

PRESS RELEASE



**2009 ArcelorMittal Dofasco
Hamilton Music Awards**

Announces

**Lifetime Achievement Recipients •
Hamilton Music Award Nominees • Main Stage Performers •
Conference Schedule**

**TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS ON SALE TODAY
SATURDAY OCT 17TH AT 12PM!**

HAMILTON, CANADA (October 17, 2009): Major announcements were made today regarding the 2009 ArcelorMittal Dofasco Hamilton Music Awards. This year's show which will be held for the first time at the 1039-seat McIntyre Theatre at Mohawk College on Sunday December 6th includes 143 nominations in 33 categories. Local bluesman Steve Strongman leads the way with **five** nominations. The Arkells are next with **four** nominations. **Triple** nominees include: Natasha Alexandra, Arkells, Rita Chiarelli, Ariana Gillis, Junior Boys, Melissa McClelland, Lee Harvey Osmond, S.G. Sinnicks and Tiny Bill Cody. **Double** nominees include The Acoustics, Alexisonfire, The Baretts, Blackie Jackett Junior, Ralf Buschmeyer, Electroluminescent, B.A. Johnston, Daniel Lanois, Negus, Oceanship, Sarena Paton, Robyn Pahl, Dave Pomfret, Lee Reed, J.P. Riemens and Loril Shannik.

Hamilton Music Awards Director, Jean-Paul Gauthier, stated, "2009 is shaping up to be our most exciting year yet." Gauthier added, "There are new developments happening every day and today's announcements are just the tip of the iceberg".

Songwriter and long-time Dundas resident, **John Ellison**, will be honoured with the **2009 ArcelorMittal Dofasco Lifetime Achievement Award**. John was a member of the Soul Brothers Six which broke onto the scene in 1967. The band was based out of Rochester, New York. Other band members included Charles Armstrong, Harry Armstrong, Vonnell Benjamin, Lester Peleman and Joe Johnson

With John as the lead guitarist, singer and songwriter for the group, the Soul Brothers Six signed a recording contract with Atlantic Records and recorded a song entitled *She's Some Kind of Wonderful* written by Ellison.

In 1987, the book *Sweet Soul Music* pointed to the Soul Brothers Six as one of the most influential bands on the sound of modern music.

She's Some Kind of Wonderful reached the top 100 in Billboard magazine. The song has been recorded by more than 50 artists worldwide making it one of the most recorded songs in the history of music. In 1995, John received an award from BMI for writing the third-most played song in the world.

John has performed with B.B. King, Diana Ross, James Brown, Smokey Robinson, The Temptations, Kool and the Gang and many others.

To date, John has written hundreds of songs and continues to record and tour the world, performing at major festivals.

Nevin Grant, will be the recipient of the **2009 ArcelorMittal Dofasco Music Business Achievement Award**. Nevin served as the Program Director and Music Director of OLDIES 1150 CKOC for a total of 38 years. He also served as Program Director of 820 CHAM.

After graduating in Radio and Television Arts from Ryerson University, Nevin started at CKOC in 1966 as a copywriter and became Creative Director, Music Director, Assistant Program Director then Program Director. He is most proud of his years mentoring and encouraging local Canadian musical talent while providing exposure on one of Canada's leading Top 40 radio stations – CKOC. A long line of local musicians received regular airplay on CKOC from Dave Rave to Ian Thomas, the Spoons to King Biscuit Boy, from David Kastle to Crowbar.

He served two terms as the Chairman of the influential Maple Leaf System of Canada's leading Top 40 radio stations during the late Sixties and early Seventies as they sought to create immediate coast-to-coast airplay for new Canadian talent. Nevin has served on numerous community boards during his radio tenure, including the Boards of Directors of the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, Participation House, Mardi Gras Hamilton and was Chairman of the Radio Advisory Board at Mohawk College for many years.

In 1986 Nevin won the Howard Caine Memorial Award from the Central Broadcasters Association for outstanding community service and in 1989 he received an Award of Merit from the Board Of Governor's of Mohawk College acknowledging his years of volunteer lecturing and working with Canada's future broadcasters at Mohawk. In 2002, he was inducted into Hamilton's prestigious Gallery of Distinction.

