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News Release

COMPOSER HOWARD SHORE TO MENTOR COMPOSER NICOLE LIZÉE IN 2015 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

OTTAWA (Canada), April 9, 2015 – The National Arts Centre (NAC) is proud to announce that acclaimed Canadian composer **Howard Shore** has chosen to mentor Montreal composer **Nicole Lizée** through the 2015 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Mentorship Program. Made possible with support from The Keg Spirit Foundation, the program allows past recipients of the Governor General's Performing Arts Award, Canada's highest honour in the performing arts, to give back to the next generation.

Howard Shore received the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement in 2011 for his many contributions to the cultural life of Canada. He is among today's most respected, honoured and active composers and music conductors, and his music has been performed in concerts throughout the world. His work with film director Peter Jackson on *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy stands as his most towering achievement to date, earning him three Academy Awards. He has also received four GRAMMY and three Golden Globe awards.

Nicole Lizée has been called a "brilliant musical scientist" and lauded for "creating a stir with listeners for her breathless imagination and ability to capture Gen-X and beyond generation." She creates new music from an eclectic mix of influences, including the earliest MTV videos, turntablism, rave culture, Hitchcock, Kubrick, 1960s psychedelia, and modernism. In a decade and a half of composition, she has received over 40 commissions, and her music has been performed worldwide in such renowned venues as Carnegie Hall (New York), Royal Albert Hall (London), Muziekgebouw (Amsterdam) and Cité de la musique (Paris).

"I am very excited to have this chance to learn from the great Howard Shore," Ms. Lizée said. "Mentorship opportunities like this are as valuable as they are rare, and so I am grateful to the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation, the National Arts Centre and The Keg Spirit Foundation for making this possible."

"Nicole is such an innovative composer, a truly original voice," Mr. Shore said. "I look forward to exchanging ideas and collaborating as artists through this program."

(Full biographies of Howard Shore and Nicole Lizée can be found at the bottom of this release.)

A unique partnership between the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation, the National Arts Centre and The Keg Spirit Foundation, the GGPAA Mentorship Program is designed to offer creative guidance to talented mid-career artists, and serves as an investment in future Canadian artistic achievement. Each year, a past laureate of the Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award is invited to select a professional artist (or artists) to share, learn and grow from the experience and insight of their mentor. In addition to receiving artistic guidance and an honorarium, each protégé is showcased throughout the GGPAA celebrations in Ottawa, culminating with the star-studded GGPAA Gala at the NAC.

The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards and the National Arts Centre Foundation are deeply grateful to The Keg Spirit Foundation, which has generously supported the Mentorship Program for seven consecutive years, and has just pledged its support for the next three years. Established in 2001, The Keg Spirit Foundation supports organizations that mirror the mentorship that The Keg Steakhouse + Bar has provided to hundreds of thousands of young staff for over

40 years. In that time, over \$8 million has been raised for more than 300 charities across North America.

“The Keg Spirit Foundation supports high-quality mentorship programs, because we know a mentor can make a significant difference to a career,” said David Aisenstat, President and CEO of The Keg Steakhouse + Bar, and Chairman of The Keg Spirit Foundation. *“Pairing a rising Canadian artist like Nicole Lizée with an outstanding Canadian composer like Howard Shore is an inspiring choice. I have no doubt Ms. Lizée will benefit from Mr. Shore’s experience and guidance, and we are thrilled to be supporting them.”*

ABOUT THE GOVERNOR GENERAL’S PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS

Created in 1992, the Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards are Canada’s highest honour in the performing arts. This year’s laureates for Lifetime Artistic Achievement are **Walter Boudreau, Atom Egoyan, Diana Leblanc, Sarah McLachlan** and **R.H. Thomson**. Two other distinguished national awards are also conferred each year as complements to the GGPAA for Lifetime Artistic Achievement. This year **Michael M. Koerner** will receive the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts, while **Jean-Marc Vallée** is the recipient of the National Arts Centre Award, which recognizes exceptional achievement over the past performance year.

The 2015 laureates will be honoured at various events in Ottawa from May 28-30. On May 28, they will attend a lunch hosted by the Honourable Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons, and be introduced in the House of Commons, followed by a parliamentary reception. On May 29, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, will present the Awards at a special ceremony and reception at Rideau Hall. On May 30, the National Arts Centre will host a sparkling gala to celebrate the 2015 laureates, a star-studded celebration featuring superb performances, evocative film portraits by the **National Film Board**, and personal tributes by guest stars.

