



SEVEC 2015 AMBASSADOR AWARD WINNER IS MUSIC TO KIDS' EARS

*Coastal Sound Artistic Director Diana Clark wins national award
for her innovative approach to exploring Canada through music*

June 1, 2015 – Ottawa – Diana Clark, artistic director of Coastal Sound Music Academy in Coquitlam, BC, has been awarded the 2015 SEVEC Ambassador Award. Presented by the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC), this award is inspired by the hundreds of teachers, group organizers, chaperones and parents who demonstrate exceptional leadership and dedication to youth through SEVEC's Youth Exchanges Canada program each year.

As artistic Director of Coastal Sound Music Academy, Clark teaches children through music in Port Coquitlam and is a member of the BC Choral Conductors Mentorship project, a member of the Advocacy panel for Choral Canada and an adjudicator/clinician specializing in working with children and repertoire for unchanged voices.

Coastal Sound Children's Choir was recently "twinned" with the Annapolis Valley Honour Choir from Nova Scotia. The two groups spent a week in each other's communities as part of the reciprocal exchange experience. Upon hearing about her award Diana explained "this whole thing was VERY much a team effort- Heather Fraser [Artistic Director of Annapolis Valley Honour Choir] and her choir, plus all of the considerable help of our chaperone team...I know that we ALL feel like proud ambassadors for the SEVEC program, and for choral music in Canada."

Diana Clark's group will receive a travel credit of up to \$2500 for a future SEVEC exchange trip. **A presentation ceremony is being planned for Sunday, June 7th, 2015 at 7pm during the choir performance at the Evergreen Cultural Centre, 1205 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam, British Columbia.**

"The SEVEC Ambassador Award is designed to inspire our group organizers to be creative and innovative in programming their visits and exchanges," said Deborah Morrison, executive director of SEVEC.

"Organizing an exchange is hard work! Not only do we want to recognize a job well done, but we want to share their strategies and activity plans with other teachers and youth organizers so that more young Canadians can benefit from greater knowledge and experiences learning about our country's diversity of language, culture, geography, and history."

This year, SEVEC also recognized three other SEVEC group organizers for their exemplary efforts;

- Captain **Michael Marek** from British Columbia: a first-time group organizer of Cadets who returned home to actively share his SEVEC experience with other Cadet corps in BC and across Canada
- Mr. **Jacques Par** from Quebec: organizer for over 30 exchanges and mentor for other teachers while extensively promoting the benefits of experiential learning through travel and exchanges within his school district

- As well as Ms. **Sandra Nelson** from Ontario: as a bilingual advocate has taken part in a number of linguistic exchanges helping her students self-assess their French skills and gain confidence.

These honourable mentions will receive a free registration fee for their next exchange as a way to acknowledge and thank them for going above and beyond and making a difference in the lives of many youth participants.

About SEVEC

The Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC) is a national charitable organization that has been providing educational exchanges, trips, and forums for Canadian youth for over 79 years. Each year over 4500 youth and their chaperones travel explorations of Canada are supported by SEVEC with the generous support of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Since 1936, over 360,000 youth have benefitted from our programming. For more information about SEVEC, visit www.sevec.ca.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact

Ashley Montgomery
Communications Coordinator, SEVEC
amontgomery@sevec.ca
613-727-3832 ext. 208
www.sevec.ca