

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**2008 Hamilton Music Awards  
Awards • Festival • Conference  
Downtown Hamilton  
November 13-16, 2008**

### **HAMILTON MUSIC AWARDS NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MUSIC AWARDS, INDUSTRY AWARDS, FESTIVAL AND HMA MUSIC STORE**

**HAMILTON:** Hamilton Music Awards is now accepting nomination submissions for the 2008 Hamilton Music Awards and Hamilton Music Industry Awards. The deadline for submissions is September 5, 2008. Several new award categories are being introduced this year. Additions to the Industry Awards include Music Teacher of the Year (primary, secondary or post-secondary school) as well as Music Teacher of the Year (independent). Hamilton Music Awards, Director and Producer, Jean-Paul Gauthier stated, "The careers of many successful artists begin with a great music teacher". Gauthier continued, "We believe it is important to recognize Hamilton's best teachers as they play a vital role in the development Hamilton's music scene". Other additions to the Industry Awards include Talent Buyer of the Year, Video of the Year – Under 15 Minutes and Long Form Video of the Year – Over 15 Minutes. Additions to the Hamilton Music Award categories include Emo/Screamo Recording of the Year, New Country Recording of the Year, Alternative Country Recording of the Year, Female Vocalist of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year and Rap Rock/Rapcore Recording of the Year.

Applications for this year's festival and the HMA Music Store™ are also now being accepted. The HMA Music Store™ which is being introduced on the HMA

website will feature audio samples of songs by local artists as well as downloads. The HMA Music Store™ replaces the HMA Compilation CD.

Bob Mersereau, author of The Top 100 Canadian albums declared Hamilton as “The Music Capital of Canada” at the 2007 Hamilton Music Awards. Artists from the Hamilton area that made Mersereau’s list include Teenage Head, Simply Saucer, Daniel Lanois, The Band, Sarah Harmer, Neil Peart (Rush), Stan Rogers, Crowbar and King Biscuit Boy. In all, fourteen (14%) of the top 100 Canadian albums have ties to Hamilton which is significant for a city that represents only 1.9% of Canada’s population. Gauthier stated, “It seems quite clear that the reason Hamilton has become known as the Music Capital of Canada is because it is a treasure chest of musicians and songwriters. This is what makes Hamilton a happening place to live and a city worth visiting.” Gauthier added, “I have believed this my whole life and each year I enjoy making it more and more obvious to an ever-increasing audience.”

The Hamilton Spectator and ArcelorMittal Dofasco return as Co-Presenting sponsors for this year’s event. Other sponsors include CHCH NEWS, Y108, AM900 CHML, Burgeonvest Securities, Long & McQuade, Judy Marsales Real Estate, Grant Avenue Studio, The Beat Goes On, The Corktown Pub, Kyle Weir Photography, Blue Line Taxi, MJM Productions, Studio 410, and Mortgage Financial.

The Hamilton Music Awards also recently introduced the new Solo and Duet patron sponsorship programs geared towards music fans and supporters of the Hamilton Music Awards. Information about the Solo and Duet programs is available on the Hamilton Music Awards website.

Submission procedures as well as submission and nomination forms are available online at [www.hamiltonmusicawards.com](http://www.hamiltonmusicawards.com).

**SUBMISSION FEES FOR THE HMA MUSIC STORE™ AND FESTIVAL ONLY HAVE BEEN WAIVED FOR THOSE WHO SUBMIT BY JULY 31, 2008.**

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