



FOXWOODS HOSTS THE FIRST NATIVE AMERICAN MUSICIAN AWARDS

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American Indians celebrated the sounds of their culture Sunday night during the first Native American Music Awards at Foxwoods Resort Casino. Wayne Newton hosted the musical night at the Mashantucket Pequots' casino in southeastern Connecticut. More than 150 musicians were nominated for awards in 20 categories, including Artist of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Rap Artist and Best Traditional Album, with elements such as use of drums, rattles and bells. The award for Best Female Artist went to Joanne Shenandoah, of Oneida descent. Shenandoah also picked up an award for Best Children's Album. Best Male Artist went to R. Carlos Nakai, of Navajo-Ute heritage, who continues to use the traditional Indian flute in his music. American Warriors: Songs for Indian Veterans, a compilation of powwow songs dedicated to war veterans, received Record of the Year honors. The album features performances by six tribes: Ojibway (Chippewa), Menominee, Blackfeet, Hochunk (Winnebago), Kiowa, and Lakota (Sioux). The Lifetime Achievement Award went to Robbie Robertson, a Mohawk descendent, who helped open the door to the music world for American Indians. Among those receiving special honors was Jimi Hendrix, the pioneering rock guitarist with Cherokee blood, who was the first to be inducted into the Native American Music Awards Hall of Fame. Votes were collected from the general public and a panel of 100 insiders in Indian music.

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