



# THE COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION — OF ONTARIO — **AWARDS 2015** PRESENTED BY SLAIGHT MUSIC



CMAO Awards Host: **Jason McCoy**



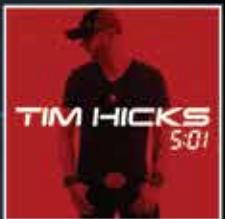
PERFORMANCE BY

# TIM HICKS

NOMINEE

**SINGLE OF THE YEAR**

HERE COMES THE THUNDER



**ALBUM OF THE YEAR**

5:01

**SONGWRITERS OF THE YEAR**

HERE COMES THE THUNDER WITH GAVIN SLATE AND TODD CLARK

**MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

**MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR**

SHE DON'T DRINK WHISKEY ANYMORE

HOSTED BY

NOMINEE



# JASON MCCOY

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR



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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



We are here, ladies and gentlemen: our third annual awards show. With our inaugural conference (The Road to Independence) having been executed no less than 8 months ago, we decided to merge the conference and awards show to make them one large event. The merger was actually ignited by suggestions from members. It has taken a great deal of effort in a short amount of time to put this year's show and conference together. We are grateful to the commitment and passion of the country music community that continue to assist our organization in Making Ontario Country Music Matter.

I would like to thank Slaight Music for their continued support. Not only was Slaight Music generous, but they were there throughout the planning process, providing solutions and contributing people to serve on our committees. The Canadian music scene is extremely fortunate to have such an incredible organization - one that genuinely gives back to the community.

We are also grateful for the support of the Ontario Media Development Corporation and the Ontario Music Fund. The Ontario Music Fund has moved the organization light years ahead and has allowed us to provide a tremendous amount of service to our members and the country music community.

Congratulations to all the nominees! The Board of Directors of the CMAO believes that a nomination by your peers is an acknowledgement of your craft and talent that should not be taken lightly. I'm truly moved and impressed by the amount of hard work, initiative and risk many of you take to try to make it in this tough-as-nails industry. Only thirteen awards will be given out, but the calibre of talent that is represented within the nominations is inspiring. I would also like to thank all the performers and presenters that will be appearing on the stage for our special evening.

We have some of the Canadian music business' most experienced professionals taking part in this conference. Knowledge is power and I urge all conference attendees to take it all in and connect with as many people as you can. Maximize these opportunities so you can propel your career to the next level.

Also, a heartfelt thank you goes out to all the sponsors and advertisers who have come on board to support Ontario country music. Your continued support demonstrates confidence in our members and in the high level of talent that is present in the great Province of Ontario.

The CMAO functions with an eleven member volunteer Board of Directors, along with several other volunteers. At the start of this year, we were relieved and excited to welcome industry veteran Verle Mobbs as the CMAO's Operations Manager. In the first few months of her tenure, she has contributed immeasurably to the CMAO's momentum while relieving a load of tasking from the overburdened Directors. We look forward to seeing her various plans and initiatives come to fruition.

On a more sombre note, I regret to say that this will be my last address to you in my official capacity as CMAO President. The demands of my life in accounting have become too great for me to seek another term. However, this is not goodbye, as I will continue to serve the CMAO in its financial management, and as per our sturdy By-Laws, I am on call as Past President to assist in any way I can. You will still see me at our artists' shows, cheering them on. I am so very proud of our numerous accomplishments together. I can truly say that my tenure has been a wild and rewarding ride and I have learned many things that will be valuable to my career. I thank you all.

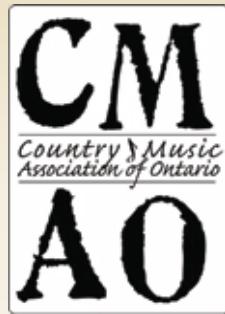
It took many volunteer hours and resounding support from the community to contribute to the success of this Conference and Awards show. All the people involved in this organization are true believers in Ontario country music. I am genuinely inspired to have worked with a great bunch of people who devote their valuable time and experience to serving our membership.

Enjoy these special events, thank you for your support and for Making Ontario Country Music Matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Arraj".

Sam Arraj, CPA, CA  
President, CMAO



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# COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO {CMAO}

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**Dave Woods**, Columnist

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**Cadence Grace**  
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*New Faces Showcase*  
**Randy Stark**, CMAO Director  
**Ali Slaight**, Slaight Music

*CMAO Awards Show*  
**Cindy Sutch**, Seating and Ticketing  
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*Publicity*  
**Samantha Pickard**, Strut Entertainment  
**Jen Fritz**, Fritz Media

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Information in this guide is accurate at the time of printing.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Director

## MISSION STATEMENT

The CMAO is an endeavour undertaken by an alliance of professionals operating in the country music industry in Ontario and is the only country music association that represents Ontario as a whole.

The goal of the Country Music Association of Ontario, through the leadership and experience of its elected Board of Directors, is to foster and support the growth and development of Ontario country music in all of its forms and to stimulate opportunities for Ontario artists, singers, songwriters, musicians, bands, businesses and all those associated with the Ontario country music infrastructure - provincially, nationally and internationally.

While maintaining a spirit of community and sharing, we educate, encourage creativity and celebrate the unique achievements and contributions of our entire industry.

A yellow electric guitar is positioned diagonally across the left side of the image, set against a dark blue background that features faint, stylized white feather patterns.

Slaight Music is proud to be  
The Presenting Sponsor  
for the CMAO's third  
annual awards show

# THE COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION — OF ONTARIO — **AWARDS 2015** PRESENTED BY SLAIGHT MUSIC

Congratulations to all  
of the 2015 Nominees

**SLAIGHT**  
MUSIC

[www.slaightmusic.com](http://www.slaightmusic.com)

# **SLAIGHT**

---

## **MUSIC**

On behalf of Slaight Music, I would like to congratulate the CMAO board on their third annual CMAO Awards show and to express how pleased we are to continue our support again this year. We are pleased to support the New Faces stage to showcase Ontario's up and coming artists and wish all a great experience at this year's events.

It has been another banner year for Ontario Country Artists from coast to coast and beyond and celebrating these accomplishments together as a community is a proud moment. I would like to acknowledge the people behind the artists, for without your guidance, passion and commitment many would not be up on stage tonight receiving these accolades.

Congratulations to all of this year's CMAO awards nominees and finalists, it's your night to celebrate.

*Derrick W. Ross*

President  
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8



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Supporting the CMAO

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THE COUNTRY  
MUSIC ASSOCIATION  
— OF ONTARIO —  
**AWARDS 2015**  
PRESENTED BY SLAIGHT MUSIC

# GENERAL INFORMATION



## Conference Attendee Registration - Hours of Operation

- Sunday May 24, 2015 8:30 am - 7:30 pm
- Monday May 25, 2015 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
  - Note: Tickets for the Awards Show that have not been picked up prior to 3:00 pm on Monday May 25, 2015, will be moved to the Flato Markham Theatre, and will be available for pickup from 6:00 pm onward.

## Lost Badges

- If you have misplaced or forgotten your attendee badge, please notify a member of the CMAO staff at the Attendee Registration table. They will ensure that a new badge is created for you as soon as possible.

## Conference Room Location

- Chocolate Ballroom located on the 2nd Floor of the Delta Markham Hotel.

## Speaker Green Room

- The Speaker Green Room is located in the SPICE II Room on the 2nd Floor of the Delta Markham Hotel.

## Media Accreditation

- Media accreditation will be available for pickup at the conference registration on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Delta Markham Hotel during the conference or in the Main Lobby of the Flato Markham Theatre starting at 6:00pm on Monday May 25th.

## Onsite Services

- Business Centre
  - Location: The Business Centre is located on the 2nd Floor, parallel to the elevator doors.
- Fitness Centre, Pool, Whirlpool and Sauna
  - Hours of Operation: 5:30 am - 11:00 pm
  - Location: The Fitness Centre, Pool, Whirlpool and Sauna are located on the main floor, to the left hand side of the front desk.
- ATM
  - The ATM is located on the main floor, through the glass doors leading to the Ballroom Hallway, on the left hand side.

## Hungry?

- The CMAO is pleased to provide continental breakfast, refreshment break snacks and a lunch on Sunday May 24, 2015. Our Annual General Meeting will also offer a hot breakfast to members in attendance.
- The Tivoli Garden Restaurant is available onsite as an alternative dining option for a fresh menu, comfortable, cozy atmosphere and excellent value. Please note that this restaurant is not included in your conference registration fee.

