

MEDIA RELEASE

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ROCK ENROLLING FOR 20 YEARS

Toronto's Harris Institute is celebrating 20 years of navigating music industry upheaval, expanding educational innovation, creating lifelong bonds, surviving scheduling chaos, witnessing magic moments, making global inroads and admiring graduate achievements.

The college was the first to offer one-year programs on the business of music and the technology of audio. It started with a faculty of 22 industry leaders teaching many subjects that had never been taught. Seven declined to accept teaching fees. The first 29 students transformed an abandoned photography studio into a school and in October 1989, the motivated students began studies with an inspired faculty.

In 1994, the school relocated to a gutted 15,000 sq.ft. industrial building in the historic Queen Street East district. Over the next 3 years, 46 students, faculty and staff transformed the empty shell into classrooms, studios, labs and offices designed by faculty member Martin Pilchner.

"It was like being inside the reflected glow of a Judy Garland / Mickey Rooney movie ... twice!" says founder John Harris. "They built the schools they would attend and took the engagement and interaction of education to magical heights."

Today the private college remains intimate with a limit of 125 students. The faculty has grown to 68 industry leaders who have taught at Harris on average for 10.4 years. Many have won the highest honours in their field and 9 of the original faculty continue to this day. Over 2,500 students have come from 64 countries and every province in Canada.

Students have benefited from the generous contributions of the Canadian music industry. Approximately 1,350 individuals have guest lectured, 430 companies hosted internships, 360 leaders evaluated student projects, 1,150 artists were recorded, 10 companies have participated in case studies, 7 industry associations donated scholarships and Kitchener radio station 'The Beat' has donated 3 full scholarships a year since 2004.

The college has attracted partnerships in Ireland, Scotland, Nashville, Los Angeles, England, Russia, British Columbia, Barbados, Ontario and with 14 music and film industry associations. It is the only college or university to achieve 0% Student Loan Default Rates and was selected in the US as one of *Mix Magazine's* 'Finest Media Arts Institutions'.

An unprecedented partnership with the University of the West of Scotland enables 8 Harris graduates annually to earn full scholarships for BA and BSc degrees in 8 months in Glasgow. Fourteen UWS students complete work placement credits in Toronto during their summer breaks. The partnership includes senior faculty exchanges and transatlantic touring of Scottish and Canadian artists coordinated by students at both institutions.

Harris Institute's recording facilities were designed by 3-time 'Studio Designer of the Year' TEC Award nominee Pilchner Schoustal International and feature the TEC Award winning Solid State Logic AWS 900+SE console, the TEC Award nominated SSL XLogic X-Rack, Pro Tools HD, Drawmer 1969 Compressor, Logic Pro Studio, ARP 2600 and a Baldwin concert grand piano.

With the support of the Ministry of Culture and the Ontario Media Development Corporation (OMDC), Harris Institute introduced the Professional Development Program (PDP) in 2008. The program is for mid-career professionals in the music, audio and digital media industries and is available on weekends three times a year. A current feature is a 3 level program focusing on the Solid State Logic AWS 900+ and C200 consoles. Selected courses will be offered online in 2010.

The college delivered 6 annual “peace and reconciliation” programs for groups of 20 young adults from conflicted areas in the north and south of Ireland. It partnered with the Moscow International Film School and BC’s Gulf Islands Film and Television School in a program for students from Siberia and Salmon Arm Reserve, delivered Pro Tools training with Nashville’s Pro Media Centre and introduced a first ever online music production course live from LA, Miami and Toronto.

As part of its 20th Anniversary, Harris Institute is awarding \$500 Birthday Bursaries to students starting Recording Arts Management (RAM–61 courses) or the Producing/ Engineering Program (PEP–59 courses) on July 16, 2009 and it will host the “RockEnrollingX20” reunion party on November 1/09 featuring performances by “The Invigilators” (Faculty) and “The Inmates” (Staff).

The current Student Council has embarked on an ambitious multifaceted plan to transform the Institute into the world’s greenest college. “History would indicate they will succeed,” says Harris.

“We had high hopes for that tiny school in 1989,” says Harris. “What’s happened has far surpassed expectations and we are thrilled with the achievements of our graduates. If the yardstick is graduates working in their field of study, Harris Institute may be the most successful new school anywhere.”

