



PRAIRIE
D E B U T

For Immediate Release
Prairie Debut 2012/13 Season Touring Artists
Win Priceless Instruments from Canada Council

Prairie Debut proudly congratulates cellists Ariel Barnes and Rachel Desoer on winning the 2012 Competition of the Canada Council Musical Instrument Bank. They have each earned the privilege to borrow, for three years, a priceless item from the Canada Council's collection of rare instruments.

Fifty-one Canadian musicians applied to the prestigious competition, held every three years. A peer assessment committee selected twenty-eight finalists to undergo auditions and interviews, which took place at The Royal Conservatory, Toronto. Available items included fine-stringed instruments (violins and cellos) as well as a cello bow, all created between 1689 and 1929. Winners selected instruments based on their overall placement in the competition.

One of the West Coast's finest musicians, Ariel Barnes cellist in the duo COULOIR with Heidi Krutzen, harp, is touring to Whitehorse Yukon and Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta under the auspices of the Prairie Debut organization in the 2012/13 season. Ariel chose the 1730 Newland Joannes Franciscus Celoniatus cello valued at \$750,000.

Rachel Desoer is cellist in the Cecilia String Quartet, First Place Winners of the Banff International String Quartet Competition (2010). The quartet, touring in the 2012/13 Prairie Debut season with Georgy Tchaidze, First Laureate of the Honens International Piano Competition (2009), is performing concerts and outreach activities in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Rachel chose the 1929 Carlo Giuseppe Oddone cello, valued at \$200,000.

Prairie Debut is a Canadian classical and world music touring network that focuses on bringing the highest artistic standard of classical and world music artists to communities of all sizes throughout Western Canada. Throughout its 16 years, Prairie Debut has cultivated some of Canada's best musicians by providing performance opportunities, exposure and experience and connecting them with thousands of people across the Prairies. An organization with charitable status, Prairie Debut is based in Manitoba and incorporated in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Prairie Debut has been generously supported by The Canada Council for the Arts, Manitoba Arts Council, Saskatchewan Arts Board, Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils, and Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Arts Touring Alliance of Alberta, Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation, RBC Foundation Emerging Artists Project, Burns Family Foundation Fund and Golden West.

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September 28, 2012

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