# KX Country

**94.7 FM**

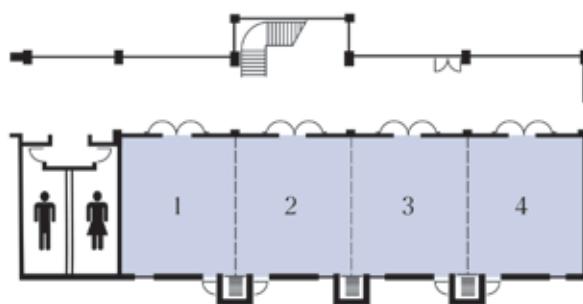
**95.9 FM**

## Congratulations to all CMAO nominees!

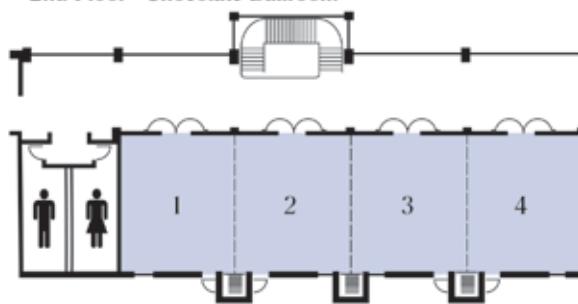
# HOTEL AND VENUE MAP



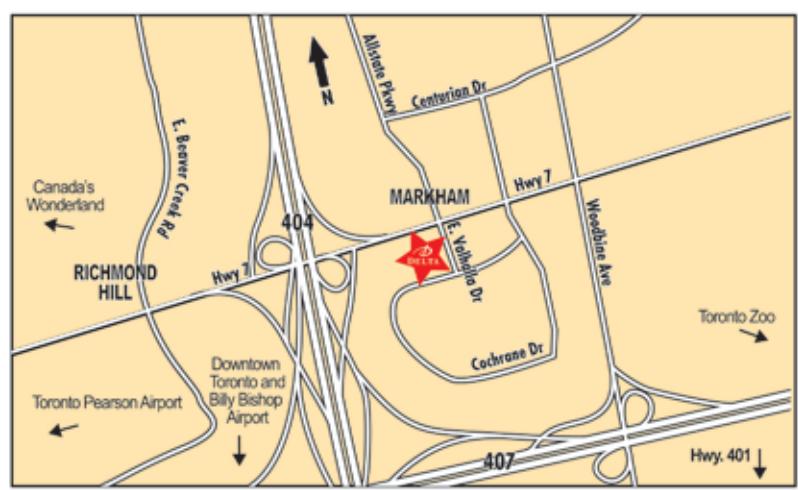
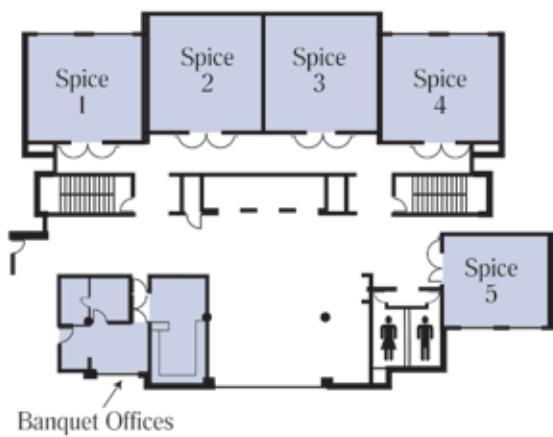
Main Floor - Truffle Ballroom



2nd Floor - Chocolate Ballroom



2nd Floor - Executive Boardrooms





## OMDC: PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

*country*

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Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

May 24 - 25, 2015



#### A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I wish to extend warm greetings to everyone taking part in the Country Music Association of Ontario (CMAO) Conference and Awards Show.

I commend CMAO for recognizing and promoting the tremendous wealth of talent within Ontario's country music community. Thanks to the CMAO, all Canadians have the opportunity to celebrate and learn more about Ontario country recording artists.

I am delighted to congratulate all the award recipients and to thank them for making the Ontario music scene synonymous with originality, true talent — and pushing the boundaries of artistic and technical achievement. Aspiring country artists are sure to find tremendous inspiration in the success story behind each winner.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful and memorable CMAO Conference and Awards Show.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Wynne".

Kathleen Wynne  
Premier

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CMAO

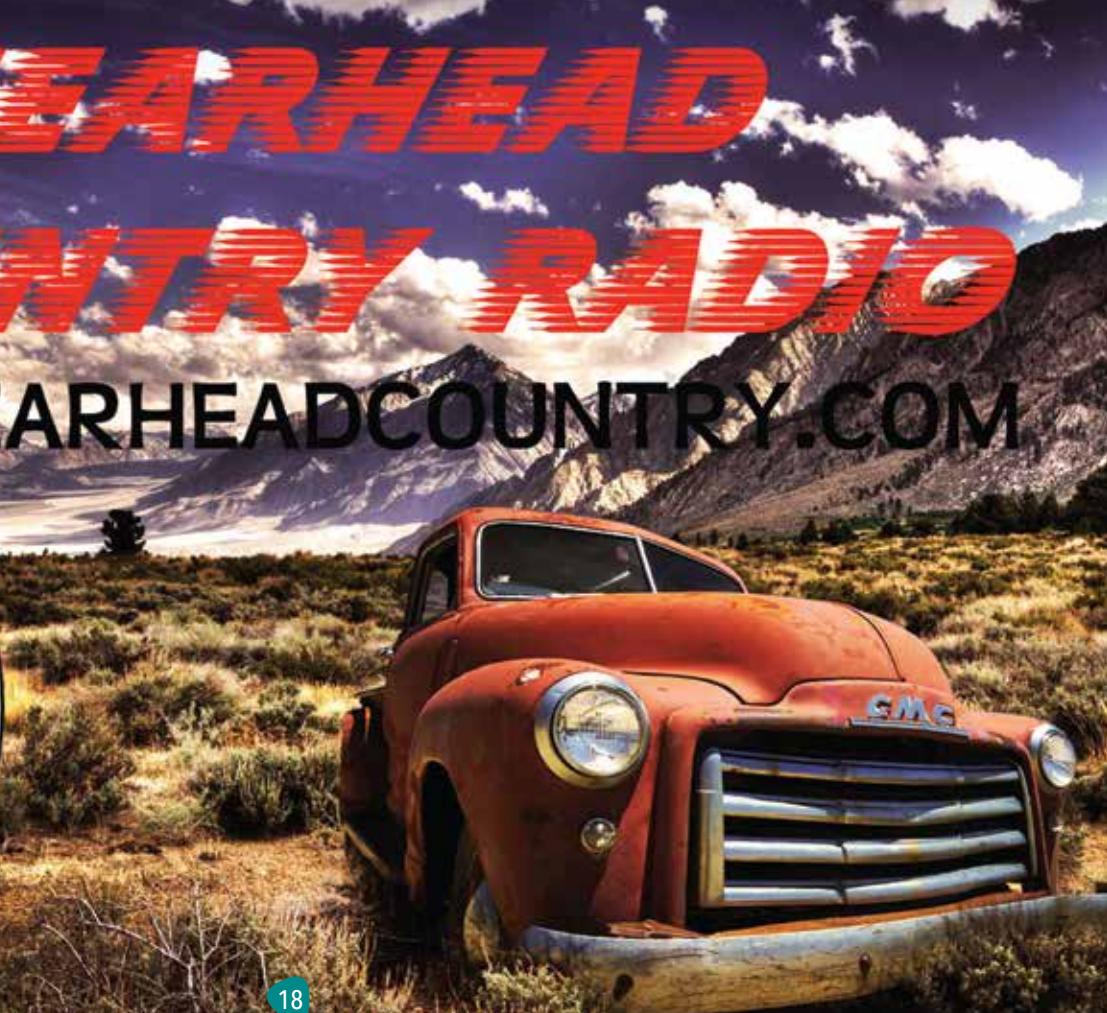
★ ★ ★ ON SHOWCASING THE BEST OF ★ ★ ★  
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May 24 - 25, 2015

## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SCARPITTI

On behalf of Members of Council and the City of Markham, I am pleased to extend our best wishes to all those attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Country Music Association of Ontario (CMAO) Conference and Awards Show.

I commend the CMAO, a not for profit organization for your efforts to foster and support the growth, creativity and opportunities for Ontario's country music and musicians locally and around the world.

The City of Markham's cultural mandate is to enhance and promote artistic and cultural expressions, to share experiences and to engage people through culture and the arts. We are delighted that our city was chosen to host the awards show at Flato Markham Theatre, one of Canada's premier theatre houses. You will be able to celebrate the talent and contributions of country artists along with all of the presenters, performers and nominees. Hundreds of music fans will be able to enjoy a special event.

As Mayor, I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend best wishes to everyone for an exciting and enjoyable evening of talent and celebration, along with congratulations to all of this year's CMAO award nominees and finalists.

Sincerely,

Frank Scarpitti  
Mayor





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CANADIAN COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION  
TORONTO, ON M5C 1K9  
[www.ccma.org](http://www.ccma.org)



On behalf of the Canadian Country Music Association® (CCMA®), I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the third annual CMAO Awards.

Tonight, we acknowledge the talent and artistry of CMAO members whose exceptional achievements over the past year have earned them the acknowledgement and admiration of their peers and fans alike.

I would like to commend the Country Music Association of Ontario on its efforts to foster the growth and development of Ontario's country music industry. The CMAO Awards present the perfect opportunity to shine a spotlight on the outstanding talent that is cultivated throughout this province.

The spirit, community and creativity of the country music industry is what sets it apart from other music genres. Provincial music industry associations, such as the Country Music Association of Ontario, play a pivotal role in the ongoing success of country music across our nation. Thank you to those who have worked behind the scenes to create the showcase of talent we will enjoy tonight.

Congratulations to all of this year's CMAO Award nominees and winners.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Green".

