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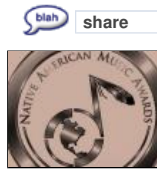
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News

Charts / Awards (2009-10-12)

Winners Of Eleventh Annual Native American Music Awards Announced

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (Top40 Charts/ NAMA) - The Eleventh Annual Native American Music Awards (N.A.M.A.) was held at the Seneca Niagara Hotel & Casino in Niagara Falls in front of a packed house that featured consistently outstanding live [music](#) performances, over 30 music category presentations along with an emotionally charged Hall of Fame induction in honor of the late [Ritchie Valenz](#).



Taking this year's top honors are; [Joanne Shenandoah](#) & [Michael Bucher](#)'s [Bitter Tears Sacred Ground](#) for Best Compilation, [Jana Mashonee](#)'s rendition of [Sam Cooke](#)'s, [A Change Is Gonna Come](#) with [Derek Miller](#) for [Song](#)/Single of the Year, [Jan Michael Looking Wolf](#) for Artist of the Year, [Skylar Wolf](#) for Debut Artist of the Year, [Will and Lil Jess](#) for Debut Duo/Group of the Year, [Kevin Locke](#)'s [Earth Gift](#) for Record of the Year, and [American Idol](#) Semi-finalist [Charly Lowry](#) for Best Video for her long form video featuring her song, [Movin On](#).

Hosted with grace, class, style, humor and even professional music talent by actor [Gil Birmingham](#), others on hand at the Awards ceremony included: [Shane Yellowbird](#) who won for Best Country Recording, [Atsiaktonkie](#) who won for Best Folk Recording, Flutist of the Year [JJ Kent](#), [Wind Spirit](#) Drum whose recording [Amazing Grace](#) took Best Gospel Inspirational Recording, [Thunder Hawk Singers](#) for Best Historical Recording, [Gabriel Ayala](#) for Best Instrumental Recording, [Bryan Akipa](#) For Best Male Artist, [Eagle & Hawk](#) for Best Rock Recording, [Rezhogs](#) for Best Rap Hip Hop Recording, [Oshkii Giizhik Singers](#) for Best Traditional Recording, [Michael Searching Bear](#) for Best World Music Recording, and [Michael Brant DeMaria](#) for the Native [Heart](#) Award.

Other nominees in attendance included; [Benjamin Grimes](#), [Kelly Montijo Fink](#), [Jackie Tice](#), [Mike Serna](#), [Pappy Johns Band](#), [Jimmy Shendo](#), [Augusta Ceconi Bates](#), [Douglas Blue Feather](#), [Yvonne St Germaine](#) and [Donna Kay](#) who all participated in the program.

Capping the evening's ceremonies were consistently transcendent and flawless performances beginning with drum group [Young Gunz](#), [Dallas Washkahat](#) and [Fawn Wood](#), classical guitarist [Gabriel Ayala](#), [Eagle & Hawk](#), soprano opera singer [Jennifer M Stevens](#) accompanied by composer [Augusta Ceconi-Bates](#), [Joanne Shenandoah](#) and [Michael Bucher](#) who performed material from their award-winning recording, Lifetime Achievement Recipient [Stevie Salas](#) pumped it up with original [Pearl Jam](#) drummer [Dave Abbruzesse](#) and bass player [TM Stevens](#) of [Shocka Zooloo](#) and the late [James Brown](#), and a spectacular rendition of [Stevie Ray Vaughn](#)'s [Pride & Joy](#) by the show's host [Gil Birmingham](#) and nominee [Jimmy Wolf](#). [Darryl Tonemah](#) gave a rising performance in his trademarked barefeet, [Jana](#)'s riveting vocals were unmatched, [Shane Yellowbird](#) showcased material for his upcoming [Grand Ole Opry](#) appearance, and new artist [Jace Martin](#) captured the audience with his [Ritchie Valenz](#) tribute song, [We Belong Together](#).

