada by winning the Governor General's Performing Arts Award in 2012 and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2013.

For more information on the 2015 JUNO Awards, or to download photos of Rush, go to www.junoawards.ca. CTV's broadcast of The 2015 JUNO Awards airs March 15, 2015 live on CTV from Hamilton's FirstOntario Centre.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is the Official Ballot Accountants for the 2015 JUNO Awards.

Sponsors of the 2015 JUNO Awards include FACTOR, Canada's Private Radio Broadcasters and The Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage's "Canada Music Fund," Radio Starmaker Fund, Province of Ontario, Ontario Media Development Corporation, the City of Hamilton, and TD Bank Group.



Web Links

Rush website: www.rush.com

Rush Facebook page: www.facebook.com/rushtheband

Official JUNO Awards website: www.junoawards.ca

CTV's JUNO Awards website: www.ctv.ca/junos

CARAS website: www.carasonline.ca

CTV website: www.ctv.ca

Rush Twitter handle: [@rushtheband](https://twitter.com/rushtheband)

The JUNO Awards Twitter handle: [@TheJUNOAwards](https://twitter.com/TheJUNOAwards)

About CARAS

The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences/L'académie canadienne des arts et des sciences de l'enregistrement (CARAS) is a not-for-profit organization created to preserve and enhance the Canadian music industry and to contribute toward higher artistic and industry standards. The main focus of CARAS is the exploration and development of ongoing opportunities to showcase and promote Canadian artists and music through vehicles such as The JUNO Awards and other year-round initiatives. For more information on the 44th Annual JUNO Awards or The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences' (CARAS) please visit www.junoawards.ca or www.carasonline.ca.

About Bell Media

With passion and an unrelenting commitment to excellence, Bell Media creates content and builds brands that entertain, inform, engage, and inspire audiences through the platforms of their choice. Bell Media is Canada's premier multimedia company with leading assets in television, radio, out-of-home advertising, and digital media. Bell Media owns 30 local television stations led by CTV, Canada's #1 television network; 35 specialty channels, including TSN and RDS, Canada's most-watched specialty channels in English and French; and four pay TV services, including The Movie Network and Super Écran. Bell Media is also Canada's largest radio broadcaster, with 106 licensed radio stations in 54 markets across Canada. Bell Media owns Astral Out-of-Home, one of Canada's most dynamic and innovative out-of-home advertising companies with a network of more than 9,500 advertising faces in Québec, Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia. Bell Media also operates more than 200 websites; delivers TV Everywhere with its innovative GO video streaming services, including CTV GO, TMN GO, and TSN GO; holds an equity stake in digital startup Hubub; is partners in Cirque du Soleil Media, a joint venture with Cirque du Soleil; and owns Dome Productions Inc., a multi-platform production company. Bell Media is part of BCE Inc. (TSX, NYSE: BCE), Canada's largest communications company. For more on Bell Media, please visit www.bellmedia.ca.

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