



# Cultures of Sound Network Announces Partnership Expansion with Addition of Cape Breton University

APRIL 2021 — With the recent addition of Cape Breton University, the Cultures of Sound Network (CSN) has expanded its alliance of cultural institutions unified in their goal of developing exciting new projects around music and sound. Preservation and dissemination of knowledge about musical and cultural heritage are at the heart of the CSN's mandate which calls for sharing resources, furthering creative research and enabling wide public access to a rich body of work.

Established in 2018, the Cultures of Sound Network brought together like-minded institutions, each with an international reputation for research and public engagement work focused on music and sound: University of Alberta's Sound Studies Initiative; Memorial University's Research Centre for the Study of Music, Media and Place; the Canadian Museum of History; and the Smithsonian Institution, through Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. These are now joined by Cape Breton University's Centre for Sound Communities, as set forth in an addendum to the *Memo of Understanding for the Creation of the Cultures of Sound Network*, signed by the participants in December 2020.

"We are honoured to join the Cultures of Sound Network," says Dr. Marcia Ostashewski, Director of Cape Breton University's Centre for Sound Communities, "particularly as our mandate — as an arts-led social innovation lab — is to engage in research that involves artistic practice and addresses systemic inequities, to provide training within and beyond our institution and to work with communities developing connections. For example, a current project involves working with Indigenous and African Nova Scotian communities to develop salient music education resources; in this, we are joined by Fodé Lassana Diabaté, a Grammy-nominated musician based in Mali, and other international research partners — including our colleagues of the CSN — with the goal of providing programs to community organizations that serve African Nova Scotian and Indigenous youth both locally and across wider Nova Scotia.

"With the other participants of the Cultures of Sound Network, we will be exploring the establishment of internship programs for students, facilitating collaboration for other offices within each institution, and sharing the comprehensive resources of all partners," adds Dr. Ostashewski. "This summer, the first CSN internship position will be held by Eric Escudero, CSC research assistant and graduate student at Memorial University, Newfoundland. Eric will serve as an intern at Smithsonian Folkways, gaining experience in the development of global online music education materials."

The CSN seeks to bring together researchers, educators, creators, performers, producers and the public to promote areas of common interest in the promotion of the diversity and strength of music cultures, in their many forms and locations, and to develop this collaboration in pursuit of these goals. The CSN will build on the considerable strength and resources of all five institutions while encouraging co-operation between individuals and communities across Canada and between leading cultural organizations in Canada and the United States.

"This collaborative, border-crossing venture to create, preserve, and share knowledge about music and culture is more than an exercise in archival best practices. Our joint work has the potential to expand understanding of sound recordings and their communities," says Dr. Dean Oliver, Director of Research and Senior Curator at the Canadian Museum of History. "The Canadian Museum of History, which maintains one of

## Cultures of Sound Network Announces Partnership Expansion with Addition of Cape Breton University page 2

Canada's foremost historic collections of musical culture, is proud and delighted to collaborate on this unique project, which will increase public access to important historical recordings while placing them into meaningful new context."

"Memorial University's MMAP Research Centre is a proud partner in this unique institutional collaboration and we're thrilled to welcome The Centre for Sound Communities to the Cultures of Sound Network," says Dr. Meghan Forsyth, Acting Director, Research Centre for the Study of Music, Media, and Place. "MMaP's publicly-engaged research has been enhanced through the exchange of knowledge and sharing of resources within the network. This includes the completion of project-specific partnerships, such as the recent publication of an album of traditional songs from the Gros Morne region of Newfoundland and Labrador, produced in collaboration with the Canadian Museum of History. Our graduate students have also benefitted from extraordinary professional learning opportunities through internships at Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. We're excited to see what the next phase of the network will bring."

"Smithsonian Folkways welcomes with great enthusiasm the CBU Centre for Sound Communities to the Cultures of Sound Network," says Associate Director John Smith. "Dr. Ostashevski and the CSC have demonstrated a fervent and effective dedication to amplifying the voices of Canadian musicians and their communities. We believe that there are great benefits in collaborating with Canadian institutions in order to expand our network of resources and gain from the perspectives of Canadian Universities and educational organizations."

"As the new Director of the Sound Studies Institute at the University of Alberta, I'm thrilled to be welcoming the CBU Centre for Sound Communities to the CSN network," says Dr. Scott Smallwood, Director of SSI and Associate Professor of Music Composition at U. of A. "I had the privilege of working with Dr. Ostashevski a few years ago in a small residency with my collaborator, Stephan Moore, and was impressed with the Centre and its roster of research activities. As the shepherd of the Moses and Frances Asch Collection of the Folkways catalogue, SSI is excited to welcome the CSC and the possibility of further collaborations as it relates to the collection, as well as the many other initiatives we are involved in. Additionally, we are delighted by the possibility of this collaboration as it relates to student and community involvement at our institution and the larger Edmonton area."

Adds Dr. Richard MacKinnon, CBU Vice-President Academic and Provost: "We are honoured to have Cape Breton University's Centre for Sound Communities join the Cultures of Sound Network. We envision a future with many successful collaborations between these important regional, national and international institutions."

The CSN is well-equipped with collective expertise — encompassing in-depth knowledge of best practices in the industry as well as academic work related to developing educational resources — and extensive professional relationships with regional communities and artists, together creating far-reaching connections world-wide. Through its recent expansion, the Cultures of Sound Network has reinforced its resources and extended its reach. Harmonizing efforts to explore, preserve and amplify diverse creative expression in music and sound will contribute to wider awareness and appreciation of regional cultural gifts, for the enrichment of society overall.