Don Green  
President of the Canadian Country Music Association  
May 2015

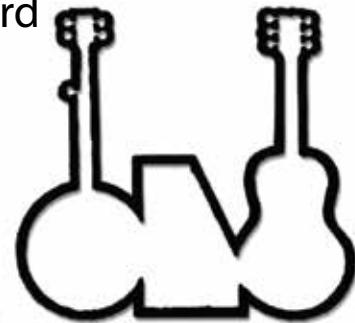
WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE  
THE CMAO AND ALL THE NOMINEES!

## The Good Brothers



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the staff at Havelock on receiving  
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# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2015

<b>8:30am - 7:30pm</b>	REGISTRATION All Seminars are held in the Chocolate Ballroom on the 2nd Floor  The Speaker Green Room is located in the Spice II Room on the 2nd Floor
<b>9:30am - 10:15am</b>	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (included with conference pass)
<b>10:15am - 11:15am</b>	SHARP THOUGHTS FROM A SHARP MIND: IN CONVERSATION WITH DERRICK ROSS
<b>11:30am - 12:30pm</b>	SHOW US THE MONEY! THE DOLLARS AND SENSE OF FUNDING
<b>12:30PM - 2:00PM</b>	LUNCH (included with conference pass)
<b>2:00pm - 3:15pm</b>	ARE WE ENGAGED YET? GETTING MORE BANG WITH YOUR MARKETING BUCK
<b>3:15pm - 3:30pm</b>	COFFEE BREAK (included with Conference pass)
<b>3:30pm - 4:30pm</b>	RHYME AND PUBLISHMENT: GETTING YOUR MUSIC TO SYNC
<b>4:30pm - 7:00pm</b>	DINNER BREAK (Not included with conference pass)
<b>7:00pm - 10:00pm</b>	THE 'NEW FACES, GOING PLACES' SHOWCASES Truffle Ballroom on the Main Floor

## MONDAY, MAY 25, 2015

<b>8:30am - 3:00pm</b>	REGISTRATION All Seminars are held in the Chocolate Ballroom on the 2nd Floor  The Speaker Green Room is located in the Spice II Room on the 2nd Floor
<b>9:30am - 11:00am</b>	'A' 'G'OOD 'M'ORNING TO YOU! HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE CMAO (hot breakfast (included with your conference pass)
<b>11:15am - 12:45pm</b>	THE WRITE STUFF – A SONGWRITERS SUPER SESSION
<b>12:45pm - 1:00pm</b>	COFFEE BREAK (included with Conference pass)
<b>1:00pm - 2:00pm</b>	THE FORMULA REFORMED: ARTISTS SHARE THEIR PERSONAL RECIPES FOR SUCCESS
<b>8:00pm - 11:00pm</b>	CMAO AWARDS SHOW at THE FLATO MARKHAM THEATRE

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# CONFERENCE PANELS

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2015

8:30am - 7:30pm REGISTRATION

9:30am - 10:15am

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (included with conference pass)

10:15am - 11:15am

## SHARP THOUGHTS FROM A SHARP MIND: IN CONVERSATION WITH DERRICK ROSS

From musician to record label, promoter to marketer, Derrick Ross has followed an enterprising career path in the music industry. Today, as President of Slaight Music, a boutique talent development firm, he is the pivot point for their initiatives and driver of their strategic partnerships. Find out how this luminary navigated through the business to get to where he is today and what he sees in store for artists in the future.

**Interviewer:** Steve Kassay, VP, Programming/Operations, Durham Radio Inc.

**Interviewee:** Derrick Ross, President, Slaight Music

11:30am - 12:30pm

## SHOW US THE MONEY! THE DOLLARS AND SENSE OF FUNDING

There are a number of ways you can come up with money to kickstart a music career. Whether it's seed money for your next recording, tour expenses to perform overseas, production money for that video, or startup funds to develop your business, this panel of experts from multiple disciplines will explain the tax credits, grant programs and available funding to help independent artists and entrepreneurs turn their talent into revenue.

**Moderator:**

Beverley Mahood, Artist

**Panelists:**

Angela Fex, Manager Client Services, FACTOR

Michael Murray, Popular & World Music and Arts Service  
Organizations Officer, Ontario Arts Council

Mark Watts, Program Consultant, Ontario Music Fund; Ontario Media Development Corporation

12:30PM - 2:00PM LUNCH (included with conference pass)

2:00pm - 3:15pm

## ARE WE ENGAGED YET?

## GETTING MORE BANG WITH YOUR MARKETING BUCK

With all of the media noise out there, the tried-and-true methods of marketing aren't enough anymore to ensure visibility. Panelists share their perspectives on real-time marketing, strategies on developing creative – and effective – marketing alternatives, ideas for creating intentional fan moments, and tricks for leveraging social media to turn audiences into fans, followers, and more importantly, engaged consumers.

**Moderator:**

Samantha Pickard, President, Strut Entertainment

**Panelists:**

Sari Delmar, Founder & CEO, Audio Blood

Allan Mamaril, Sr. Manager, Digital Content and New Media  
Development, HMV Digital Canada Ltd.

Dale Peters, Owner, Dale Speaking Ltd.

Ashley Sperling, Marketing Manager, Maple Music Recordings

3:15pm - 3:30pm COFFEE BREAK (included with Conference pass)

3:30pm - 4:30pm

## RHYME AND PUBLISHMENT: GETTING YOUR MUSIC TO SYNC

Music publishing is one of the most misunderstood but most financially stable sectors of the industry. What is the role of the music publisher? What are the income streams from publishing rights? Should you sign a publishing deal or self-publish? This presentation will provide the basics and clarify the business of publishing, discuss the latest developments, and talk about ways that songwriters and writer-artists can make money from licensing their work – in everything from video games, film, TV, downloads and streams, advertising and much more.

**Presenter:**

Jodie Ferneyhough, President, Canadian Music Publishers Association (CMPA)

4:30pm - 7:30pm DINNER BREAK (Not included with conference pass)

7:00pm - 10:00pm

## THE 'NEW FACES, GOING PLACES' SHOWCASES

A cornerstone of the CMAO's mission is to help new Ontario talent get noticed and advance to the next level. Selected by a jury of industry experts, each artist will perform a mini-set live on the CMAO showcase stage. Come and see who the rising sun will be shining on tomorrow.

**Hosts:**

Michelle Wright, Artist

Ted Roop, Director of Programming, Larche Communications



- THE PRINCIPAL SONGWRITER FROM A QUADRUPLE PLATINUM SELLING BAND...
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# CONFERENCE PANELS

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2015

8:30am - 3:00pm REGISTRATION

9:30am - 11:00am

'A' 'G'OOD 'M'ORNING TO YOU! HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE CMAO (hot breakfast (included with your conference pass)

This is your CMAO and it's time to help select the Directors who will steer the ship into the future. If you are a member in good standing, come and hear the candidates speak, exercise your right to vote, receive your copy of the financial statements, hear about the CMAO's operations and direction, and meet your fellow members at the Annual General Meeting.

11:15am - 12:45pm

## THE WRITE STUFF - A SONGWRITERS SUPER SESSION

This panel of hit-makers share one common thing – they've followed their muse to the top of the charts, both as writers and artists.

Although their styles demand different approaches to performing and recording, they continue to write hit after hit. In this up-close session, two of today's finest songwriters will discuss their hits and take the audience on a personal creative journey, with their guitars ready to jump into the conversation. Expect some humorous anecdotes and inspiring stories while learning where hits come from and how they're born.

### Moderator:

**Ralph Murphy**, President, Murphy Music Consulting & Consultant to ASCAP

### Songwriters:

**Deric Ruttan**, Artist/Songwriter  
**Victoria Banks**, Artist/Songwriter

12:45pm - 1:00pm COFFEE BREAK (included with Conference pass)

1:00pm - 2:00pm

## THE FORMULA REFORMED: ARTISTS SHARE THEIR PERSONAL RECIPES FOR SUCCESS

It used to be that the formula for success was well-defined and the outcomes were predictable. But these days, stardom can come from a video gone viral on YouTube, a jingle turned earworm from a commercial or a placement on a soundtrack. Musicians' career paths are as unique now as their individual fingerprints. Who are these artists and how did they get here? This session will go behind the scenes with not just one, but two of today's most successful artists and key members of their teams... and as the story unravels, cast light on your own path.

### Interviewer:

**Steve Parker**, Executive Producer, Canadian Country Spotlight

### Artists:

**Chad Brownlee**, Artist  
**Jess Moskaluke**, Artist  
**Nick Meinema**, The Agency Group Nashville  
**Mike Denney**, MDM Recordings/Manager  
**Carmen Choney**, Tour Manager/Manager  
**Amber Bell**, Radio Promotion  
**Holly Cybulski**, Media & Publicity

8:00pm - 11:00pm

## CMAO AWARDS SHOW presented by SLAIGHT MUSIC at THE FLATO MARKHAM THEATRE

Jason McCoy of the Road Hammers returns as host of the CMAO awards. Scheduled to perform are Jason Blaine, Lindsay Broughton, Leah Daniels, Tim Hicks, Beverley Mahood, the Russell DeCarle Trio, Small Town Pistols, Tebey, Autumn Hill and Deric Ruttan. The Western Swing Authority, also return to the awards as the event's house band.