[Tommy Allsup](#), original guitarist of the [Buddy Holly](#) band who flipped a coin with [Ritchie](#)

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Valens for the last seat on their ill-fated plane, bought the audience to tears as Allsup, who became emotional and choked up as he recapped and retold the story of his tour mate [Ritchie](#) Valens and his tragic end.

Following the Hall of [Fame](#) induction and Ritchie's sister, Irma's acceptance speech, Tommy Allsup, who is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, joined Ritchie's little brother, Mario, and his group, The Backyard Blues Band, who rocked the house and performed a special extended rendition of 'La Bamba'.

N.A.M.A. and its Advisory Board contingency would like to congratulate all the winners and nominees and proudly honors these legendary performers and songwriters who have been leading forces in the Native American [music community](#).

The Native American [Music](#) Awards & Association, founded in 1998, is the world's leading membership-based association consisting of music industry professionals directly involved in the recording and distribution of traditional and contemporary Native American [Music](#) initiatives. The growing success of the Awards show now features over one hundred and fifty nominees annually, with at least one third of those nominees being new artists. For the past eleven years the Awards has set industry standards for professional Native American musicians who are gaining greater acceptance and exposure from both national and international audiences.

See below for a complete list of winners

ELEVENTH ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Jan Michael Looking Wolf
The Looking Wolf Project

BEST BLUES RECORDING

Dancing In The Rain
Graywolf Blues Band

BEST COMPILATION RECORDING

Bitter [Tears](#) Sacred Ground
Joanne Shenandoah & Michael Bucher

BEST COUNTRY RECORDING

Life Is [Calling](#) My Name
Shane Yellowbird

DEBUT ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Skylar Wolf
Devil's Son

DEBUT DUO / GROUP OF THE YEAR

Will & Lil Jess
Reservation Nights

BEST FEMALE ARTIST

Joy Harjo
Winding Through The [Milky](#) Way

BEST FOLK RECORDING

Four Wolves Prophecy
Atsiaktonkie

FLUTIST OF THE YEAR

JJ Kent
Ta Te' Topa Win

BEST GOSPEL/INSPIRATIONAL RECORDING

Amazing Grace
Lenape Spirits
Wind [Spirit](#) Drum

GROUP OF THE YEAR

Brule'
Lakota Piano II

BEST HISTORICAL RECORDING

Native Pride
[Thunder](#) Hawk Singers

BEST INSTRUMENTAL RECORDING

Tango!
Gabriel Ayala

BEST MALE ARTIST
Bryan Akipa
[Songs](#) From The Black Hills

BEST NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH RECORDING
Peyote Ways
Primeaux & Mike

BEST NEW AGE RECORDING
Deep Within
Tony Redhouse

BEST POP RECORDING
Na Unu Nahai (Shape Shifter)
Apryl Allen

BEST POW WOW RECORDING
Band of Brothers
Midnite Express

BEST PRODUCER
Kelly Parker
Out Of The [Blue](#)

BEST RAP / HIP HOP RECORDING
All Day All Night
Rezhogs

RECORD OF THE YEAR
Earth Gift
Kevin Locke

BEST ROCK RECORDING
Sirensong
Eagle & Hawk

SONG/SINGLE OF THE YEAR
[A](#) Change Is Gonna Come
Jana Mashonee

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR
Samantha Crain
The Confiscation: [A](#) Musical Novella

BEST SPOKEN WORD RECORDING
The Great Story From The Sacred Book
Rain Song/Terry & Darlene Wildman

BEST TRADITIONAL RECORDING
It Is [A](#) New Day
Oshkii Giizhik Singers

BEST VIDEO
Movin On
Charly Lowry & [Aaron](#) Locklear

BEST WORLD MUSIC RECORDING
Ceremony
Michael Searching Bear

NATIVE HEART
Michael Brant DeMaria
Siyotanka

Lifetime Achievement
Stevie Salas

LIVING LEGEND
Tommy Allsup

HALL OF FAME
[Ritchie](#) Valens

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