



Sandias backdrop Native American Music Awards

Article from: [News From Indian Country](#) Article date: [November 15, 2001](#) Author: [Westerly, Suzanne, Hall, Kimberly R.](#)

News From Indian Country

11-15-2001

Sandias backdrop Native American Music Awards

In the spirit of honoring Native American music, NAMA set out to offer more than just the award show this year. Every year, many hope and dream of being a part of the Native American Music Awards, but only few are chosen due to time restraints.

So this year the Association decided to offer something new - they gave many of this year's nominees the opportunity to showcase their talents in the Sandia Casino lounge on both Friday, October 19th and Saturday, October 20th. Some of the nominees who put on free performances were; Xavier Quilas Yxayotl, Delphine Tsinajinnie, Carlos Reynosa, Golana, Pamyua, and Lori Church.

The Fourth Annual Native American Music Awards took place in Native America's original musical landscape - the great outdoors, with the magnificent Sandia Mountains as the backdrop. The Native American Music Association brought the award show to a reservation in the heart of Indian country to celebrate our past, to honor the present and to provide hope for the future.

The Sandia Pueblo reservation is located at the western foot of the Sandia Mountains just south of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Governor of the Sandia Pueblo Stuart Paisano welcomed the crowd to the Pueblos beautiful new casino and 3,000-seat amphitheater.

Like most award shows, there just isn't enough time to present all the awards during the show. The usual protocol is that sometime before the show or during intermission, the winners of the unrepresented categories are announced with their awards given to them after the show. This year NAMA wanted to give a little more recognition to the artists, many of whom traveled from across the country to be at the show. So before the main show began they announced the nominees and winners of the unrepresented categories.

A few of the winners were; Indigenous (Nakota Nation) for "Best Blues", R. Carlos Nakai, (Diné) for "Flutist of the Year," Star Nayea for "Best

Independent Recording," Annie Humphrey (Ojibwe) for "Best Folk Recording", Arigon Starr (Kickapoo) for "Son Single of the Year."

Robert Mirabal (Taos Pueblo) was the big winner of the evening, with awards for "Songwriter of the Year," "Artist of the Year," and "Record of the Year". Robert's mom accepted the one award that was presented on stage that evening.

After the opening blessing by Butch Artichoker (Oglala Sioux), a beautiful piece using Universal American Indian Sign language to the prayer, the "Great Mystery", was performed by Bonnie Jo Hunt, an operatic concert artist.

In memory of the recent tragedy on September 11th and for the recent loss of the grandson of Kenny Scabby Robe of the Black Lodge Singers, announcer Dale Oldhorn asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence. Following the moment of silence, Radmilla Cody (Diné) came to the stage with her grandmother, Dorothy and sang the National Anthem in the Diné language. Her beautiful and powerful voice made the song unforgettably moving.

In honor of the human spirit, flutist Andrew Vasquez (Kiowa-Apache) performed "Amazing Grace" on his flute, joined by Joanne Shenandoah (Oneida) who came out singing the second verse, and then Walela, (Rita Coolidge her sister Priscilla Coolidge, and Priscilla's daughter Laura Satterfield, all Cherokee), finished the song in the Cherokee language.

As someone who spent six months in the Marines and six years in the reserves, Master of Ceremonies, actor Rodney Grant (Omaha Tribe) took time out of the show to acknowledge America's brave warriors who served in the armed forces. He asked all those who have served our country to stand so that we could express our appreciation.

Rodney then congratulated Canyon records on their 50th Anniversary. 50 years ago, a producer with Canyon Records first heard the music of Native artist, Ed Lee Natay (Diné & Ute). He enjoyed Natay so much, he vowed to record more Native American artists, and today Canyon continues to record many of the Native artists.

Ferlin Clarke, one recording artist who contributed greatly to the longevity and success of the Canyon label presented this year's "Lifetime Achievement Award" along with actor Roger Willie. They presented this year's award to R. Carlos Nakai, who has over 40 albums, two Gold Records, several Grammy Award nominations and many Native American Music Awards.

In mixing yopik and Inuit soul music with funk, and R&B with jazz, the group Pamyua brought a new flare of world music to the show. Every part of Pamyua's presence at this year's show was pure luck. Nominated for "Best World Music Recording", this group, coming all the way from Alaska and Greenland, put on fundraisers a week before the show to pay for their airfare to Albuquerque, just for the chance to perform during the free nominee performances the day before the awards show.

After putting on an outstanding free performance, this band caught the eye

of the NAMA producers and when it was confirmed that Annie Humphrey couldn't make it to perform at the show, the spot was offered to Pamyua.

