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Universal Music Canada donates archive of music label EMI Music Canada to the University of Calgary

Partnership with National Music Centre offers public access for education and celebration of music

Today, the University of Calgary announced that Universal Music Canada (UMC) has donated the archive of EMI Music Canada to the university's Libraries and Cultural Resources. The University of Calgary has also partnered with the National Music Centre (NMC), which played a leading role in bringing this archive to the city by connecting UMC with the university.

Universal Music Canada acquired the archive when Universal Music Group purchased EMI Music in 2012. Now, thanks to this gift, the music label that has represented top Canadian artists for more than 50 years will soon have its files and recordings open to the public.

Established in 1949, EMI Music Canada included Capitol Records Canada and was the recording company or distributor for a range of Canadian artists, including Anne Murray, Tom Cochrane, Nickelback, Glass Tiger, Kim Mitchell, Helix and the Rankin Family. The company was also the Canadian distributor for major international acts such as the Rolling Stones, David Bowie, Duran Duran, Frank Sinatra, the Beach Boys, Heart, Smashing Pumpkins, Garth Brooks, Pink Floyd, Queen and Iron Maiden.

"We are delighted to receive this rich business and cultural archive and be entrusted with the safekeeping and preservation of this outstanding testament to Canadian ingenuity," said Elizabeth Cannon, president and vice-chancellor of the University of Calgary. "We aspire to be the best in order to inspire the best in others. This gift from Universal Music Canada and our partnership with the National Music Centre allow us to do just that."

Capitol Records Canada, under EMI Music Canada, was the first label in North America to release The Beatles and Pink Floyd. The 1963 singles by The Beatles "Love Me Do," "Please Please Me" and "From Me to You" were released in Canada months before "She Loves You," the band's first release in the United States.

Students, researchers and music fans in Calgary and around the world will have access to documentation of more than half a century of contemporary music spanning a variety of genres including folk, jazz, classical, country, pop, rock and heavy metal.

EMI Music Canada distributed the music of international artists while focusing on the development of Canadian talent.

"Plans for an educational component around music and the ambitions for this archive are tremendously exciting," said Jeffrey Remedios, president and CEO of Universal Music Canada. "EMI Music Canada became the source of the music many Canadians grew up listening to. It's such a rich and treasured history and it's terrific that generations to come will have the opportunity to explore that."

In addition to the gift of the EMI Music Canada Archive, Universal Music Canada will provide substantial funding over several years to support the preservation and management of the collection.

The University of Calgary and NMC will collaborate on opportunities for the public to celebrate music in Canada through educational programming and exhibitions that highlight the archive and are available at Studio Bell, NMC's new facility that opens this summer.

"We are eager to work with Universal Music Canada and the University of Calgary to explore programming and exhibition opportunities that bring the wealth of this collection to Canadians," said Andrew Mosker, president and CEO for the National Music Centre. "From our burgeoning music scene, the opening of Studio Bell this summer and this incredible archive, it is safe to say that Calgary is becoming a serious music city."

The collection consists of 5,500 boxes containing more than 18,000 video recordings, 21,000 audio recordings and more than two million documents and photographs. The archive includes master recordings, publicity photos, demo tapes, album cover art, creative outlines for music videos, marketing plans, awards, drafts of song lyrics and correspondence between artists, producers, engineers and EMI Music Canada executives.

"The EMI Music Canada Archive is one of the most culturally significant collections of the last century to be acquired by a research library," said Tom Hickerson, vice-provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources). "The collection will be managed by the University of Calgary's Archives and Special Collections and made accessible to students, faculty and the public."

The EMI Music Canada Archive will be used for research and course work within the School of Creative and Performing Arts and in many other disciplines across the campus.

Libraries and Cultural Resources has established a virtual exhibit of items from the EMI Music Canada Archive. Please visit www.ucalgary.ca/emi.

Because of the immensity of the EMI Music Canada Archive, the collection will be transferred from Toronto in multiple shipments over the next few years.

This gift represents a major milestone in the progress of *Energize: The Campaign for Eyes High*, the University of Calgary's multi-year fundraising campaign currently underway. The campaign aims to positively charge our campus community, our city and beyond with student experience to unleash potential, research outcomes to benefit society, and community connections to strengthen our ties.

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About the University of Calgary

The University of Calgary is making tremendous progress on its journey to become one of Canada's top five research universities, where research and innovative teaching go hand in hand, and where we fully engage the communities we both serve and lead. This strategy is called *Eyes High*, inspired by the university's Gaelic motto, which translates as 'I will lift up my eyes.'

For more information, visit ucalgary.ca. Stay up to date with University of Calgary news headlines on Twitter @UCalgary. For details on faculties and how to reach experts go to our media centre at ucalgary.ca/news/media.

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Universal Music Canada

Universal Music Canada, a unit of Universal Music Group, is Canada's leading music company. Its businesses also include Universal Music Publishing Group, the industry's leading global music publishing operation. Universal Music Group is a unit of Vivendi, a global media and communications company. For further information on Universal Music Canada, please visit www.universalmusic.ca.

National Music Centre

The National Music Centre (NMC) is a national catalyst for discovery, innovation and renewal through music. In its new home at Studio Bell in Calgary's East Village, NMC will preserve and celebrate Canada's music story and inspire a new generation of music lovers through programming that includes on-site and outreach education programs, performances, artist incubation, and exhibitions. For more information, please visit studiobell.ca.

