



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Capilano University and the Sarah McLachlan School of Music announce new entrance award**

*Annual entrance award will support students in each year of their studies*

NORTH VANCOUVER B.C. September 27, 2023 – Capilano University (CapU) is pleased to announce the establishment of the [Sarah McLachlan School of Music](#) (SoM) entrance award. The new award offers valuable financial support for graduates of SoM who enroll in a program at CapU.

The entrance award was established to honour singer-songwriter Sarah McLachlan’s commitment to providing SoM graduating students facing various barriers to access with a continuum of support and an opportunity for a post-secondary education. The entrance award will be given to one SoM graduating student each year to support the recipient students from SoM in each year of their studies and help cover tuition, fees, books and living expenses up to a maximum of \$12,500 per year.

“We are excited for this partnership with SoM and to honour Sarah McLachlan’s dedication to education,” says Jennifer Ingham, vice-president, university relations. “This entrance award will provide students with an opportunity to cultivate life-enhancing learning experiences in diverse and inclusive environments at Capilano University.”

At SoM, youth develop artistic skills and healthy ways to express themselves while learning how to work collaboratively with others. The training provided at SoM leaves students well-equipped for post-secondary studies. This entrance award will provide recipients with immediate value; the financial support reduces the economic burden of post-secondary education, which enables recipients to participate and contribute to the University community.

“We are thrilled to be able to partner with Capilano University to give our alumni the amazing opportunity of this entrance award,” says [Sarah McLachlan](#), founder and chair of SoM. “For many students and families, a university education is out of reach. This award is incredibly significant to our students as it takes away one of the biggest barriers to a university education.”



Elias de la Vega, a first-year student in the Bachelor of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies program, is the first recipient of the entrance award. Prior to beginning his studies at CapU in September 2023, de la Vega was a student of SoM for the past eight years, attending over 400 hours of programming and events.

A stand out student, de la Vega has a keen interest in art and music, and a positive, engaged and goal-oriented attitude. His curiosity, humility and demonstrated leadership sets him apart and led to his nomination for the entrance award.

### **About Capilano University**

Capilano University is a regional university based in North Vancouver, British Columbia, with additional programming serving the Sunshine Coast and the Sea-to-Sky corridor. With industry-leading instructors, small classes and over 100 programs across five distinctive faculties, CapU is a unique place where students are encouraged to make their mark, in and out of the classroom. Capilano University is named after Sa7plek (Chief Joe Capilano), an important leader of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation of the Coast Salish Peoples. We respectfully acknowledge that our campuses and are located on the territories of the Lílwat, x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

### **About the Sarah McLachlan School Of Music**

In 2002 Sarah founded the non-profit Sarah McLachlan School of Music (SoM) when she noticed that funding for music programs was being pulled from public schools. Today SoM serves over 1,000 children and youth each year who are facing various barriers to access to music instruction in Vancouver, Surrey and Edmonton. SoM provides, at no cost, a high-quality music program staffed with talented mentors, youth facilitators and guest artists. It is a community for students to feel safe in their creative endeavours; a space to develop the confidence they need to explore their strengths and overcome their challenges. The program helps students develop strong relationships with their peers and instructors and a long-term commitment that nurtures trust, growth, and personal development. SoM is funded entirely through private donations and Sarah personally covers 100% of the administrative costs through her Foundation, so that all funds raised go directly to the student's education. [www.sarahschoolofmusic.com](http://www.sarahschoolofmusic.com)

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