Main stage performances for the 2009 Hamilton Music Awards Festival include:

- 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, John Ellison, with special guest Rachel Ellison play at the McIntyre Theatre at Mohawk College on the opening night of this year's festival(Thursday December 3rd)
- Blues Guitar Explosion featuring Steve Strongman, Teddy Leonard (Fathead), Brian Griffith, Paul Deslauriers (The Respectables) in an acoustic and electric tribute to the Three Kings. This exciting performance takes place on Friday December 4th at the McIntyre Theatre at Mohawk College
- Lee Harvey Osmond featuring Tom Wilson, Brent Titcomb, Ray Faruggia, Josh Finlayson(Skydiggers) and Michael Timmins(Cowboy Junkies) perform a long-awaited show with special guests Huron and Harlan Pepper on Saturday December 5th at the McIntyre Theatre at Mohawk College

The Hamilton Music Awards are also pleased to present the **Careers in Music Conference** on Friday December 4th at the McIntyre Theatre at Mohawk College. This year's theme is ***Thinking Globally Acting Locally***, a conference dedicated to identifying ways for the local music industry, the City of Hamilton, educational institutions and cross-sector organizations to engage one another in order to succeed and prosper on a local, national and international stage.

Guest speakers at this year's event include: Alan Cross (Corus Radio/The Ongoing History), Bob Mersereau (Author: The Top 100 Canadian Albums, CBC), Graham Rockingham (The Hamilton Spectator), Janis Nixon(Universal Music), Heather Ostertag (FACTOR), Rich Beddoe (Finger Eleven) to name a few. Please refer to the schedule below for a complete listing of speakers and sessions.

The ArcelorMittal Dofasco Hamilton Music Awards are still accepting applications and resumes for a number of volunteer positions for this year's event. A list of volunteer opportunities and application forms are available at www.hamiltonmusicawards.com.

Music fans looking to support the Hamilton Music Awards can take advantage of the patron sponsorship programs. Information about the patron sponsorship programs is available on the HMA website or by calling (905) 383-4005.

Major sponsors for this year include ArcelorMittal Dofasco, The Hamilton Spectator and Mohawk College. Additional generous sponsors include Burgeonvest Bick Securities, Y108, AM900CHML, Pay What You Want Online, The Beat Goes On, Grant Avenue Studio, Corktown Pub, BMO Bank of Montreal, Loveless Media, Long & McQuade Musical Instruments, Judy Marsales Real Estate, Kyle Weir Photography, Trivaris, Blue Line Taxi, MJM Productions and Studio 410.

Ticket information for all of the Hamilton Music Awards events taking place December 3-6th is attached below. 2009 Industry Awards nominees, full festival schedule, and other important details will be announced in the coming weeks!!

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For media inquiries or to arrange interviews please send request and credentials via email to:

Jean-Paul Gauthier
Director,
Hamilton Music Awards
(905) 383-4005
jpg@hamiltonmusicawards.com

Attachments below include:

- Ticket Information
- List of 2009 Hamilton Music Award Nominees
- Conference Schedule

TICKET INFORMATION

****Tickets for all shows go on sale at 12PM on
Saturday October 17th at all TicketMaster Outlets****

JOHN ELLISON

with Special guest Rachel Ellison

McIntyre Theatre, Mohawk College

Thursday December 3rd

Doors: 7PM Show: 8PM

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca, Copps Coliseum Box Office, by phone at (905) 527-7666. Tickets also available at The Beat Goes On (Upper James) beginning Tuesday October 20th.

CAREERS IN MUSIC CONFERENCE

McIntyre Theatre, Mohawk College

Friday December 4th

Doors: 8AM Conference Start: 9AM

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca, Copps Coliseum Box Office, by phone at (905) 527-7666. Tickets also available at The Beat Goes On (Upper James) beginning Tuesday October 20th.

