

Tommy Banks announced as Honorary Patron for the National Music Centre

(Calgary, AB — October 17, 2013) Tommy Banks, Alberta's elder statesman of music and recognized jazz pianist, has been named an NMC Honorary Patron for the National Music Centre (NMC).

Banks joins fellow Canadian icon Anne Murray as a public supporter of NMC and champion of the building project that will help transform Calgary's East Village and create a home for music in Canada.

"I am proud to support the invaluable work of NMC and see this building project as a monumental achievement for Alberta and Canada," said Banks. "NMC will preserve the work of Canadian musicians I admire, but it will also support and promote the development of new music in Canada and the role that music plays in building community."

In support of NMC's efforts to build a home for the objects and artifacts that illustrate Canadian music history, Banks will be making a gift of an original musical score as well as other artifacts to NMC's collection for preservation and exhibition at the new building.

"Tommy Banks' influence as a community builder in music is far-reaching and we are thrilled that he has joined us on this incredible journey to tell the story of music in Canada through exceptional programming and a new state-of-the-art facility," said NMC President and CEO Andrew Mosker.

During his long and influential career, Tommy Banks has received numerous distinctions and awards. He is the recipient of a JUNO Award, Gemini Award, the Grand Prix du Disques-Canada, several ARIA Awards, is a member of the Edmonton Cultural Hall of Fame and is an Officer of the Order of Canada. Banks has performed for numerous foreign dignitaries, including Her Majesty the Queen and President Ronald Reagan. From 1968-1983 he hosted The Tommy Banks show on CBC and has provided musical direction for historic world events such as the ceremonies of the XI Commonwealth Games, EXPO '86, and the XV Olympic Winter Games.

NMC will be announcing several more notable NMC Honorary Patrons in 2015 to coincide with construction milestones. These famous Canadian musicians will help to promote the work of NMC and generate awareness for the new building, which will open in 2016.

(more)

About the National Music Centre

The National Music Centre is the home for music in Canada and its mission is to amplify the love, sharing, and understanding of music. The new National Music Centre will be a 160,000 square-foot, architecturally stunning destination in the heart of Calgary's East Village. It will resonate with expanded programming including education, performance, artist development, and community building collaborations—both in Calgary and across the country. Learn more about Canada's newest national museum at nmc.ca.

-30-

Media Contact:

Mary Kapusta
Marketing and Public Relations Manager
Gestionnaire, Marketing et relations publiques
National Music Centre
T 403.543.5122
C 403.815.6350
mary.kapusta@nmc.ca