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# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



**Victoria Banks'** list of accolades as an artist is long. She was 2009's most nominated female artist in Canadian country music, the 2010 CCMA Female Artist of the Year & toured with superstars Reba McEntire, Wynonna Judd, Lonestar, Randy Travis & Johnny Reid. But songwriting is her first love. Now a staff songwriter at Nashville's RareSpark Media Group, Victoria has penned ASCAP, SOCAN, CCMA and Covenant-award-winning songs for over 50 artists.



A testament to his drive and talent, **Chad Brownlee** (MDM Recordings Inc. / Universal Music Canada) is an extraordinary example of what one person can achieve. Over the last few years Brownlee has received critical acclaim and numerous accolades including a JUNO nomination for Country Album of the Year and nominations for CCMA Male Artist of the Year. With a new album release on the horizon, and more tour dates to be announced, his fans can look forward to another memorable year filled with new music and powerful performances.



**Holly Cybulski** has worked with some of the world's most notable brands and personas. Her portfolio reflects a diverse body of work from campaigns involving Charlize Theron, Twilight's Taylor Lautner, The Black Eyed Peas' drummer Keith Harris, to overseeing PR campaigns for Second Cup, hmv, Berkshire Media Distribution, HarperCollins Canada & TVO. Additionally, she is a proud member of the MDM Recordings "road fam" proudly collaborating with such great talents as Chad Brownlee, Jess Moskaluke & The Lovelocks.



**Mike Denney**, President of Toronto-based MDM Recordings Inc. believes in his artists and is prepared to invest whatever it takes, as long as it takes. A 25+ year veteran, Denney's core business mantra is work hard-play hard, and he aspires to work with and represent talent who are willing to give 110% of their efforts to their musical craft. He in turn meets this with the same level of commitment to his MDM "road family". Most recently, Denney championed MDM's operational expansion to both the Australian & American territories.



**Angela Fex** is a graduate of Fanshawe's Music Industry Arts program. She joined FACTOR in April 2014 as Manager of Client Services, drawing upon her extensive management and administrative experience from her years at CMRRA, CSI (CMRRA Sodrac Inc.), and ole Media Management. Having started her career in music publishing and licensing independent Canadian recording artists, joining the FACTOR team has brought her full circle in proudly assisting and supporting homegrown Canadian musical talent.



**Beverley Mahood** is a dynamic entertainer, highly recognized, musically, for several solo albums, and also for the, David Foster produced, trio, "Lace". TV shows (Pick A Puppy), movie roles (Changing Seasons), songwriting credits (Celine Dion), exclusive performances (G8 World Leaders, CDN Troops, Royals), and a commitment to community (2014 Slaight Music Humanitarian Award) all add to Beverley's unique entertainment package. Born in Belfast, Beverley is a proud Canadian.



**Nick Meinema** moved to The Agency Group's Toronto office in 2007 and has since expanded his office to Nashville, Tennessee. Nick is the Senior Vice President of The Agency Group Nashville and the Head of the Fairs and Festivals Department for North America. In 2011, he was nominated as 'Agent of the Year' by The International Entertainment Buyers Association. Furthermore, has had several nominations and won Agency of the Year from the CCMA.



**Amber Bell** has been a part of the Dale Speaking team since 2007. As the Promotions Manager, Amber handles and oversees all things promotions at Dale Speaking including, but not limited to, commercial, CBC and satellite radio promotion. She also assists in co-ordinating radio tours, interviews, campaign strategies and more. Working to help musicians, new and established, increase and sustain an audience is her passion.



**Carmen Choney**'s events career has spanned more than a decade as Tour Manager, Publicist and Management professional. As Tour Manager for Chad Brownlee and Co-Manager of Jess Moskaluke, she has had the great fortune of traveling this country working not only with directly with the artist/band, but also promoters, buyers, media and the fans themselves. Carmen has worked on, and volunteered for some of North America's largest events and music festivals including the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver & Big Valley Jamboree in Camrose, AB.



Before founding AB, **Sari Delmar** worked for record labels, a PR company, a merch company, travelled North America in a tour van, & did freelance writing for a number of top music publications. Now, Sari's time is spent handling business development & strategic partnerships while travelling the world. Sari has been invited to speak at international conferences, sit on the Toronto Music Advisory Council & the Toronto Austin Alliance Council, & in 2014 was awarded with an International Women Achievers' Award in the Entertainment category.



**Jodie Ferneyhough** is the founder and President of CCS Rights Management, a globally minded company rooted in the stability and business discipline of music rights management that extends to brand development and strategic management for content creators. Jodie is President of the Canadian Music Publishers Association, and sits on the Boards of the Canadian Musical Reproduction Rights Agency, & the International Confederation of Music Publishers. He is a founding patron to the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame and is the co-founder of the Unison Benevolent Fund.



**Steve Kassay**'s radio career has taken him through stations & various broadcasting companies in Toronto, Central & Southern Ontario, and nationally syndicated live shows - in production, programming, on-air, Music Director & Program Director capacities. Now VP Programming for Durham Radio Inc., Steve manages operations for KX-96, KX-947, 94.9 The Rock, CKDO and wave.fm. From Country to Rock to AC formats, the common denominators are a passion for radio, music & the performers whose style make it all happen.



**Allan Mamaril** is a business development and new media strategist with market specialties in music, entertainment, digital content distribution and social media. His experience over the course of two decades within the music industry has given him an innate ability to scope consumer trends and build customer-based communities, both at retail and in online and mobile applications. He is currently at hmv where he oversees the Canadian hmv digital business.



With a record-breaking single, a new lip gloss line, and multiple accolades and awards including her first JUNO nominations for Country Album of the Year and Breakthrough Artist of the Year, **Jess Moskaluke** (MDM Recordings Inc./Universal Music Canada) is dazzling the country music world. Fans can look forward to Jess' first national tour, as she opens for Chad Brownlee during the 2015 When The Lights Go Down Canadian tour. Jess primarily splits her time between her home-base in Saskatchewan and writing in Nashville.

# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



**Ralph Murphy** has been a successful songwriter for five decades consistently charting songs in an ever-changing musical environment. His success as a producer and publisher along with his widely acclaimed Murphy's Laws of Songwriting make him a member of a very small group of professionals who make a living at doing what they love to do. Some accolades bestowed upon Murphy include the North American Country Music Association International Hall of Fame, CMA's prestigious Jo Walker-Meador International Award & his induction into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame.



**Steve Parker** is the President of Media BemBem Inc. and Executive Producer of Canadian Country Spotlight. Prior to starting Media BemBem Inc. in 2009, Steve spent 24 years at the Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission working as a radio analyst and as a senior operations and policy analyst. During this time Steve also produced radio content for local Ottawa FM station CHEZ-FM. "Canadian Country Spotlight" now ranks as Canada's #1 independently produced & syndicated Canadian country music show heard on 42 stations across Canada each week.



A twenty-four year industry veteran **Samantha Pickard** has executed hundreds of public relations campaigns including the Rolling Stones, Taylor Swift, Dean Brody, Dolly Parton, HMV, Deric Ruttan and a variety of music labels and film companies. Her company - Strut Entertainment - founded in 2006, has become one of Canada's premier, boutique public relations and event firms, boasting a diverse array of clients from country, rock and pop acts, to lifestyle brands, actors and celebrity tastemakers including Perez Hilton.



**Derrick Ross** has been involved in many sectors of the music industry. First as a musician in the internationally acclaimed band The Spoons, before moving to the record industry side in 1984 where he became GM of Enigma Records Canada. Since then, Derrick's extensive career has included starting DMD Entertainment, a radio promotion & marketing company; starting FRE Records; holding the positions of VP of National Promotions & Media Relations at EMI Music Canada & VP of Contemporary Music at the Feldman Agency. All this before joining Slaight Music as President.



**Ashley Sperling** is currently Marketing Manager at MapleMusic Recordings/Fontana North, and teaches digital marketing at Harris Institute for the Arts. Ashley was previously manager of partnerships, merchandising and marketing for BlackBerry's North American music and video e-commerce storefronts. Her experience includes digital marketing for Universal Music Canada and Luminato Festival. Ashley has managed campaigns and projects for numerous artists including Hedley, Justin Bieber, Keshia Chanté, Drake, Jann Arden, Florence & The Machine, The Bros. Landreth, Royal Wood and more.



Since 1990, **Michelle Wright** has sold nearly two million albums, including two Double Platinum-certified and Gold albums. Michelle has twenty-five Top Ten radio hits, forty major music awards, including five Canadian Country Music Female Artist of the Year honors, and America's Academy of Country Music Award for Top New Female Artist. Michelle is a member of the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame and is currently enjoying the release of her new single "Laugh A Little".



**Michael Murray** has been Ontario Arts Council Popular & World Music and Arts Service Organizations Officer since 2007. He has led the OAC's outreach and support work, and has seen a four-fold increase in the number of applications from popular and world music artists and arts organizations.



**Dale Richard Peters** is owner, HR, payroll, tax collector, manager, talent approver and voice of reason at Dale Speaking Ltd. He also works with radio stations, personal managers and label artists, as well as seeks out business opportunities that make sense. By all means, he is Dale Speaking. His enthusiasm for music led him down a long road with sales, marketing and promotions in the majors (RCA and BMG to be exact) before founding Dale Speaking in 2004.



