

CMT Supports Canadian Music's Bright Lights and Future Stars

CMT Announces Recipients of Video Development Funding And Deadlines for New Applications

For Immediate Release:

(February 27, 2002, Toronto, ON) Corus Entertainment's **Country Music Television (CMT)** and **FACTOR** announced today this year's first beneficiaries of CMT's own **Video Advantage Program (VAP)**, bringing the network's total investment in video development and Canadian programming, including documentaries, concerts and specials, to well above \$15 million.

The latest VAP recipients hail from all regions of Canada and represent our country's rich and diverse musical interests. The following artists will receive financial support to produce a video: **Terry Kelly, Gil Grand, Rick Tippe, Sean Hogan, Jake Mathews, Keith Glass, Thomas Wade, Great Big Sea, Lisa Brokop** and **Michelle Wright**.

"CMT's mission is to develop and nurture the incredible musical talent that exists in Canada," says Ted Kennedy, Director of Programming at CMT. "Through VAP, we help produce videos and in essence, provide a stage for emerging artists to build their reputation, here in Canada and internationally."

This year, CMT's Video Advantage Program will award funds seven times for videos both in English and French, by Canadian acts in Country, Folk, Celtic and Roots music. Hundreds of artists have taken part in this program, including Terri Clark, Paul Brandt, Blue Rodeo, Great Big Sea, Michelle Wright and on-the-rise Carolyn Dawn Johnson.

The deadline for the next round of CMT's VAP funding is April 12, 2002. Artists who are interested in applying for this program can access more information on VAP at: www.cmtcanada.com.

The January recipients of CMT's Video Advantage Program were jointly funded by CMT and FACTOR to better serve Canadian musicians and the independent television production community.

CMT is a Corus Entertainment company. Corus Entertainment, one of Canada's leading entertainment companies, owns and operates 52 radio stations, specialty, pay, conventional and digital television services, as well as Nelvana Limited, an international producer and distributor of children's programming and products. Corus is a publicly traded company listed on the Toronto (CJR.B) and New York (CJR) Exchanges.