BLUES GUITAR EXPLOSION

FEATURING STEVE STRONGMAN, TEDDY LEONARD (FATHEAD), BRIAN GRIFFITH & PAUL DESLAURIERS (THE RESPECTABLES)

McIntyre Theatre, Mohawk College

Friday December 4th

Doors: 7PM Show: 8PM

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca, Copps Coliseum Box Office, by phone at (905) 527-7666. Tickets also available at The Beat Goes On (Upper James) beginning Tuesday October 20th.

FESTIVAL WRISTBAND PASSES

Various Venues

Friday December 4th & Saturday December 5th

9PM-2AM Nightly

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca, Copps Coliseum Box Office, by phone at (905) 527-7666. Tickets also available at The Beat Goes On (Upper James) beginning Tuesday October 20th.

INDUSTRY AWARDS

McIntyre Theatre, Mohawk College

Saturday December 5th

Doors: 5PM Show: 6PM

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca, Copps Coliseum Box Office, by phone at (905) 527-7666. Tickets also available at The Beat Goes On (Upper James) beginning Tuesday October 20th.

LEE HARVEY OSMOND

With Special Guests Huron & Harlan Pepper

McIntyre Theatre, Mohawk College

Saturday December 5th

Doors: 8PM Show: 8:30PM

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca, Copps Coliseum Box Office, by phone at (905) 527-7666. Tickets also available at The Beat Goes On (Upper James) beginning Tuesday October 20th.

HAMILTON MUSIC AWARDS

McIntyre Theatre, Mohawk College

Sunday December 6th

Doors: 5PM Show: 6PM

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca, Copps Coliseum Box Office, by phone at (905) 527-7666. Tickets also available at The Beat Goes On (Upper James) beginning Tuesday October 20th.

ARKELLS - PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

Studio at Hamilton Place

Friday December 4th

Doors: 7:30PM Show: 8PM

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca, Copps Coliseum Box Office, by phone at (905) 527-7666.

2009 Hamilton Music Awards Nominees

1. Female Artist of the Year

Natasha Alexandra – Bitch Get Fit
Rita Chiarelli – Uptown Goes Downtown Tonight
Ariana Gillis – To Make It Make Sense
Melissa McClelland – Victoria Day
Sarena Paton – La Carissima

2. Male Artist of the Year

Tiny Bill Cody – Tiny Bill Cody and The Liquormen
Dave Pomfret – No Rush
Lee Reed – Introductory Offer
S.G. Sinnicks – Red Meat and Blue 88's
Steve Strongman – Blues In Colour

3. Local Group by People's Choice

4. Record Of The Year

Alexisonfire – Old Crows / Young Cardinals
Arkells – Jackson Square
Junior Boys – Beyond Dull Care
Lee Harvey Osmond – A Quiet Evil
Steve Strongman – Blues In Colour

5. New Artist / Group of the Year

The Baretts – Bang Bang
Blackie Jackett Jr. – Whiskey and Tears
Fall of Spring – I Apologize In Advance
Ariana Gillis – To Make It Make Sense
Pumps – Pumps

6. Alternative/Indie Record of the Year

Arkells – Jackson Square
Don Vail – Don Vail
Pneumatic Transit – In The Future We Will Run on Air
B.A. Johnston – Stairway To Hamilton
Martin Verrall – Escape Show

7. Folk / Roots Record of the Year

Mark McNeil – Greetings From Hamilton
Scott Orr – Ghost Party
Dave Pomfret – No Rush
S.G. Sinnicks – Red Meat and Blue 88's
Ben Somer – The Last One

8. Traditional Recording of the Year

The Acoustics – Forever And A Day

Poor Angus – Prime Cuts

Loril Shannik – Goblin Moon

9. Adult Alternative Recording of the Year

Tiny Bill Cody – Tiny Bill Cody and The Liquormen

Ariana Gillis – To Make It Make Sense

Jaret Koop – Fools Gold

Lee Harvey Osmond – A Quiet Evil

Melissa McClelland – Victoria Day

10. Rock Recording of the Year

Live How You Live – The Venice Sessions

Lo-Fi – The Yellow Album

The Mississippi Kings – Long Time Comin'