**Ted Roop** is the Director of Programming for Larche Communications Inc. and is also the host of the Canadian Country Spotlight. Ted has been named the Canadian Country Music Association's Music Director Of The Year and has also won the CCMA's Personality Of The Year Award. Ted has been in the radio business since 1998. He is very happily married with 2 children and lives just outside of Orillia, Ontario.



**Deric Ruttan** has a fair bit to celebrate these days. Ruttan's songs have been recorded by Tim McGraw, Eric Church, Dierks Bentley, Darius Rucker, Gary Allan and dozens of others, and he's been recognized repeatedly by the Canadian music industry with a variety of SOCAN (10) and CCMA Awards (2), and a JUNO nomination for Best Country Record for 2010's Sunshine. Then there's the success of Ruttan's latest album "Take The Week Off" which generated both Grammy and ACM nominations in the Songwriter of the Year categories.



**Mark Watts** is a program consultant for the Ontario Music Fund (OMDC), a program that is aimed at strengthening and stimulating growth in Ontario's music sector. Previous roles at OMDC over the past 6 years include administering various tax credit programs including the Ontario Film & Television Tax Credit and the Ontario Sound Recording Tax Credit & serving as the Team Lead for the Intellectual Property Development Fund. Prior to joining the OMDC, Mark played a pivotal role at FACTOR as GM, handling the day-to-day operations of the Foundation.

# Congratulations

to all the talented 2015 nominees!



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# SHOWCASE SCHEDULE

7:00pm  
Elyse Saunders



Originally born in Peterborough, soulful, edgy and inspiring **Elyse Saunders** is a multi-talented country singer-songwriter and Nashville recording artist currently breaking into Toronto's country music scene. Elyse was selected for a 2014 "Diamonds in the Rough" showcase at CCMA's Country Music Week in Edmonton, a contender in 2013 & 2014 for CMAO's Female Artist of the Year, a nominee for a Toronto Independent Music Award for Best Country Artist and recently awarded a Juried Factor Sound Recording Grant to create a sophomore album.

7:30pm  
James Barker Band



**James Barker Band** are a very tight knit group of accomplished musicians, who play consistently throughout Ontario at a host of bars, fairs and other reputable events. They provide an energetic and diverse show, playing a wide variety of musical styles, incorporating influences from classic country, new country, rock and pop. The band is currently wrapping up the recording of their first EP, which consists of 5 all original songs, which will be released and promoted in the spring of 2015.

8:00pm  
Instant Rivalry



Brother and sister duo, **Caleb and Megan Hutton** started playing together as **Instant Rivalry** (IR) while attending high school. The Highway - a track off their first album – remained on the independent charts for nine weeks, peaking at number two and received international radio play. Recent 1st place winners of The Next Country Music Star Competition, Instant Rivalry has landed a spot in the Havelock Country Jamboree line up with Big and Rich, Clint Black, Tanya Tucker, Brett Kissel and more.

8:30pm  
Katie Zuccarelli



Toronto-based **Katia Zuccarelli** is certainly an artist to watch for. With several of her songs being produced by Rob Wells, known for his work with Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez, Ariana Grande and the Backstreet Boys, Zuccarelli is positioning herself in good company. With an admirable online presence and strong followings on social media, Zuccarelli's star is on the rise.

9:00pm  
Andrew Hyatt



**Andrew Hyatt**, a small town kid hailing from Sudbury, is often known as the man with "Nickel bones and a Nashville soul". From working in the Sudbury Nickel mine, to writing songs and touring Canada in country and rock n' roll bands, Andrew released his debut radio single Love Drunk on July 15, 2014. With his debut album in the works, and the Canadian country music industry already buzzing about his early offerings Love Drunk and follow-up single Livin' The Dream, Andrew is set to make 2015 a landmark year in his promising music career.

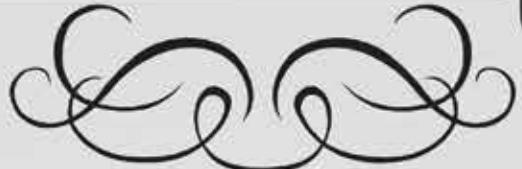
9:30pm  
Jessica Mitchell



Country-folk songstress **Jessica Mitchell** is, at heart, a storyteller – an open book. After years of experimenting and dabbling in the rock genre, her dream of becoming a rock 'n' roll queen quickly shifted towards the country maven she is today. Joining forces with Slaight Music and focusing on writing and crafting her richly unique sound has lead her to become country music's best kept secret.



# the lovelocks



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## CMAO Awards – Meet Your Host

# JASON MCCOY



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As a 25 year veteran of the entertainment industry, and two time CCMA Male Vocalist of the Year, Jason McCoy appears to be the king of reinvention. Growing up in the small town of Minesing Ontario, Jason admired the well-rounded artistry of classic entertainers Roger Miller and Johnny Cash, to Merle Haggard and Glen Campbell.

Armed with a guitar and a dream, Jason set out at the age of 19 to follow his own path to stardom.

As a Country Music Artist, he's racked up multiple CCMA and CMA awards along with a Gold album. As creator and front man of the highest selling band in Canadian Country Music history, The Road Hammers, Jason took on the Country Rock genre and guided the band to unprecedented success throughout Canada and the United States, picking up a platinum album, CCMA Band of the Year award, and a Juno along the way....but music is only part of the story....

Ever engaging and entertaining, Jason has become a popular host on many fronts. From voicing the nationally syndicated Country Radio show 'Sounds Canadian' (2007-2010), to stepping in front of the camera as host of Smashtown (CMT Canada/USA), and two seasons of CMT's Pet Heroes (2010/2011).

The release of the album 'Everything', marked Jason's first solo studio album since 2001, and spawned the top 10 hit, 'She's Good for Me', as well as the title track 'I'd Still Have Everything'.

Equally comfortable behind the mic, or in front of the camera, Jason McCoy has reinvented himself time and again to become a bonafide all round 'entertainer'. Jason continues to write and record music, and prizes the time he spends with his wife and two children at their home farm, just two miles from the small town of Minesing where it all began.



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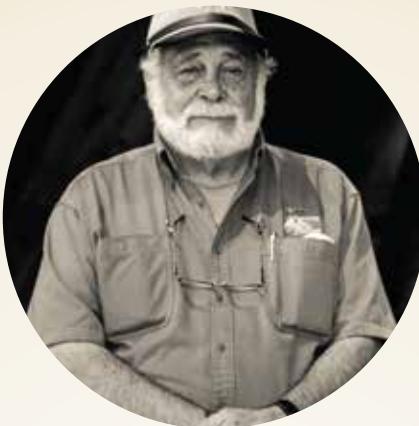
## Canadian Country Music Association Award

The CCMA is responsible for our nation's most prestigious honour for country music: the CCMA Award. We also take great pride in managing the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame and CCMA Awards of Achievement. In addition, the CCMA organizes Canada's largest annual celebration of Canadian country music, Country Music Week – bringing the prominent event to Canadian cities from coast to coast – this year in Halifax. Through industry events; national programs, including the CCMA Discovery Program; regional association support; networking opportunities; industry research and promotion of our members, the CCMA works to educate, elevate and celebrate Canadian country music.



# THE 2015 CMAO IMPACT AWARD

presented to



## ED LESLIE *and* PAULA CHOPIK



The CMAO Impact Award was established to honour and recognize an artist, group, industry personality or company/organization that has left an enduring and indelibly positive footprint on the landscape of country music in Ontario.

The recipient is chosen by the CMAO Board of Directors and this year, we couldn't be more honoured to present this year's award to Ed (Edjo) Leslie, founder of Havelock Country Jamboree along with his long-time partner, Paula Chopik.

Ed (Edjo) Leslie – Founder of the Havelock Country Jamboree

Ed Leslie is a native Torontonian. He was a young man hanging out in Yorkville Village – during the “dawn of the Canadian music scene” – when he recognized that the whole music industry was about to explode! And he was going to be a part of it!!

He owned and operated the “Motorcycle Factory” – a bike shop on Danforth Avenue. He incorporated his business called “Edjo Productions Ltd.” to include “the production of musical concerts” and a “rental” business to provide props, cars & extras to the fast rising business of the film industry. He became the “go to” person in both industries!

He was involved in the the 1969 Toronto Rock & Roll Revival Concert at Varsity Stadium where John Lennon, Yoko Ono, Eric Clapton and Jim Morrison & the Doors performed for the first time in Canada. He travelled North America extensively on different tours promoting all kinds of music, meeting many rock & movie stars. He lived an incredible life but there's no way to outline it all in such a short space....

Ultimately, Ed retired from Toronto to his cottage in the Kawarthas, located near Havelock with his long-time girlfriend, Paula in 1990. Retire? No way – he decided the area needed a “Country Music” venue.....but we were in the country! - Where would they stay? Hence, the “Camping” aspect entered the mix, land was purchased – he built it, and they came!! And with Paula’s background at Provincial Camp Grounds, this gave her the knowledge and experience to implement the logistics for our campers - everything from ticketing, permits, entry etc. - amazing considering the need for that structure at our event. Who knew what her future entailed.

