



INDIAN COUNTRY **Native American Music Awards**

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Native American Music Awards

By Barbara Wheeler

Special to Today

MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT NATION, Conn. -- A dream of many, on varied media levels, the Native American Music Awards program was the love child of the heart of a woman who is not native.

The Mashantucket, Pequot Tribal Nation hosted the First Annual Native American Music Awards at the Fox Theatre.

The program was the first of its kind, and so, the first people, did it again! Made history for themselves and any who wanted to join in the circle to enjoy the spirit, the joys, the music.

Proving that the circle provides everything, the woman with the dream, Ellen Bello, President of "In-Press Communications" is the founder of the music awards.

Master of Ceremonies, Wayne Newton, opened the program with a video about the host tribe, the Mashantucket Pequot's, followed by a prayer of thanksgiving.

The event proved successful as American Indian artists joined together in celebration and unity.

The winners are: Best Rap Artist, Lite Foot; Best Children's Album, All Spirits Sing, Joanne Shenandoah; Best Folk/Country Group, Apache Spirit; Best Blues/Jazz Artist, Fredrick Whiteface; Living Legend, John Trudell; Lifetime Achievement, Fredrick Whiteface; Best Flutist, R. Carlos Nakai; Artist/Group of the Year, Black Lodge Singers; Lifetime Achievement, Robbie Robertson; Best Producer, Tom Bee; Best New Age Album, Two World Concerto, Various Artists; Song of the Year, Warrior, Walela; Songwriter of the Year, Robert Mirabal; Debut Artist/Group of the Year, Walela; Best Pop Artist, Buffy Sainte-Marie; Hall of Fame Induction, Buddy Red Bow; Best Traditional Album, Peyote Songs, Primeaux & Mike; Best Pow wow Album, Enter the Circle, Black Lodge Singers; Best Female Artist, Joanne Shenandoah; Best Male Artist, R. Carlos Nakai; Hall of Fame Induction, Jimi Hendrix; Record of the Year, American Warriors: Songs for Indian Veterans, Various Artists.

Non-present Awards: Native Heart (Greatest Contribution by Non-Native Artist), Indigo Girls; Best Instrumental Album, Two World Concerto, Various Artists; Best Compilation Album, American Warriors: Songs for Indian Veterans.

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