



# News Release

May 24, 2007

## **Green Timbers elementary school choir awarded gold at MusicFest Canada 2007**

The Green Timbers Elementary Honour Choir has been recognized as one of the top youth choirs in the country by MusicFest Canada. The choir earned a gold medal; given to ensembles achieving excellence in many facets of their performance.

Held in Richmond, B.C. last week, MusicFest Canada featured the performances of more than 8,000 youth aged 11 to 25, in 233 ensembles.

“The board commends the Green Timbers students and their teacher for such an outstanding accomplishment,” says Surrey school board vice-chair Reni Masi. “Our secondary schools also had exceptional results at MusicFest. They all reflect very well on the quality of music education in our district.”

One of the unique features of the choir’s performance is the proud display of cultural diversity. Members of the choir represent more than 40 different languages and cultures and to celebrate this diversity, the students dress in traditional formal-wear of their cultural background for performances. The result is a stunning visual display to complement the beautiful sounds of the choir.

“We are very excited about the choir’s success,” says Green Timbers elementary principal Nigel Deacon. “Many of these students have been involved with our choir program for several years and this national recognition is a testament to their hard work and dedication.”

The choir is led by the school’s music teacher, Jan Mitchell and is made up of 55 students in Grades 4 to 7. Intermediate students audition for the choir each September. Many of the students who audition graduate from the school’s primary grade choir.

In order to attend MusicFest Canada, ensembles must be invited to compete based on better than average quality of performances at an affiliated regional event. Top performers at the Surrey School District’s Envision Jazz Festival in February were selected to attend MusicFest.

Five ensembles from district secondary schools received silver medals for their performances at MusicFest Canada, including Enver Creek’s senior concert band and senior jazz band, Sullivan Heights’ junior concert band and senior jazz band, and a vocal jazz group from North Surrey named “Polaris.”

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