

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAUL BRANDT TO HOST 2016 JUNO SONGWRITERS' CIRCLE

Additional performers for the popular concert showcase to be announced

— Tickets on sale January 15 through artscommons.ca —

— Benefit for MusiCounts, Canada's music education charity —

Toronto, ON (January 12, 2016) — The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) today announced that eight-time JUNO Award winner and two-time SOCAN Song of the Year Award winner **Paul Brandt** will host and perform at the **2016 JUNO Songwriters' Circle**. Tickets go on sale on January 15 at 10am MST and are available for \$25.00, \$37.50, and \$49.50 (plus fees). Tickets can be purchased at artscommons.ca, the Arts Commons Box Office or by phone at 403-294-9494.

Considered "the jewel of JUNO Week," JUNO Songwriters' Circle is a benefit concert for MusiCounts; Canada's music education charity associated with CARAS, and features some of Canada's most talented singer-songwriters sharing their songs and the stories behind them in an intimate concert. Taking place on Sunday, April 3 from 12pm – 2pm MST at the Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons in Calgary, JUNO Songwriters' Circle is co-presented by the [Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers \(SOCAN\)](#) and [Yamaha Canada Music](#).

The select 2016 JUNO Award nominees joining Paul Brandt on stage will be announced in the coming weeks. To check out the JUNO Songwriters' Circle announcement video, [click here](#).

"I'm proud to host this event on behalf of MusiCounts and CARAS," said Paul Brandt. "It all began with a song for me, and that song would have never been written if I hadn't had access to my school music program. This will be a unique, intimate event journeying into the stories behind the songs."

"The all-time musical high that Canada is experiencing globally right now is in large part because of the work of this country's brilliant songwriters and composers," said SOCAN CEO Eric Baptiste. "SOCAN is delighted to be a co-sponsor once again of the JUNO Songwriters' Circle; a showcase of creative magic that puts the work and art of music creation in a well-earned spotlight."

"Yamaha Canada Music is proud to be a co-sponsor of JUNO Songwriters' Circle," said Omar Ales, National Sales & Marketing Manager. "Yamaha's legacy in the creation of musical instruments started 129 years ago in Hamamatsu, Japan and Yamaha has had an office in Canada since 1969. We take pride in serving Canadians with our products as we are dedicated to future growth of music in Canada through passion and performance."

About Paul Brandt

Paul Brandt is the most awarded male Canadian country artist in history. His 1996 debut RIAA certified Gold album *Calm Before the Storm* went on to sell one million albums internationally, propelled by the #1 single and wedding standard "I Do". Stateside, his #5 and #1 charting songs "My Heart Has A History", and "I Do" were the first to chart by a male Canadian Country artist since Hank Snow in 1974. The song "For You" (Brandt/Rosen) was selected to promote the major motion picture *We Were Soldiers*, and was performed by Johnny Cash and Dave Matthews. His 11 career albums have spawned hit singles, multiple Album of the Year awards, gold, platinum, and multi-platinum performances. As a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, 2008 Allan Waters Humanitarian Award, and numerous other national and regional humanitarian nods, Paul is committed to practically meeting the needs of the poorest of the world's poor through his Build It Forward Foundation.

Fresh on the heels of the record-breaking "Road Trip Tour", Paul's most recent single "I'm An Open Road" hit #7 in Canada and features two-time reigning CCMA Female Artist of the Year

Jess Moskaluke. Paul's current recording project is a limited edition vinyl EP (*Frontier*) and Digital Bundle called *Borderlines*.

Paul lives with his wife Liz and their two children on a ranch in the foothills of Alberta's Rocky Mountains.

For more information on Paul Brandt, visit www.paulbrandt.com.

Media Partners: 95.3 The PEAK, CBC Calgary, Country 105, Soft Rock 97.7

For more information on the 2016 JUNO Awards or JUNO Songwriters' Circle, please visit www.junoawards.ca

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 45th Annual JUNO Awards or The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) please visit www.junoawards.ca or www.carasonline.ca.

About SOCAN:

SOCAN is a member-based organization that represents the Canadian performing rights of more than four million Canadian and international music creators and publishers. SOCAN is proud to play a leading role in supporting the long-term success of its more than 130,000 Canadian members, and the Canadian music ecosystem overall. SOCAN licenses more than 125,000 businesses in Canada, and distributes royalties to its members and music rights organizations around the world. SOCAN also distributes royalties to its members for the use of their music internationally in collaboration with its peer societies. www.socan.ca

About Yamaha Music Canada:

Established in 1969, [Yamaha Canada Music](http://www.yamaha.ca) Ltd. offers a full line of musical instruments and audio/visual products to the Canadian market. Yamaha Canada Music is a wholly owned subsidiary of Yamaha Corporation, Japan, whose products and services are recognized the world over for superior quality in acoustics, design, technology, and craftsmanship.

About MusiCounts:

MusiCounts, Canada's music education charity associated with The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) and the Canadian Country Music Association (CCMA) is helping to keep music alive in schools and communities across Canada by putting musical instruments into the hands of children that need them most. MusiCounts' mission is to ensure that children in Canada, regardless of socio-economic circumstances or cultural background, have access to music programs through their schools and communities. MusiCounts achieves its mission through its Band Aid Program, the MusiCounts TD Community Music Program, the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award, Scholarships and other music education initiatives. MusiCounts is funded by many of Canada's most dedicated corporate citizens including and especially Bell Media, TD Bank Group, SiriusXM Canada, the Slaight Family Foundation, Music Canada, Vista Radio, and Morningstar Canada. MusiCounts has been supported since inception by Sony Music Entertainment Canada Inc., Universal Music Canada, Warner Music Canada Ltd., JUNO Songwriters' Circle and JUNO Cup. Since MusiCounts' establishment in 1997, nearly \$8,000,000 will have been awarded to help support music education in Canada. These funds have impacted over 700 communities from coast to coast, supported over 330 post-secondary music program graduates and honoured 10 extraordinary music teachers through the MusiCounts Teacher of the Year Award.

Web Links

Official JUNO Awards website: www.junoawards.ca
Official Paul Brandt website: www.paulbrandt.com

Social Media

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

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* Media access to the JUNO Songwriters' Circle is extremely limited and requests will be granted on a case-by-case basis.