Negus – Dare To Dream

Perennials – Aliensphere

11. Loud/Metal Recording of the Year

Aerith – The Suburbs

Monster Truck – Monster Truck

Porcelain Youth – Specimen No. 1

Threat Signal – Vigilance

Top Dead Centre – Far From Nowhere

12. Emo/Screamo Recording of the Year

Alexisonfire – Old Crows / Young Cardinals

Dead And Divine – The Machines We Are

Oceans – The Great Divide

Silverstein – A Shipwreck In The Sand

Straight Reads The Line – The Author

13. Punk Recording of the Year

All For Nothing – Last Call

The Baretts – Bang Bang

Die Standing – No Hero

The Squids – Rockinlivehammerinvasion

The Vapids – The Point Remains The Same 45

14. Blues Recording of the Year

Andre Bisson – R&B Experience

Ralf Buschmeyer – Renewal

Rita Chiarelli – Uptown Goes Downtown Tonight

Groove Corporation – Record Prophets

Steve Strongman – Blues In Colour

15. Children's Recording of the Year

Martha Kreuger – Reach High

Splash n Boots – Razoo!

16. Country Recording of the Year

Blackie Jackett, Jr. – Whiskey and Tears

Sarah Blackwood – Way Back Home

Brad James – Brad James

Annie Marleau – Heart & Soul

J.P. Riemens – Love Is A Dog

17. Pop / Rock Recording of the Year

City Sirens – In A Trance

Marcio Novelli – Break Me

Oceanship – Oceanship

Robyn Pahl – Robyn Pahl

Kevin Spencer – Alone Not Lonely

18. Rap / Hip Hop Recording of the Year

Jigz Crillz – I Am Jigz Crillz

hEAT – Natural Born Lyricist

POE – Destined To Struggle: The Soundtrack To My Pain

Lee Reed – Introductory Offer

Traverse – The Reality Check

19. Electronic Recording of the Year

Electroluminescent – Oban

Junior Boys – Beyond Dull Care

Koushik – Beep Tape

Love Pink Pony – Vida

Miramichi – Miramichi

20. Religious Recording of the Year

Christopher Clause – Lounge Singer – Live at Three16

Jacqueline and Larry Pearson – Yearning Heart

21. Ethnic Recording of the Year

Neeraj Prem – United Voices

The Acoustics – Forever And A Day

22. Instrumental Recording of the Year
The Acoustics – Forever And A Day
Ralf Buschmeyer – Renewal
Electroluminescent – Oban
Daniel Lanois – The Omni Series (Box Set)
Loril Shannik – Goblin Moon

23. Songwriter of the Year
Arkells – Jackson Square
Tiny Bill Cody – Tiny Bill Cody & The Liquormen
B.A. Johnston – Stairway To Hamilton
J.P. Riemens – Love Is A Dog
S.G. Sinnicks – Red Meat and Blue 88's

24. Female Vocalist of the Year
Natasha Alexandra – Bitch Get Fit
Rita Chiarelli – Uptown Goes Downtown Tonight
Melissa McClelland – Victoria Day
Sarena Paton – La Carissima
Robyn Pahl – Robyn Pahl

25. Male Vocalist of the Year
Jeremy Greenspan – Junior Boys – Beyond Dull Care
Max Kerman – Arkells – Jackson Square
Brad Lyons – Oceanship
Steve Strongman – Blues In Colour
Tom Wilson – Lee Harvey Osmond – A Quiet Evil

26. Piano / Keyboard Player of the Year
Natasha Alexandra – Bitch Get Fit
Dan Griffin – Arkells – Jackson Square
Jesse O'Brien – Ian Gillan
Carly Paradis – Oceanship
Lily Sazz – Groove Corporation

27. Special Instrumentalist of the Year
Andrew Bryan – Poor Angus – Prime Cuts
Darcy Hepner – Lee Harvey Osmond/Dave Pomfret
Daniel Lanois – The Omni Series
Loril Shannick – Goblin Moon
Al Spoto – The Acoustics – Forever And A Day