R. Carlos Nakai and his new group the Wilde Boys, which includes Will Clipman, who plays everything from acoustic world chamber jazz to electric trance groove music, William Eaton who is one of the world's greatest designers of unique guitars and Tibetan flutist Nawang Khechog, performed a wonderful piece during the show called "Dwelling In the Garden."

The group Brulé, members of the Lower Brulé Sioux tribe of South Dakota, include father and daughter team Paul and Nicole LaRoche. They have become one of the top contemporary Native American recording acts in the country, having sold over 1 million records worldwide and perform over 200 live shows annually. Their music is very uplifting and moving. On the flute, Nicole continues to give a stellar performance from her heart.

During a special presentation founder and producer Ellen Bello along with some of the women of NAMA presented and officially announced the appointment of elder Fern Deer Sluder as an Honorary member of the Native American Music Association Board of Directors.

They also took the time to honor NAMA's past, present and future through three special individuals who were given special awards for their contribution to the NAMA organization.

James Bordeaux (Rosebud Sioux) received the "Award for Inspiration" for there would be no NAMA if it were not for James and his band, Wakinyan. They had a vision almost 10 years ago and they brought that vision to Ellen Bello. To this day Ellen holds to the fact that this group truly served as the heart and inspiration for the Native American Music Awards.

Patrick Doyle of Digital Endeavors received the "Outstanding Contribution" award for all his work he has done for the NAMA websites.

Amazing 8-year old flutist, Evren Ozan (Osage), received NAMA's "Rising Star Award." The audience was quite impressed with his beautiful flute music during his performance earlier in the show.

Receiving the "JIM Thorpe Sports Award" this year was Billy Mills, (Lakota Sioux) the great Olympic runner who amazed the world in 1964 as he burst forth near the end of the 10,000-meter race like a flash to receive a Gold Medal. He was 26.

Keith Secola with the Wild Band of Indians, this year's winner for "Best Instrumental Recording," was joined on stage by Radmilla Cody and John Densmore, the former Doors drummer for an excellent rockin' blues performance.

The group Yarina ("remembrance" in their native Quichua language of the Incas), is made up of four brothers and two sisters who joined them, dancing to the upbeat music. Their music is a wonderfully diverse combination of jazz, blues, Latin and Western Classical.

Winner of "Best World Music Recording", Casper Loma-da-wa (Hopi) and the 602 Band had people moving in their seats as the group performed their warm positive Reggae music influenced by Casper's traditional Hopi culture.

Crystal Gayle (Cherokee), country signer with three dozen hit records and many awards, was the first woman inducted into the NAMA Hall of Fame. The audience wanted another song, and Crystal obliged. After her acceptance speech she sang everyone's favorite, "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue."

As is typical in the high desert this time of the year, Albuquerque at 5,000 ft. has beautiful and very warm days, but as the sun goes down, so does the temperature. Sitting and watching the Awards, it got very cold. I can only assume it was the locals who had been wise enough to bring their coats and blankets, while the rest of us out-of-towners froze our tushes.

Janice-Marie, who was joined on stage by Robert Tree Cody, winner of "Male Artist of the Year" award, was the last performance had the crowd dancing and forgetting all about the chill in the air. She was fabulous, a dichotomy as she walked out on stage in an elegant silver dress and then "got down" playing the bass with passion as she belted out "Boogie, Oogie Oogie," her Grammy award winning multi-platinum smash.

Later, Janice-Marie said the only way she was able to play the guitar was to "warm my fingers by putting them in a hot cup of coffee."

For a comprehensive list of winners, look at the www.nammys.com web site.

The entire program was broadcast live on radio stations throughout the country and Koahnic Broadcast Corporation ran it live on the Internet. Parts of the program will be used in an international television special called Concert For America.

Sponsors for the evening were, the Pueblo of Sandia, the Navajo Arts & Humanities Council, the Muckleshoot Tribe, Subway, the Oneida Indian Nation, the Cow Creek Upqua Tribe, HBO, Bessoms Gardens and the Institute of American Indian Arts, who helped create the set.

Article copyright News From Indian Country.

Article copyright News From Indian Country.

Provided by ProQuest LLC. For permission to reuse this article, contact [Copyright Clearance Center](http://www.copyright.com).

[Academic and Education](#) [Business](#) [Government](#) [Health](#) [Lifestyle and Personal Interest](#) [News](#)
[Sports and Leisure](#) [Technology and Science](#)

[HighBeam™ Research, Inc.](#) © Copyright 2008. All rights reserved.

www.highbeam.com