



## First Native American Music Awards to be at Foxwoods Resorts Casino

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In a monumental move to recognize outstanding music contributions from ancient and contemporary Native America, the Native American Music Awards (N.A.M.A.) is proud to welcome the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation And Foxwoods Resort Casino as the host of the First Native American Music Awards. This historic and highly celebrated event will commemorate and honor a growing music movement being lead by the country's First Americans. The Awards show, which will be open to the general public takes place May 24, 1998 at the 1500 seat Fox Theater, located on the Mashantucket Pequot reservation in Mashantucket, Connecticut. Showtime is at 8:00PM.

Cohosted by: Wayne Newton, who also shares Native heritage, some of the nationally renown presenters or The First Native American Music Awards are; musician Bruce Cockburn, Richie Havens, Chuck Billy, Producer Nile Rodgers, comedians Williams & Ree, actors Catherine Bach, Wes Studi, and John Trudell, and Hattie Kauffman (CBS) with more special guests to be announced. Special tributes will be held for N.A.M.A. Hall of Fame inductees; Jimi Hendrix (Cherokee), and to the now deceased country artist, Buddy Red Bow (Sioux). Capitol recording artist, Robbie Robertson, and 76-year old Frederick Whiteface will be the recipients of Lifetime Achievement Awards. A Living Legend Award will also be presented that evening.

The Native American Music Awards will be one of the country's greatest celebrations, honoring and paying tribute to the outstanding achievement of a diverse array of contemporary musician who have greatly contributed to the growing Native American music scene in the US. The Awards will feature over 20 music category presentations ranging from "Record of the Year" and "Best Pop Artist" to "Best Pow Wow Album" and "Best Rap Artist." Nominees have released national recordings on both major and independent labels in the 1997 calendar year and incorporate traditional elements in their work; lyrics sung in tribal language and/or usage of non-electric instrumentation including drums, rattles, bells, flute.

Founder Ellen Bello states, "N.A.M.A. is proud to recognize the diverse achievement of those who have excelled in their profession as musician. The Native American Music Awards is a significant event in American history. All of the nominees and winners not only provide inspiration and cultural preservation through their work, but they will also serve as great role models for future generations to come.'

The Awards show will feature live performances by both leading nominees and those at the forefront of contemporary Native American music including: Robbie Robertson, who has just released his second Native-inspired effort on Capitol Records; Joanne Shenandoah, AFIM award winner and Woodstock II performer with five nominations; Redbone, the first Native group to hit the Pop charts in the 70's with "Come And Get Ya Love," ; Walela, featuring Rita & Priscilla Coolidge & Laura Satterfield with eight nomination; Grammy nominee, R. Carlos Nakai Quarter with eight nomination; flutist and rocker, Robert Mirabal with five nomination; Native rapper Litefoot with one nomination; poet/author and songwriter Joy Harjo with eight nominations; composer/ pianist Brule with five nominations; and drum group Red Bull with one nomination.

New York City's WBAI radio will host a live national radio-broadcast via satellite on community and public radio stations across the country. Participating stations include; KPFK/Los Angeles, WPFW/Washington DC, KPFT/Houston, KPFA/Berkley, KNBA/Anchorage, KUNM/Albuquerque. ABC In Concert, the late night music television program, has also expressed interested in acquiring footage of the event to air as a 30 minute future broadcast. With the assistance of Worldnet Technologies, the Native American Music Awards has launched the first and only comprehensive web site for Native music; [www.nativeamericanmusic.com](http://www.nativeamericanmusic.com). A final voting ballot with real audio samples of the nominees are one of the many features of this site.

Voting ballots for the Native American Music Awards can also be found in current issues of such national publications as; Native Peoples, Indian Artist, Rhythm Music Magazine, Indian Country Today, Aboriginal Voices (Toronto, Canada), American Indian Review (London, UK), American Indian Report, News From Indian Country and Explore Indian Country.

Ticket prices for the Native American Music Award are \$40.00, \$60.00 and \$100.00 and are on sale now. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster and can be purchased by calling the Fox Theatre box office at 1-800-200-2882.

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