28. Guitarist of the Year

Katie Bulley – The Baretts – Bang Bang
Ralf Buschmeyer – Renewal
Luke Doucet – Melissa McClelland – Victoria Day
Brian Griffith – J.P. Riemens – Love Is A Dog
Steve Strongman – Blues In Colour
Mark Severn – Negus – Dare To Dream
Mike Trebilcock – Dave Pomfret – No Rush

29. Drummer of the year

Adam Cannon – Porcelain Youth -
Carly Culotta – The Baretts – Bang Bang
Linda Duemo – J.P Riemens & The Barflies – Love Is A Dog
Dave King – Steve Strongman – Blues In Colour
Dan Lockwood – J.P Riemens & The Barflies – Love Is A Dog
Steve Negus – Negus – Dare To Dream
Patricia Reece – Rackula – Careful What You Wish For

30. Bassist of the Year

Carrie Ashworth – J.P. Riemens & The Barflies – Love Is A Dog
Paul Intson – Steve Strongman - Blues In Colour
Kate Kimberley – The Baretts – Bang Bang
Jeff Rosnick - Tiny Bill Cody & The Liquormen
Andrew Eckart - The Acoustics

31. ArcelorMittal Dofasco Music Business Lifetime Achievement Award – Nevin Grant

32. ArcelorMittal Dofasco Lifetime Achievement Award – John Ellison

33. Canadian Recording of the Year by Peoples Choice (Sales over 10,000 units)

2009 ArcelorMittal Dofasco Hamilton Music Awards
“Careers in Music” Conference
“Thinking Globally, Acting Locally”

Friday, December 4, 2009
Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology

The 2009 ArcelorMittal Dofasco Hamilton Music Awards is pleased to introduce *Thinking Globally Acting Locally*, a conference dedicated to identifying ways for the local music industry, the City of Hamilton, educational institutions and cross-sector organizations to engage one another in order to succeed and prosper on a local, national and international stage.

Recently, our municipality has identified a desire to attract a larger creative workforce and thereby expand our existing creative and innovative industries. An intensified creative culture would result in more diversified industries and can lead the way for a more sustainable economy. Furthermore, bright minds, engaged in Hamilton's ambitious and prosperous post-secondary institutions could, ideally, stay here to live and work after graduation. Hamilton's music industry, already a robust and vital cultural contributor is a foundation on which this vision for tomorrow can be built.

Overview:

This year's HMA “Careers in Music” Conference is dedicated to unlocking the full potential of Hamilton: The Music Capital of Canada. Representatives from Hamilton's music industry, City of Hamilton, educational institutions and the international music industry, will propose types of engagement for all stakeholders and the expected results that this new strategy would have for those with an interest in Hamilton's music industry on a local, national and international level. *Thinking Globally Acting Locally* will also feature a keynote address, creative clinics, technical workshops, and networking.

Thinking Globally Acting Locally is geared towards artists, students, industry, civic employees, politicians, marketing professionals and those interested in starting or furthering their career in the music industry. Past participating schools and institutions include: University of Toronto, Halton School Board, Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, Mohawk College, McMaster University, Harris Institute and McMaster University.

Past speakers include: Bob Mersereau (Author, Top 100 Canadian Albums/CBC), Jake Gold (Canadian Idol, Management Trust), Derrick Ross (S.L. Feldman and Assoc), Ross Reynolds (Universal Music), Daniel Lanois (Producer/Artist), Graham Rockingham (Journalist), Emmanuel Patterson (Live Nation), Paul Sanderson (Sanderson Entertainment Law), legendary producer Nick Blagona and hundreds more!