The Havelock Country Jamboree held its first show in 1990 and 26 years later Ed has booked over 650 bands! Always looking for new & interesting talent Ed has a passion for helping the newcomers get their shot! Johnny Reid is a perfect example.

And so he continues this day to search out the up & comers, and still seeks the icons of yesterday's country music.....and also those artists with a “different” genre of music interjecting it between the old and the new. You never know who's going to show up at the Jamboree! Hope to see you there!

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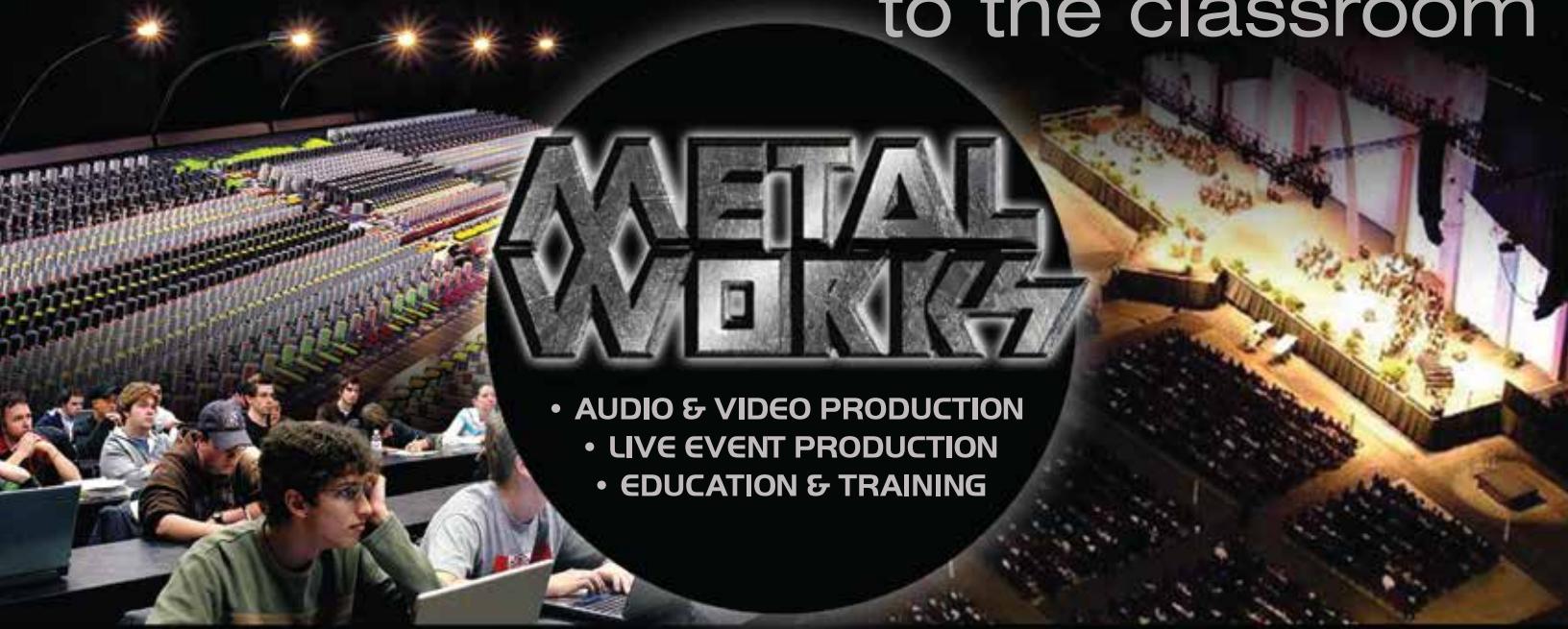




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# AWARDS PERFORMERS



Autumn Hill



Jason Blaine



Lindsay Broughton



Leah Daniels



Russell deCarle Trio



Tim Hicks



Beverley Mahood



Jason McCoy



Deric Ruttan



Small Town Pistols



Tebey



The Western Swing Authority

# AWARDS NOMINEES

## SINGLE OF THE YEAR

*Sponsored by*



- Jason Blaine** – Layin' Your Love On Me (eOne Music Canada)  
**Tim Hicks** – Here Comes The Thunder (Open Road Recordings)  
**Beverley Mahood** – Sunday I'm An Angel (Spin Music)  
**Runaway Angel** – Our Story (Southbound Records)  
**Small Town Pistols** – I Only Smoke When I Drink (604 Records)  
**Tebey** – Now I Do (Road Angel Entertainment)

## SONGWRITER{S} OF THE YEAR

*Sponsored by*



- Jason Blaine/Deric Ruttan** (Layin' Your Love On Me – Jason Blaine)  
**Leah Daniels/Beverley Mahood/Bruce Wallace** (Go Back – Leah Daniels)  
**Todd Clark/Tim Hicks/Gavin Slate** (Here Comes The Thunder – Tim Hicks)  
**Ann Chaplin/Cadence Grace/Stacy Zegers** (Our Story – Runaway Angel)  
**Alyssa Bonagura/Patricia Conroy/Amanda Wilkinson/Tyler Wilkinson** (I Only Smoke When I Drink – Small Town Pistols)  
**Patricia Conroy/Danick Dupelle/Tebey** (Now I Do – Tebey)

## MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Sponsored by*



- Jason Blaine** (eOne Music Canada)  
**Marshall Dane** (Awesome Country)  
**Tim Hicks** (Open Road Recordings)  
**Jason McCoy** (Open Road Recordings)  
**Deric Ruttan** (Black T Records)  
**Tebey** (Road Angel Entertainment)

## ALBUM OF THE YEAR

*Sponsored by*



- Lindsay Broughton** – Take Me There (Curve Music)  
**Tim Hicks** – 5:01 (Open Road Recordings)  
**Kira Isabella** – Caffeine & Big Dreams (Sony Music Canada)  
**Lindi Ortega** – Tin Star (Last Gang Entertainment)  
**Tebey** – Two (Road Angel Entertainment)  
**The Lovelocks** – The Lovelocks (MDM Recordings Inc.)

## FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

*Sponsored by*



- Genevieve Fisher** (Independent)  
**Kira Isabella** (Sony Music Canada)  
**Brea Lawrenson** (Independent)  
**Beverley Mahood** (Spin Music)  
**Tianna Woods** (Independent)  
**Michelle Wright** (Savannah Music)

## GROUP OR DUO OF THE YEAR

*Sponsored by*



- Autumn Hill** (Wax Records)  
**Blackwell** (Eating Crow Records)  
**Runaway Angel** (Southbound Records)  
**Small Town Pistols** (604 Records)  
**The Stellas** (Universal Music Canada)  
**The Western Swing Authority** (eOne Music Canada)

# AWARDS NOMINEES

## Roots Artist or Group of the Year

Sponsored by



- Lindi Ortega (Last Gang Entertainment)
- The Abrams Brothers (Independent)
- The Good Family (Latent Recordings)
- The Heartbroken (Universal Music Canada)
- The Lovelocks (MDM Recordings Inc.)
- The Western Swing Authority (eOne Music Canada)

## Rising Star Award

Sponsored by



- Leah Daniels (Spin Music)
- Riki Knox (Independent)
- Brea Lawrenson (Independent)
- Northern Roads (Independent)
- Brooklyn Roebuck (Independent)
- Runaway Angel (Southbound Records)
- Tianna Woods (Independent)

## Music Video of the Year

Sponsored by



- Jason Blaine - Layin' Your Love On Me (eOne Music Canada)
- Lindsay Broughton - Take Me There (Curve Music)
- Tim Hicks - She Don't Drink Whiskey Anymore (Open Road Recordings)
- Kira Isabella - Quarterback (Sony Music Canada)
- Small Town Pistols - I Only Smoke When I Drink (604 Records)
- Tebey - Now I Do (Road Angel Entertainment)

## Record Producer of the Year

Sponsored by



- Carey Blackwell/Joe Turner for Redneck Style by Blackwell (single)
- Sam Ellis for Go Back by Leah Daniels (single)
- Jason Barry for Night In Night Out by Genevieve Fisher (single) and One Of Us Is Lying by The Western Swing Authority (single)
- Bob Funk/Beverley Mahood for Sunday I'm An Angel by Beverley Mahood (album)
- Danick Dupelle/Tebey for Two by Tebey (album)
- Peter Linseman for Hit Me With Your Best Shot by Kate Todd (single)

## Radio Station of the Year -MAJOR MARKET-

Sponsored by



- CHKX - KX 94.7 FM - Hamilton
- CICX - KICX 106 FM - Orillia
- CJKX - KX 96 FM - Oshawa
- CKBY - Country 101.1 FM - Ottawa
- CKDK - Country 104 FM - London/Woodstock
- CKXC - Country 93.5 FM - Kingston

## Radio Station of the Year -SECONDARY MARKET-

Sponsored by



- CFCO - Country 92.9 FM - Chatham
- CFRM - The Island FM - Manitoulin
- CJDL - Country 107.3 FM - Tillsonburg
- CKAT - Country 600 - North Bay
- CKNX - AM 920 - Wingham
- CKYC - Country 93 FM - Owen Sound

# Nominee Bios



**The Abrams Brothers**, barely into their twenties, have been touring for over a decade. Coming from a strong tradition of Bluegrass & Americana music, they have created a signature sound that brings Country, Rock & Pop all together in one place. They are currently working on their fifth studio album with Juno award winning & Grammy nominated producer Gavin Brown, who helped launch the careers of Three Days Grace, & Billy Talent, and produced records for Lady Gaga, The Barenaked Ladies, The Tragically Hip, and Metric.



