



The 2022 Saskatchewan Music Award Winners

(REGINA) December 12, 2022

The fifth annual Saskatchewan Music Awards were held last night, celebrating the Saskatchewan music industry in a sold-out show held at the beautiful Darke Hall in Regina. Throughout the night, twenty-one awards were presented, along with performances from eleven different artists, including a very special performance of the Treaty 4 Flag Song by **Aaron Tootoosis** and tributes to our Indigenous Music Achievement Award honourees, **Brian MacDonald** and **John Arcand**.

Featured was a lineup of amazing live performances – by **Zhe the Free, People of the Sun, Aaron Tootoosis, Kateryna Grace, Étienne Fletcher, Nikamok, Michelle and Lee Arcand, TOVA, Jesse Brown, Dump Babes, and ARIEL**.

Retro folk/roots artist **Jake Vaadeland** secured two awards with Roots/Folk Artist of the Year and the fan-selected **Album of the Year**. Vaadeland recently signed management and booking agency deals, and has been garnering rave reviews in both music industry showcases, and through his live shows across Saskatchewan.

SaskMusic was thrilled to recognize two individuals who have been foundational to Indigenous music in the province, **Brian MacDonald** and **John Arcand**, with Indigenous Music Achievement Awards.

Brian MacDonald has been an educator with Onion Lake Cree Nation for over 50 years, advocating for Cree language education in the school system, and releasing the **Cree Songbook** approximately forty years ago. It has since been used in nehiyawewin kiskinohamākosiwīn (Cree education) everywhere from elementary schools to university classes, right across the country. His daughter Lianna MacDonald explained, "Growing up with Nōhtawiy, it was instilled in our heads how important speaking our Cree language was. Brian is a leader in Cree language development to not only our community of Onion Lake but also to many communities in Saskatchewan and Alberta, as he has shown great concern for the fast-growing rate of language loss our younger generations have experienced. Growing up, we were always reminded of how important our language is as it is a catalyst to other aspects of our culture such as the connections to songs, ceremonies and prayers."

John Arcand, "Master of the Métis Fiddle" is renowned across the country. His passions for the preservation of the Métis Traditions, old time fiddling, and his work with youth are widely lauded, making him the most decorated fiddler in Canada. Among his accolades, John was named to the Order of Canada in 2008, and invested into the Order of Gabriel Dumont "Gold" for a lifetime of outstanding service to the Metis of Canada. He has represented Canada by performing at events around the world, released 17 albums containing both original songs and those preserving the traditional Métis tunes of his Father and Grandfather, and inspired thousands of students through his private lessons and the John Arcand Fiddle Fest, which ran for almost 25 years. Now retired from performing, John enjoys teaching private students, continues to compose and is focusing on his other passion – making fiddles.

SaskMusic is very proud of all the nominees and winners this year, and continues to be inspired by the depth and breadth of our community, its resilience, and its passion for creating new music.

The Saskatchewan Music Awards show will be available for viewing online later this month.

In conjunction with the Saskatchewan Music Awards, the Very Prairie Music Summit was held in Regina December 9-11. Over twenty music industry professionals – local, national, and international - were lined up to participate in one-on-one meetings, networking events, and panels of both practical, informative sessions for independent artists, and discussions on 'big picture' music industry topics.

SaskMusic thanks everyone who attended these events and who support the Saskatchewan music industry and our artists.

SaskMusic would like to thank **Creative Saskatchewan**, the **Government of Saskatchewan**, and **FACTOR (The Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Recordings)** for their support of the SMAs and Very Prairie.

The 2022 Saskatchewan Music Award Winners

Album of the Year: Jake Vaadeland, "Everybody but Me", Cut Knife
Alternative Artist of the Year: The Garrys, Saskatoon
Country Artist of the Year: Hunter Brothers, Shaunavon
Electronic Artist of the Year: Factor Eight, Saskatoon
Experimental or Contemporary Artist of the Year: TOVA, Regina
Hip Hop Artist of the Year: Coleman Williams & Yohan Yemba, Regina
Indigenous Artist of the Year: Berk Jodoin, Leader
Industry Achievement: CAMP - Community Arts Mentorship Program, Asquith
Instrumental Artist of the Year: Nige B, Saskatoon
Metal/Loud Artist of the Year: Flash Back, Regina
Music Company of the Year: Dingwall Guitars, Saskatoon
Music Professional of the Year: Brent Ghiglione, Regina
Music Video of the Year: Dylan Hryciuk - Versa Films for "Repent," Halocene, Saskatoon
Producer of the Year: Bart McKay, Saskatoon
R&B Artist of the Year: People of the Sun, Regina
Rock/Pop Artist of the Year: Megan Nash, Moose Jaw
Roots/Folk Artist of the Year: Jake Vaadeland, Cut Knife
Single of the Year: Jess Moskaluke, "Knock Off", Langenburg
Venue or Festival of the Year: The Exchange, Regina

Indigenous Music Achievement: John Arcand, Saskatoon
Indigenous Music Achievement: Brian MacDonald, Onion Lake Cree Nation

For more information on the Saskatchewan Music Awards and Very Prairie, please visit www.saskmusicawards.com.

These events are proudly presented by SaskMusic.

We are a non-profit, member-based association that represents, promotes and develops the artists and commercial music industry of Saskatchewan, Canada both domestically and internationally. We offer one-on-one guidance, workshops, marketing and export assistance, career development opportunities, peer sessions, artist and business listings, and more. From songwriters and freelance musicians to studios, we work with artists and industry members from across our province, in an extensive range of genres and skill levels. SaskMusic is a source of information and resources for both the public, and the music industry. Our website is www.saskmusic.org; you can follow us on Instagram and Facebook.