



For Immediate Release

Variety Show of Hearts Telethon Announces Province Wide Talent Search *Winner to appear on Show of Hearts Telethon And perform at one of Great Canadian Casino's BC properties*

Vancouver, BC (January 10, 2011) – Variety – The Children's Charity of British Columbia announced today that it will conduct a province wide search for talented vocalists leading up to the annual Show of Hearts telethon. The 2011 Telethon will be held February 12 and 13th at the Red Robinson Show Theatre in Coquitlam, and televised on Global BC


"Variety's Got Talent" will narrow down entries to 10 finalists from across the province. They will then be brought to Vancouver and perform before a live audience at the Red Robinson Show Theater on February 4th. The winner, selected by a panel of celebrity and industry judges, will be appearing on the star studded Telethon weekend as well as receive an opportunity to perform in one of Great Canadian Casino's lounges and/or perform a special concert at the Red Robinson or River Rock Show Theatres.

"This is an ideal way to involve the entire province in the entertainment portion of this exciting weekend." said Telethon Co-Chairman, Peter Legge. "Variety's roots in the world of entertainment and our work with children provide a perfect tie-in to conduct a talent search. It will open the door to great possibilities for the finalists and the winner." he added.

Contestants between the ages of 13 and 29 will be able to easily enter the contest from anywhere in the province. It will be as simple as recording themselves on any digital device (Smartphone or video camera). Entrants can visit the Variety website at www.variety.bc.ca, which will guide them through a process. At least five of the ten finalists will come from outside the lower mainland.

Variety – The Children's Charity has a long history in the province and is well known as the non-profit organization that raises funds and distributes grants throughout British Columbia to inspire hope, enrich lives and build a better future for children who have special needs. Since 1965, Variety – The Children's Charity has raised more than \$155 million for families and organizations around BC. Variety provides over 1,300 grants to individual families for medical emergencies, therapies, specialized equipment, drug prescriptions, and out-of-town accommodation, meal, and travel costs. Variety also provides grants to children's organizations for construction, renovations, equipment, and program costs.

Variety's Got Talent is supported by Air Canada, Great Canadian Gaming Corporation, Whitespot Restaurants, Sonicbids and the Vista Broadcasting Network.

In partnership with 

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Inspiring hope and enriching the lives of children who have special needs.



Judging Panel for “Variety’s Got Talent”

Vicki Gabereau Gemini award winner and member of the Broadcast Hall of Fame, more than 10,000 interviews, Vicki Gabereau is one of Canada’s most recognizable personalities. She spent more than 20 years on CBC Radio, and another 8 on CTV. Vicki has been a long time supporter of Variety - The Children’s Charity and happy to join her life time friend BJ Cook on the “Variety’s Got Talent” judging panel.

Dal Richards When most men his age are either no longer with us or sitting in an easy chair reminiscing about their youth, ninety-three-year old Vancouver bandleader Dal Richards is still busy playing gigs all over the province. A true musical legend, Dal is the senior anchor to the “Variety’s Got Talent” endeavor.

Amy Foster One of Canada’s most successful lyricists, Amy has penned three massive number one hits with Michael Buble; “Home”, “Everything” and “I Haven’t Met You Yet”. She has worked with artists such as Andrea Bocelli, Destiny’s Child, Diana Krall, and Josh Groban. Amy recently moved back to Vancouver after several years in Nashville, and lives with her partner Matt Freeman and has two daughters and a son. Her parents are singer/song writer B.J. Cook and legendary record producer David Foster.


BJ Cook has been in the music business since Dal Richards was in diapers. A native of Victoria, a successful singer/ songwriter, BJ was a founding member of the 70’s group Skylark (Wildflower). The band started the career of her former husband David Foster. She possesses an uncanny eye for talent and has co-ordinated many of David’s talent searches. She recently headed the panel for “Vancouver Island’s Got Talent” and is excited to join her daughter Amy and best friend Vicki on the “Variety’s Got Talent” panel.

Squire Barnes is a lifelong resident of Burnaby. His entire working life has been spent in sports media. His career has spanned over twenty years in radio and television and is the Sports Director for Global BC where he is one of the station’s most popular personalities which can be attributed to his knowledge of sports and his slightly twisted sense of humour.

Mike Reno Legendary rock icon of Loverboy, Mike Reno rounds out the judging panel of music industry heavy weights donating their time to the “Variety’s Got Talent”. For over 30 years, the music Hall of Famer has entertained audiences around the world. In addition to holding the record for most Juno Awards ever received by a single artist, Mike and Loverboy were inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame at the 2009 Juno Awards.

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