On their debut album, *Favourite Mistake*, **Autumn Hill** tells compelling stories of loss and love from two distinct perspectives, and build soaring pop on a strong Nashville foundation. Tareya Green and Mike Robins made numerous trips to Nashville, working with local songwriters & recording with producer Dave Thomson (Lights, Kalan Porter, Tyler Kyte) at the legendary Blackbird Studios. Returning to Toronto, they worked with producer Tawgs Salter (Josh Groban, Lights, Walk Off The Earth) to deliver radio favourites "Anything at All" and "Can't Keep Waiting".



**Victoria Banks'** list of accolades as an artist is long. She was 2009's most nominated female artist in Canadian country music, the 2010 CCMA Female Artist of the Year & toured with superstars Reba McEntire, Wynonna Judd, Lonestar, Randy Travis & Johnny Reid. But songwriting is her first love. Now a staff songwriter at Nashville's RareSpark Media Group, Victoria has penned ASCAP, SOCAN, CCMA and Covenant-award-winning songs for over 50 artists.



**Jason Barry** is a multi CCMA/JUNO/CMAO award winning producer/songwriter/musician and the owner of the award winning BarryTone Studios. Jason has produced many top ten hits for people such as Dean Brody, Jason Blaine, Aaron Lines, Tebey, Charlie Major, Terri Clark and Michelle Wright. Jason has recorded everyone from Taylor Swift to Lyle Lovett and has been the musical director for several television/movie productions.



**Blackwell** is a country vocal trio fronted by singer/songwriter Braiden Turner along with singer/songwriter/guitarist Carey Blackwell and his brother Dan Blackwell. All three are from musical families and their deep musical roots are what the band draws from to write, create and perform. Early on in their career they created their own recording and publishing company called Eating Crow Records and in July 2014, Blackwell released their first single, Redneck Style, to radio. Their publishing catalog of songs is now well over three hundred and growing as is their fanbase.



**Carey Blackwell** is a producer, guitarist and songwriter who has been a musician his entire life. In 2010 he joined forces with Braiden Turner and Dan Blackwell to form the group Blackwell. As the group focused on their original songs and repertoire they created the Blackwell "sound"; rich vocal harmonies, blistering guitar solos, and unforgettable songs. Carey and Joe Turner founded Eating Crow Records in 2011 and they produced and released their first single for Blackwell, Redneck Style, to Canadian radio in 2014.



Pembroke native **Jason Blaine** has been at the top of the Canadian country music charts on both radio and CMT Canada with more than a dozen TOP 10 singles including the 2012 CCMA Single of the Year They Don't Make Em Like That Anymore. Having just finished recording his sixth full length album set for release in the Fall of 2015, Jason Blaine's latest single Country Side just came off a four week run as the #1 Canadian song at Country Radio nationally.



Nashville native **Alyssa Bonagura**'s childhood was spent on a tour bus with her parents Kathie Baillie and Michael Bonagura, RCA's hit country duo "Baillie and the Boys." She has recorded a duet with Kenny Rogers, toured the US & the UK opening for Ringo Starr and The Who, and has performed at the Queen's variety show. She's a graduate of Paul McCartney's Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, and her song "I Make My Own Sunshine" was featured in a Lowe's home and garden commercial. She's penned songs for Jana Kramer, Jo Dee Messina, Jessie James Decker, and Small Town Pistols.



Early career highlights for **Lindsay Broughton** include being featured as a SOCAN artist of the month, eight songs featured in the hit CBC show Heartland, and a 2013 Country Music Association of Ontario Award for Rising Star. She's a regular at Boots & Hearts festival, the CCMA, and CMAO Awards show, and has shared the stage with country's heavy hitters Emerson Drive and Gord Bamford. Her self-titled EP in 2012 rose to #1 as the top selling Canadian Country album in Canada. Her debut full length album, Take Me There - the result of multiple years worth of development, field experience, and sheer grit - was released in November 2014.

# Nominee Bios



**Todd Clark** is a Canadian award-winning songwriter and musician, best known for co-writing the 2x Platinum-selling hit single, "Gone, Gone, Gone" for American Idol winner, Phillip Phillips. In 2015, he's already penned singles for Saints of Valory, Elle King, Tim Hicks, Shawn Hook, Cold Creek County, and Wes Mack.



**Patricia Conroy** was raised in a strong musical environment, influenced by her mother's Maritime country background and her father's Irish roots. Patricia hooked up with like-minded musicians in Vancouver in the late 80s and eventually entered and won a Battle of the Bands contest. The fruits of this hard labour would eventually result in Patricia being named the Canadian Country Music Association's Female Vocalist of the Year for 1994 and garner 'Album of the Year' status for her sophomore release.



Born in Southern Ontario, **Marshall Dane** grazed on a rich fix of music. From the country sounds of his preacher dad who taught him to play 'The Farmer's Song' on guitar, to his mum who played piano in the evenings to his four sisters and two brothers. When it comes to cooking up a tune, Marshall admits that his parents' spiritual upbringing permeates his writing, with themes of love, home and kindness appearing throughout.



Born in Uxbridge, Ontario, **Leah Daniels** is a woman with purpose. Leah prides herself on the effortless connection she's able to establish with her audiences. This past year, she released two singles, received her 2nd CCMA Award Nomination and broke over a million views on YouTube. "Go Back", the first single from her upcoming album, achieved "Top-Twenty Status" at radio and CMT. Leah is now at radio and video with "Dream Without You". Her debut album is scheduled for mid-2015 ... a sign that Leah Daniels is on her way!



**Russell deCarle Trio** is a founding member, vocalist, bassist, and contributing songwriter to the multi-platinum country-roots group Prairie Oyster. Russell's first solo project, Under The Big Big Sky was released in 2010 and is a distinct departure from the sound of the band. Russell is an in-demand guest vocalist, a member of the CCMA Hall of Fame and the SOCAN Hall of Honour, a two-time recipient of SOCAN Song of the Year, and has won multiple Junos and CCMA's. He is currently working on a new studio album of original material set for release in 2015.



**Danick Dupelle**, is a 25-year veteran of the country music industry & an original member of Emerson Drive garnering several awards including the CCMA's Group of the Year, the ACM Award for Top New Vocal Group & a Grammy nomination. When not on the road, he is in his Nashville studio working with the likes of Tebey, Beverley Mahood, & Patricia Conroy. Dupelle has written a variety of hit songs, including "Sunday I'm an Angel", "Now I Do", and "My Kind Of Crazy". His production credits include several Emerson Drive albums and Tebey's "Wake Me Up" and "Now I Do".



To date, **Sam Ellis** has landed cuts with country artists including Leah Daniels, Tebey, Jesse Labelle, The Band Perry and Hunter Hayes. He produced and co-wrote Canadian artist Tebey's break out hit "Somewhere In The Country" which became the most played single on Canadian Country Radio in 2013. Lately, Sam is credited for producing Leah Daniels' radio hit "Go Back" and Hunter Hayes' "Dream Girl" which found a spot on the Nicholas Sparks film "The Best Of Me".



**Genevieve Fisher** has been performing since the age of 2. A London Ontario native she has begun to hit her stride on the Canadian Country Music Scene. Since her performance in the New Artist Showcase at the 2012 CCMA's in Saskatoon, Genevieve has achieved 4 top 50 songs on Canadian National radio. Most recently, she has teamed up with award winning producer Jason Barry, resulting in her most successful radio release to date, Night In Night Out. With this arrangement continuing into 2015, stay tuned for more exciting music from Genevieve Fisher.



Originally from Saskatchewan, **Bob Funk** graduated with a Jazz Performance major from Grant McEwen College in Edmonton, then promptly took a left turn to pursue a career in country music. Currently based in Nashville, the guitar player/producer has been focused mostly on producing including Patricia Conroy's latest album Talking to Myself, co-producing a record with Kevin Churko for country artist, Mike Gouche, & currently doing artist development production work in Nashville for various artists.

# Nominee Bios



**The Good Family** band took root when brothers Travis and Dallas Good invited their parents to join their band The Sadies for a musical romp through Europe. The band has since blossomed into a sprawling collaboration of two generations of Canadian music royalty, including members of two Juno Award winning acts - The Good Brothers and The Sadies. The resulting debut album with the tight familial sound is an eclectic blend of country, bluegrass and folk rock.



**The Heartbroken** (Blake Manning, Peter Fusco, Damhnait Doyle and Stuart Cameron) had been friends for years and knew that the best times they ever had were sitting around the kitchen table, having a few drinks and playing songs, so they decided to write their own, go out, play and well, drink some more. Whether they're on guitar, piano, mandolin, drums, banjo, bass or monosynth, it doesn't matter who's playing what, they are lungs to heart and heart to blood.



