For Immediate Release – June 23, 2014


The Canadian University Music Society and the SOCAN Foundation are pleased to announce that Dr. John Beckwith is the recipient of the 2014 SOCAN Foundation/CUMS Award of Excellence for the Advancement of Research in Canadian Music.

The SOCAN Foundation/CUMS Award of Excellence recognizes, on an annual basis, a mature scholar who has established a nation-wide profile in the field of research into Canadian music and its composers. The winner’s dissemination of research results demonstrably increases aural and cultural understanding of Canadian music among other musical scholars and among musical performers. It also leads to increased understanding of Canadian music among the general public for music, or among members of a younger generation of future audiences and musicians. More information on the award itself is available on the MusCan website: www.cums-smuc.ca.

John Beckwith, C.M. Professor Emeritus, MMus, MusDoc

John Beckwith, composer, writer, pianist, teacher, and administrator, studied piano in Toronto with Alberto Guerrero and composition in Paris with Nadia Boulanger. He was associated with the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto for 38 years, including a term as dean, 1970-77. He was founding director of the Institute for Canadian Music, 1985-90. His more than 150 compositions include 4 operas, orchestral, choral, and chamber works, songs, and solo pieces. He has been active in such Canadian musical organizations as the Canadian League of Composers, the Encyclopedia of Music in Canada, the Canadian University Music Society, the Société québécoise de recherche en musique, and the Canadian Musical Heritage Society, and has produced critical and research writings about Canadian music past and present. Beckwith hold five honorary doctorates and is a member of the Order of Canada.

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