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Songs From the Heart – Celebrating Excellence in Songwriting

Ottawa, August 26, 2016 – Folk Music Ontario (FMO) is pleased to announce the grand prize and category winners of the 22nd annual FMO *Songs From the Heart* songwriting competition, generously sponsored by Stingray Music.

The 2016 Folk Music Ontario *Songs From the Heart* grand prize winners are:

**Stingray Rising Stars Award – English:
Kaia Kater-Hurst for “Paradise Fell”**

**Stingray Rising Stars Award – French:
Mike Ford for “Je reviendrai”**

The grand prize winners each receive a Stingray Rising Stars Award of \$1000.00, one registration for the 30th Anniversary FMO Conference and an opportunity to showcase their winning songs at the conference, taking place October 20-23, 2016 at the Delta Ottawa City Centre in Ottawa, ON.

In addition, four category winners have been selected by the *Songs From the Heart* judges:

Children’s	Tim Machin for “Booger Song”
Humorous	Noosa Al-Saraj for “The Dating Song”
Multicultural	Angela Saini & Brian Donkers for “Here I Go Again”
Political	Kaia Kater-Hurst for “Rising Down”

Category winners each receive a \$100.00 credit for products and services from Folk Music Ontario and an opportunity to showcase their winning songs at the 2016 FMO Conference.

Stingray Music is proudly committed to supporting emerging Canadian music talent through its Rising Stars Program. The objective of this program is to help provide opportunities for up-and-coming musicians in all genres by providing showcase opportunities, bursaries and potential airplay on the Stingray Music channels. Since its inception in 2000, over 900 artists have directly benefited from the Rising Stars Program.

Stingray Music is available in over 10.5 million households across Canada. It offers 100 music channels programmed by experts around the world in a variety of genres. No ads, no talk, just great music.

The recipient of the Colleen Peterson Award, presented by the Ontario Arts Council, will be announced at the 2016 FMO conference awards brunch. Conference registration is available online at www.folkmusicontario.ca.

Folk Music Ontario is an Ontario-based not-for-profit arts service and presenter support organization that is working to develop a thriving, inclusive folk music community with local and international impact.

For more information, or to arrange for interviews, please contact:

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