PARTNERS

The National Arts Centre is proud to produce the 2015 Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards Gala in partnership with the Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards Foundation. The Awards are presented with the support of the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Canada Council for the Arts. The GGPAAF gratefully acknowledges **Enbridge** as Presenting Sponsor of the GGPAA Gala. Grateful thanks also go to the GGPAA Gala’s National Committee of volunteers, led by Honorary Chair Suzanne Rogers.

GALA TICKETS

Tickets for the Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards Gala on Saturday, May 30, 2015 go on sale to the general public on Thursday, April 9, 2015, at 11 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time at the NAC Box Office and through Ticketmaster, 1-888-991-2787 or www.ticketmaster.ca.

BIOGRAPHIES

Howard Shore – Mentor

Howard Shore (2011 GGPAA for Lifetime Artistic Achievement) is among today’s most respected and honoured composers and conductors. His music has been performed throughout the world, and his work with film director Peter Jackson on *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy earned him three Academy Awards.

Mr. Shore was one of the original creators of *Saturday Night Live* and was the show's music director from 1975–80. He has a long association with David Cronenberg (1999 GGPA), scoring 15 of the director's films, including *The Fly*, *Dead Ringers*, *Crash*, *Eastern Promises*, *Naked Lunch*, *A Dangerous Method*, and *Cosmopolis*. Other notable projects range from Martin Scorsese's *Hugo*, *The Departed*, *The Aviator* and *Gangs of New York* to *Ed Wood*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Philadelphia*, *Mrs. Doubtfire* and *The Hobbit* trilogy.

Since the 2003 premiere of Mr. Shore's *The Lord of the Rings Symphony*, both the *Symphony* and *The Lord of the Rings – Live to Projection* concerts have been performed over 285 times by the world's leading orchestras. Among his recent works are the opera *The Fly; Fanfare* for the Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia; the piano concerto *Ruin and Memory* for Lang Lang; the cello concerto *Mythic Gardens* for the American Symphony Orchestra; and the song cycle *A Palace Upon the Ruins*.

Howard Shore's awards and honours include four GRAMMYS, three Golden Globes, three Genies and three Canadian Screen Awards, the Career Achievement for Music Composition Award (National Board of Review of Motion Pictures), the New York Chapter's Recording Academy Honors, the Henry Mancini Award (ASCAP), the Frederick Loewe Award, the Max Steiner Award (City of Vienna), and two honorary doctorates. He is an Officier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres de la France.

Nicole Lizée – Protégée

Montreal-based composer Nicole Lizée creates new music from an eclectic mix of influences, including early MTV videos, turntablism, rave culture, Hitchcock, Kubrick, and 1960s psychedelia and modernism. Fascinated by the glitches made by outdated technology, she captures them, notates them and integrates them into live performance. Her work explores such themes as malfunction, reviving the obsolete, and harnessing imperfection to create a new kind of precision, and her compositions range from works for orchestra and solo turntablist to other unorthodox instrument combinations that include video game consoles, Omnichords, Stylophones and karaoke tapes.

Ms. Lizée received a Master of Music degree from McGill University in 2001. Her commission list of over 40 works is varied and distinguished, and her music has been performed worldwide in such renowned venues as Carnegie Hall (New York), Royal Albert Hall (London), Muziekgebouw (Amsterdam) and Cité de la musique (Paris), and at festivals including X Avant and Luminato (Canada), Bang on a Can and Ecstatic (USA), the BBC Proms, Huddersfield and All Tomorrow's Parties (UK), C3 (Berlin), Casalmaggiore (Italy), and Dark Music Days (Iceland).

She was awarded the prestigious 2013 Canada Council for the Arts Jules Léger Prize for New Chamber Music, and her work for piano and notated glitch *Hitchcock Études* was featured at the 2014 World Music Days (International Society for Contemporary Music) in Wrocław, Poland. Other distinctions include a Prix Opus, two Prix collégien de musique contemporaine, and the Canada Council for the Arts Robert Fleming Prize for achievements in composition.

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