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**MANITOBA'S GENIUS GUITARIST LENNY BREAU TO BE HONOURED AT  
AV TRUST'S MASTERWORKS 2007**

**OTTAWA, October 16, 2007...** **MasterWorks**, the Audio-Visual Preservation Trust of Canada's (AV Trust) annual celebration of Canada's film, television, radio and recorded music heritage, will honour the late **Lenny Breau**, the Manitoban guitar genius, David Novek, President of the Trust announced today. **MasterWorks** will to be held Tuesday, October 30 at the Cinémathèque québécoise in Montréal

Noted for his contribution to jazz guitar, **Lenny Breau** was an uncrowned king of jazz finger style guitar. He had a startling ability to comp chords behind himself, sounding like two guitarists; ring out lengthy bell-like harmonic passages; tastefully blend influences of country, jazz and flamenco and fluidly improvise in that style.

At the age of twelve he became a lead guitarist for his parent's band developing a style of playing the guitar that mimicked the movements of piano playing on the guitar strings. Breau and his family started a weekly radio show in Winnipeg called the *CKY Caravan*. One of the regular listeners was a teenager named **Randy Bachman**, who after meeting Breau, began to study guitar with him.

Inspired by Chet Atkins and Merle Travis, Breau's trademark style combined several genres of music with the guitar from country, classical, and jazz. Breau became a featured musician on several programs including his own show *The Lenny Breau Show* on CBC. Some credit Breau's music as a defining sound of CBC in the 1960s. On August 12, 1984, he was found murdered in Los Angeles. His friend and musical mentor Chet Atkins lamented, "Lenny was one of the greatest little individuals and characters that's ever been in this world." Regrettably, after a career of ups and mostly downs, Breau was just gaining greatly deserved respect and recognition among guitar players.

The 1968 LP "The Guitar Sounds from Lenny Breau" featured instrumental hits like "Don't Think Twice It's Alright" and "Music to Watch Girls By" and a rendition of "Georgia on my Mind". Randy Bachman and others such as *Art of Life Records*, are continuing to ensure that Breau's works are preserved for future generations.

Founded by the AV Trust in 2000, **MasterWorks** annually honours 12 culturally significant works, three each from the film, TV, sound recording and radio genres.

**MasterWorks** are designated for a work or body of work that have had a critical or popular impact on Canadian culture or have been influential in shaping its genre. The

honourees are chosen by panels of experts from the Canadian film, radio, TV and music industries.

In spearheading the initiative to preserve such treasures, AV Trust President David Novek says “as a non-profit public/private sector organization dedicated to promoting the preservation of Canada’s audio-visual heritage, and facilitating access to, and usage of regional and national collections, the Trust does not engage in preservation work itself. Rather, we administer programs to restore, archive and make accessible feature films and recorded music. We also work with private and public-sector organizations and interested individuals to achieve our goals.”

Where a **MasterWork** is in danger of being lost, the AV Trust helps ensure the restoration or preservation of the work so that it will remain a cornerstone of the country’s audio-visual heritage and can be enjoyed by future generations of Canadians. Currently film and music restoration programs are supported with grants from the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Astral Restoration program, with other AV Trust programs aided by Vivendi Universal Music Canada and Universal Studios Canada.

Library and Archives Canada, CBC/Radio-Canada, and the National Film Board, who themselves are actively involved in preservation of the country’s heritage, are sustaining partners of the Trust along with Telefilm Canada.

The Audio-Visual Preservation Trust of Canada is a national charitable non-profit public/private organization dedicated to promote awareness of and access to Canada’s rich and diverse audiovisual heritage, and to facilitate access to and usage of regional and national collections. **MasterWorks** is the Trust’s main vehicle for raising awareness of preservation issues, with the goal of safeguarding cherished works from Canada’s audio-visual heritage.

More information on the AV Trust, its programs and **MasterWorks** 2007, is available at [www.avtrust.ca](http://www.avtrust.ca).

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