Schedule:

8:00AM

Doors/Registration

9:00AM-9:15AM

McIntyre Theatre

Opening Ceremony:

Live singing of O' Canada

Welcoming Remarks -

Rob MacIsaac - President, Mohawk College
Jane Allison - Manager Community Partnerships, The Hamilton Spectator
Graham Browne - Vice President, Human Resources and General Administration,
ArcelorMittal Dofasco
Bob Mersereau - Journalist -CBC/ Author of *The Top 100 Canadian Albums*
Jean-Paul Gauthier – Director, ArcelorMittal Dofasco Hamilton Music Awards

9:15AM-9:45AM

McIntyre Theatre

Keynote Address

9:45AM-10:00AM

Break

10:00AM-11:45AM

McIntyre Theatre

Panel Discussion: Acting Locally

An intense “down to the real issues” discussion on how the music industry and local government can work together for a better and more marketable city and more dominant music industry.

Moderator: Alan Cross - Senior Program Director, Corus Interactive and Integrated Solutions, Curator of ExploreMusic, Host, The Ongoing History of New Music, Corus Radio / 102.1 The Edge

Panelists: Jean-Paul Gauthier – Director, Hamilton Music Awards
Lasha Laskowsky-Reed – The Lorrainas / Media Instructor, Sheridan College
Bob Mersereau - Author of *The Top 100 Canadian Albums*, On-air CBC Host
Tim Potocic – President, Sonic Unyon
Graham Rockingham – Music Columnist, The Hamilton Spectator
Kevin Stolarick – Research Director, The Martin Prosperity Institute, University of Toronto

Technical workshop: Sound Recording - Learn the latest techniques from the local experts **

Creative Clinic: Songwriting - Join professional songwriters as they walk you through the songwriting fundamentals **

11:45AM-12:15PM

Lunch

12:15PM-12:30PM

McIntyre Theatre

Special Guest Performance

12:30PM-1:30PM

McIntyre Theatre

Panel Discussion: From Coast to Coast

This panel will discuss strategies for marketing Hamilton's music industry across the country and how local government can utilize this industry as an effective marketing tool for the city.

Moderator: RJ Guha - President, Matrix Entertainment
Panelists: Cristina Fernandes – President, Listen Harder Music Publicity
Tom Kemp – Agent, Sam Feldman & Associates
Bob Mersereau - Author of *The Top 100 Canadian Albums*, On-air CBC Host
Heather Ostertag – President & CEO, FACTOR

Technical Workshop: Video Production

Join an award winning film maker and film company founder to learn the basics of successful video production **

Workshop Leader: Ryan Furlong - Executive Producer, Director, Fenian Films

Creative Clinic: Voice

Find your full voice and unleash your potential with vocal coach Donna Flynn. Singers and public speakers often unknowingly limit their ability and keep their voice from developing and growing. Your voice is 25% of what is given to you and 75% of how you develop it. Every voice can be greatly improved for either singing or speaking, with the proper direction. Proper "vocal" and "style" techniques will get your voice to the next level. In this voice clinic, vocal coach Donna Flynn covers how to develop your full voice allowing you to sing all music styles. www.voachcoach.ca **
Clinic Leader: Donna Flynn, Owner/President, VocalCoach.ca

1:30PM- 1:45PM**Break****1:45PM-2:45PM**

McIntyre Theatre

Panel Discussion: Thinking Globally

Traditional music industry and government marketing practices meet today's high-tech climate; how to put Hamilton and its music industry on the map internationally!!

Moderator: Janis Nixon - Director of Marketing, Universal Island Def Jam, Universal Music Canada Inc.

Panelists: Rich Beddoe – Drummer, Finger Eleven
Dan Brooks – Artist Manager/The Key Music Group, President/International Tour & Tech Academy
Graham Rockingham – Music Columnist, The Hamilton Spectator

Technical Workshop: Internet Marketing – become familiar with all music file types for all e-marketing purposes **

Creative Clinic: Guitar Workshop

Join award-winning, local guitar heroes for a hands-on tutorial **

Workshop Leaders: David Gillis, Alfie Smith

2:45PM-3:00PM

McIntyre Theatre & Lobby

Networking Session**Behind The Scenes Tour of an Event in the Making**

*Myriad elements go into staging a concert and live events. A rare opportunity to tour behind the scenes of a concert on show day with HMA Director Jean-Paul Gauthier! ***

** = Limited Availability; on-site sign-up required at conference registration