

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Andrew Downing's Canada Council Project at Home County Folk Festival, July 17 & 18 2010

London, ONTARIO – In the spring of 2010 Home County received a grant of \$10,000 for a project involving London's own Andrew Downing. This is the first Canada Council grant for HCFF. The project was created collaboratively by Andrew Downing and the festival's Artistic Director, Catherine McInnes and will be presented at the Home County Folk Festival in Victoria Park at 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm on the South Stage.

Andrew has arranged two songs of four 2010 festival artists: Ron Hynes, Old Man Luedecke, Lynn Miles, & Chris Coole from The Foggy Hogtown Boys. In honour of Bruce Cockburn's headlining appearance at the festival, Artistic Director Catherine McInnes will also sing two Bruce Cockburn songs arranged by Andrew for an impressive fusion pit-band, including Kevin Turcotte, trumpet, Peter Lutek, clarinet, Orchestra London's David Pell, trombone & Mary Elizabeth Brown, violin, guitarist David Occhipinti, cellist Lac- Hong Phi and bassist Andrew Downing. The four festival artists have collaborated with Andrew to choose the songs. They will perform on voice and guitar as the band backs them up with Andrew's innovative song treatments. The sessions will be presented on Saturday and Sunday at the festival on a workshop stage, from 4:30 - 6 pm, and will include some of Andrew's and his band-mates own compositions. Don't miss this innovative fusion presentation by some of Canada's finest musicians! Thank you to Canada Council for The Arts for believing in this project and providing the funding to present it.

Andrew Downing: bassist, cellist, composer, arranger

Born & raised in London, Andrew Downing is a double bass player, composer, bandleader and cellist living and working in the creative music community in Toronto. Called a "21st Century Voyageur" (Geoff Chapman, Toronto Star), Andrew finds himself in some of the more interesting cross-genre musical situations in the Canadian music scene. His most recent musical project is a seven member chamber ensemble. His former group, *Great Uncles of the Revolution*, won him two West Coast Music Awards, The Grand Prix de Jazz from the Montreal Jazz Festival and a Juno Award for their second album *Blow The House Down*. As a composer, Andrew's style is influenced by artists such as Igor Stravinsky, Duke Ellington, Bill Frisell and Charlie Haden with a healthy dose of country music, Turkish music, Jazz and The Blues. In addition to writing for his own group, he has composed or arranged music for The Prince George Symphony, The Art of Time Ensemble, Toca Loca, The Urban Arts Brass Ensemble and Runcible Spoon. Andrew's double bass playing can be heard on over 200 recordings with jazz, folk, and world music ensembles such as David Occhipinti, Zubot and Dawson, Kelly Joe Phelps, The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, Kiran Ahluwalia, The Wailin' Jennys and Patria O'Callaghan. He practices the unusual craft of tuning his double bass in fifths. Andrew is currently teaching double bass, composition and improvisation at the University of Toronto.

Kevin Turcotte trumpet

Since 1993 Kevin Turcotte has been named Jazz Trumpeter of the Year by Jazz Report Magazine and the National Jazz Awards multiple times. He studied music at the prestigious Banff School of Fine Arts and later at the University of Toronto. He is a 'first call' favorite among many leaders, including The Mike Murley Quartet, Rob McConnell and The Boss Brass, The Dave McMurdo Jazz Orchestra, The Barry Elmes Quintet, the Jazz Report All-Stars, The Kieran Overs Quintet, The Jean Martin Trio, and NOJO. He has performed on over 75 recordings, Bruce Cockburn's among them. Kevin Turcotte is also a dedicated jazz educator, with a lengthy teaching tenure at the University of Toronto.

Peter Lutek clarinet

Peter Lutek is a reed instrumentalist, specializing in improvised music. He was a founding member of the 40 fingers saxophone quartet, and has performed with New Music Concerts (Toronto), Freddie Stone, and David Mott. He was a member of the Toronto-based collective, Composers Workshop. He now leads ENGINE and performs with The Flying Bulgars, Barry Romberg's RALE, and the Avi Granite:6. Besides performing, Peter is active as a sound engineer, having produced recordings for 40 fingers, David Mott, Joseph Petric, and Rob Mosher. – Peter Lutek

David Pell trombone

David Pell has been principal trombone with Orchestra London since 1997 and with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra since 2002. He has also been a member of the Winnipeg Symphony, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet Touring Orchestra and the Victoria Symphony. He has played first trombone, bass trumpet, and euphonium with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Canadian Opera Company, the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, the California Symphony and the Thunder Bay Symphony. David has also performed as a soloist and chamber musician in cities around the world. – orchestralondon.ca

Mary-Elizabeth Brown violin

In addition to her post as Associate Concertmaster of Orchestra London Canada, violinist Mary-Elizabeth Brown serves as Concertmaster for Sinfonia Toronto, and is frequently called upon to lead The Britten-Pears Orchestra (UK) and Youth Orchestra of the Americas. She has recently joined The Madawaska String Quartet. She regularly plays under the batons of distinguished conductors, having recently completed projects with Lorin Maazel, Placido Domingo, Benjamin Zander, Carlos-Miguel Prieto, Martin Brabbins and Roberto Minczuk. - orchestralondon.ca

Lac-Hong Phi cello

Cellist, Lac-Hong Phi was a member of The Planets, an ensemble whose album was number 1 in the UK Classical charts for 12 consecutive weeks. He has performed around the world in a variety of musical styles ranging from Classical to Folk to Metal, toured the UK and Germany as the support act for Deep Purple, performed in recital for Radio-Canada, and even performed before 12 000 people at Buckingham Palace for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. He teaches at the Forest City School for Talent Education as well as privately, in addition to freelancing regularly with Orchestra London. – encoremusiclondon.ca

David Occhipinti guitar

Two-time Juno nominee, guitarist/composer David Occhipinti has an exploratory compositional and playing style that incorporates influences from a variety of sources. In the mid-1990s David studied in New York with the legendary guitarist Jim Hall. David's development as an artist has been aided by the composition, recording and touring grants received from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council, FACTOR, and the Chalmers Arts Fellowship. He teaches in the jazz programs at The University of Toronto & at Humber College. davidocchipinti.com

For the past thirty-seven years, the Home County Folk League, a London-based non-profit volunteer driven organization, has presented great Canadian roots artists. Home County has won Festival and Events Ontario Top 100 designation and was recently on the Top 20 Best Music Festivals in Canada list established by CBC Radio3's Searchlight Contest. With music performances on six stages in Victoria Park and over 150 juried Canadian crafters and artisans, the park comes alive in a vibrant celebration of Canadian music and art. With

an interactive theme, "Explore Your Roots 2010", This year's enhancements include professional high profile performances for adults and children, a Canadian Pow-Wow, and historical folk re-enactments with the participation of Fanshawe Pioneer Village. The festival is also expanding outside of Victoria Park into Centennial Hall on Saturday July 17th with dance performances and high profile children's entertainers such as CBC's Yamma Mamma, Patti & Bo on the Go as well as Chris McKhool. There will also be a "Walking Home County Passport Tour" to arts and heritage locations in downtown London displaying folk based art and music.

For more information please contact:

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