Two time JUNO Award nominee and 2014 CCMA Award winner, **Tim Hicks** is one of the biggest breakout Canadian country music acts seen this decade. He boasts five Top 10 singles, nearly 3.5 million YouTube hits, multiple award nominations, and 3 GOLD-certified hits. Hicks' sophomore album 5:01 debuted at #1 on the SoundScan Country Album chart (August/14), making this his first #1 country album and paving the way for an undeniably huge year in 2015.



Ottawa-born **Kira Isabella** is Canada's brightest young Country Music star touring with the likes of Carrie Underwood and Terri Clark. Last fall, Kira released her second album, Caffeine & Big Dreams, which truly underscores Kira's personal and professional growth as an artist. The first single "Quarterback," is a bold and powerful track that demonstrates her maturation, and also delivers her signature sassy style on many of the songs, including the latest single "Gone Enough."



**Riki Knox** is a singer, songwriter and entertainer whose unique sound, high energy shows, and true country lyrics have seen her blazing a new trail in the Country music scene. Fearlessly representing her brand of edgy, upbeat, fun and relatable music, Riki has a style that is authentically her own.



**Brea Lawrenson**'s musical career has taken her across Canada to the US and to London UK. Travelling frequently to Nashville to write and record, Brea has just completed her #Brealieve released May 1 2015. Five songs from this CD have been released to Canadian Country radio and all charted in the top 100. 2015 holds some great shows for Brea...opening for Brett Kissel, Ottawa's Bluesfest, opening for Tom Cochrane as well as a number of regional fairs and festivals.



Working 15 years as owner of Music Mentor Productions, a CCMA nominated recording studio & Independent Record Label, **Peter Linseman** has worn every hat in the music industry. He's also managing the career of TV Star/country artist Kate Todd. Peter is a founding director of CMAO, Building Bands Canada, SIVO Foundation and Heritage Canada funded Hometown Music Council.



2014 CCMA Discovery Series winners & MDM Recordings/Universal Music recording artists **The Lovelocks** is a female alt-country duo comprised of Ali Raney and Zoe Neuman. Their current EP featuring the singles "Dance" & "Teardrop Tattoo" rapidly climbed the charts, reaching #2 on the iTunes country charts. The video for their first single "Born To Love", from their new album was just released on CMT, & will be released to radio on June 1, 2015. The duo's summer tour will include an appearance at Boots & Hearts.



**Beverley Mahood** is a dynamic entertainer, highly recognized musically for several solo albums and also for the David Foster produced trio, "Lace". TV shows (Pick A Puppy), movie roles (Changing Seasons), songwriting credits (Celine Dion), exclusive performances (G8 World Leaders, CDN Troops, Royals), and a commitment to community (2014 Slaight Music Humanitarian Award) all add to Beverley's unique entertainment package. Born in Belfast, Beverley is a proud Canadian.

# Nominee Bios



As a 25-year veteran of the entertainment industry, two time CCMA Male Vocalist of the Year and frontman of The Road Hammers, **Jason McCoy** appears to be the king of reinvention. Armed with a guitar and a dream, Jason set out at the age of 19 to follow his own path to stardom.



**Northern Roads** formed in 2013. The band consists of the McCartney Brothers, Mitch (Guitar, Vocals), Matt (Percussion, Guitar, Vocals), along with friends Connor Allen (Lead Vocal), and Rob Almeida (Guitar,Vocals). They do a variety of covers as well and are very similar to Mumford & Sons and Lumineers. In 2014 Northern Roads recorded their first album at Phase One Recording Studio in Toronto engineered by Dajaun Martineau, and caught the attention of 5 Time CCMA booking agent award winner Catherine Faint who recently signed the guys to their artist management division.



For years, country crooner **Lindi Ortega** had made her living on the road, playing a mix of country ballads and revved-up foot stompers in honky-tonks, motorcycle bars, tattoo festivals, rock clubs, and everywhere in between. That journey to reach her goals – and the sights, struggles, and characters she's met along the way – provide the inspiration for her fourth album, *Faded Gloryville* – out August 7th on The Grand Tour; a new imprint under Last Gang Records.



**Brooklyn Roebuck** is currently collaborating with multi award winning producer Jason Barry from Barrytone Studios on her latest EP. This young, energetic and confident talent has already accomplished a great deal. From winning the nationwide televised talent competition YTV's The Next Star Season 5, to performing on CMT's Gift of Giving together with Beverley Mahood, The Stellas, Lennon and Maisy, Randy Bachman, and The Trews, opening for Michelle Wright on her Canadian tour and performing at many of Canada's biggest music festivals.



**Deric Ruttan** has a fair bit to celebrate these days. Ruttan's songs have been recorded by Tim McGraw, Eric Church, Dierks Bentley, Darius Rucker, Gary Allan and dozens of others, and he's been recognized repeatedly by the Canadian music industry with a variety of SOCAN (10) and CCMA Awards (2), and a JUNO nomination for Best Country Record for 2010's Sunshine. Then there's the success of Ruttan's latest album "Take The Week Off" which generated both Grammy and ACM nominations in the Songwriter of the Year categories.



**Runaway Angel** is a fresh female country trio consisting of three longtime friends and solo artists- Ann Chaplin, Stacey Zegers and Cadence Grace. Their first year together included appearances at Boots and Hearts, Music in the Fields and the CCMA Coast to Coast Showcase in Edmonton. With their debut radio single 'Run Angel Run' currently gaining traction across Canada, this exciting new country trio is preparing to release their debut EP and is ready to deliver on the buzz they picked up early on.



**Gavin Slate** is an artist, songwriter and producer hailing from Toronto, ON. He also spends time writing songs in Nashville, TN. He has had song placements in television shows including Saving Hope, Degrassi and an upcoming placement in ABC's Rookie Blue. Gavin has several major label cuts to be released in 2015 in addition to recording/releasing his own solo record.

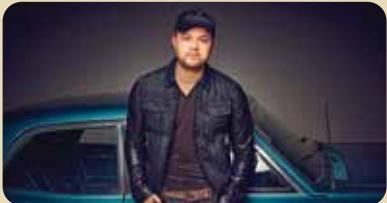


Recognized by the Canadian Country Music Association as Group of the Year (2014), **Small Town Pistols** is the passion project of brother-sister duo Tyler and Amanda Wilkinson. Producing four hit singles with their first album, it's clear to see that this Grammy-nominated team shows no signs of slowing down. With four 2015 CMAO Award nominations, the band will soon take to the stage across the country in promotion of their upcoming album *Pistology* (May 26).



**The Stellas**, Brad and Marylynne are singer-songwriters from Ontario. The autobiographical title track from their second record, *It Wouldn't Be This*, speaks to the married couple's journey from working as janitors in small-town Ontario to now living out their dream of making music together. The Stellas received the CCMA Award for Duo Of The Year and Video Of The Year (2013) and have toured with Zac Brown Band, Johnny Reid and Terri Clark.

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The past two years have been an incredible time for artist/songwriter **Tebey**. Originally from Peterborough he now calls Nashville home. He has had the most played Canadian country single for the past two years - "Wake Me Up" (2014 Nielsen BDS) from his current album TWO and "Somewhere In The Country" (2013 Mediabase) from his debut album "The Wait" and his recent singles "Now I Do" and "Wake Me Up" have over half a million views on YouTube.



**Joe Turner** is a producer, musician, writer and arranger who has pursued a successful career in the music business by creating sound-tracks for film and television, videos and commercials. For over 20 years, Joe was the music producer for Wayne Rostad's long-running national CBC television show, On the Road Again. Joe and Carey Blackwell founded Eating Crow Records in 2011. They produced and released their first single for Blackwell, Redneck Style in 2014.



**The Western Swing Authority** was recently named Western Swing Group of the Year at the Academy of Western Artist Awards in Dallas Texas, and is also nominated for Group of the Year and Roots Artists of the Year at the 2015 Country Music Association of Ontario Awards. Comprised of a "who's who" in the Canadian country scene, WSA's third CD Now Playing is available through eOne Music Canada and features the single Sweet Harriet.



**Bruce Wallace** is an Oklahoma native with an accomplished career as a musician and songwriter. He has performed with superstars such as Wynonna, Kid Rock, Shelby Lynne, Mindy Smith, and David Gates (of Bread). He has also written with hit songwriters Liz Rose, Randy Bachman, Rachel Proctor, Dave Berg, and Victoria Banks. Most recently his music can be heard on releases by Trace Adkins ("Damn You Bubba"), Dierks Bentley ("Gonna Die Young"), Montgomery Gentry ("So Called Life"), and Katie Armiger.



**Tianna Woods** is a multi-talented country recording artist, musician, actress, dancer and performer. She has headlined and performed in countless fairs, festivals and jamborees in Canada, the U.S. and as far away as Japan. Tianna has released seven national singles to Country Radio and two holiday singles. She is currently touring with her "It's About Country Music and Then Some" show which incorporates her vocal, dance, music theatre and musical instrument background.



Since 1990, **Michelle Wright** has sold nearly two million albums, including two Double Platinum-certified and Gold albums. Michelle has twenty-five Top Ten radio hits, forty major music awards, including five Canadian Country Music Female Artist of the Year honors, and America's Academy of Country Music Award for Top New Female Artist. Michelle is a member of the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame and is currently enjoying the release of her new single "Laugh A Little".

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