About Some Alumni

Jamie Appleby ('01) Sr. Director of Marketing, Wind-up Records Canada
Paul Bannerman ('93) Performer, Cirque Du Soleil’s 3-year European “Varekai” tour
Dulce Barbosa ('91) President, Db Promotions and Publicity
Norm Beaver ('98) Music Supervisor, Nelvana
Dan Broome ('94) Former VP True North Records (15 years), Director RAM
Kerry Brown ('03) Label Manager, Fontana North
Roger Costa ('90) President, Monster Records
Phil Demetro ('96) Chief Mastering Engineer, Lacquer Channel
Jay Devonish ('01) Label Manager, E1 Music
Kevin Drew ('01) Broken Social Scene, Co-founder Arts and Crafts Records
Jordan Gracey ('06) Senior Marketing Coordinator, Microsoft, Zune
Trevor Guy ('06) Vice President, Last Gang Records
Andrew Harris ('05) Film & Cyber Lyons Grand Prix Award for Sound Design in Cannes
Stephen Heidinga ('08) Studio Manager/Chief Engineer, Maison de Musique
Daryl Hillock ('93) Owner, Bluewater Studios
Greg Hodowansky ('93) Operations Manager, PA Plus
Kat Lourenco ('08) New Media, Bunk Rock Entertainment. Harris Alumni Relations Manager
Michelle Mearns ('05) Digital Marketing Manager, Universal Music Canada
Philippe Mercier ('95) Gemini Award winning Production Sound Mixer, Montreal
Demetrius Nath ('06) General Manager, Dale Speaking Ltd
Denis Normandeau ('95) Grammy, Gemini, Emmy, Adisq award winning engineer, Fogolabs
Pavlo ('93) Recording Artist/Performer, recently completed 86 city US tour
Chris Poole ('02) Technical Production on ‘Independence’, world’s largest passenger ship
Vinicus Praca ('01) Head of Royalties, Universal Music Brazil
Dave Quillico ('94) Vice President, Sony Music Publishing Canada
Neville Quinlan ('96) Managing Director, Peer Music Publishing Canada
David Ramsahoye ('95) Senior Audio Engineer, IMAX Corporation
Anastasia Saradoc ('92) National Media/Artist Relations, EMI Music Canada
Rose Slanic ('94) General Manager, Roadrunner Records
Bryce Taylor-Vaisey ('08) Manager, Multiple Access Recording Soundworks
Andy West ('02) Music Content Producer, Yahoo.ca

About Some Faculty

Dave Betts, Juno Award winner, former Member Services, SOCAN
Todd Booth, Juno Award winning composer/arranger
Terry Brown, Multi-award winning producer Including 10 Rush albums
Dr. Mike Daley PhD, McMaster Merit Award for Teaching Excellence
Patrick Duffy, Seven CCMA Awards for "Album Design of the Year"
Don Garbutt, Won \$10K composition award from GenAudio in '08
Yuri Gorbachow, MPSE Golden Reel Award winning audio post specialist
Fergus Hambleton, Juno Award winning singer, songwriter and producer
Jane Harbury, Gold and Platinum album award winning publicist
John Harris, Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism in Ontario in '03
Andy Hermant, Founder of Manta Sound, Producer of the #1 Billboard hit by Dan Hill
Tom Heron, Senior Engineer at Reaction Studios for 8 years, Director PEP
Gary Hubbard, Former VP of Finance, A&M Records of Canada and PolyGram Music Group
Liz Janik, Acclaimed Broadcast Consultant, creator of CFNY's "The Streets of Ontario"
Bill Mather, Multiple platinum awards for music sales, craft awards for engineering/sound design
Doug McClement, Gemini Award winning remote recording specialist, Chair PEP
Dr. Eric McLuhan, Career Achievement in Public Intellectual Activity Award in Mexico City in '07
Zayna Mossom, Named "Rising Star" by the Association of Image Consultants International
Neil Muncy MA, Received the AES' highest honour, "The Fellowship Award" in '07
Janis Nixon, Director of Digital Marketing, Universal Music Canada
Roland Parliament, Winner of over 75 national and international awards for advertising
Martin Pilchner, Nominated in '03, '05 and '07 for "Studio Designer of the Year" in NY
Bob Roper, Six-time Juno Award winning music Industry executive, Chair RAM
Catharine Saxberg MA, Executive Director, Canadian Music Publishers Association
Anne-Marie Smith, Board Member, Ontario Media Development Corporation



Founder, John Harris

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