

For Immediate Release

# BEAUTY, UNITY AND TALENT ABUNDANT ON NATIVE AWARDS NIGHT

On Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup>, the 16th Annual Native American Music Awards was an evening filled with beauty, love, laughter and tears from actors, comedians and musicians in Native American entertainment.

Interspersed with moving musical tributes and highly dynamic performances, it was an emotionally and spiritually charged event with special award recipients ranging from elder and Living Legend Award recipient, **Saginaw Grant**, Lifetime Achievement Award recipient **Joseph FireCrow**, Entertainers of the Year **Williams and Ree**, and Hall of Fame inductee **Taboo**, who leaked to the audience that a new Black Eyed Peas recording is in the near future.

A special appearance was made by the family of nominee **Joseph Flying Bye**, whose recording, *Putting The Moccasins Back On*, was post humously nominated in two categories. His son, Allen Flying Bye and ten other family members, drove all the way from Standing Rock, North Dakota to the show. In a showing of unity and solidarity, they received an overwhelming response from the attendees supporting their opposition of the Dakota Access pipeline. Several weeks prior, Seneca President John had visited with Standing Rock Tribal Chairman David Archambault II. Recently, nominees of the Native American Music Awards contributed their songs to a free Cd entitled, **Water Is Life** to support the Standing Rock Sioux Community.

Awarded Entertainers of the Year, the comedy duo Williams and Ree who were at the inaugural awards show back in 1998, had the entire audience laughing with both their spoken skits and their songs.

Traditional performances were held by the Awards' youngest nominee and rising star, 12 year-old hand drummer, **Nizhoo Sullivan**, as well as **Theresa Bear Fox** and the **Akwesasne Women Singers**, and **Joseph Fire Crow** who also picked up the tempo with a contemporary song performed with the Ed Koban house band.

**Shelley Morningsong** took the coveted Artist of the Year award, and commanded the stage with a stellar performance of singing and playing flute as her husband and musical partner, **Fabian Fontenelle** performed in his stunning regalia.

Best Pop Recording winner, **Spencer Battiest**, and his brother Doc, gave an impressive performance with a moving ballad and a hip hop song.

**John Trudell's** tribute was held in two parts; a song entitled *DNA*, by **Annie Humphrey** who has previously collaborated with Trudell, and *Ancestors Song*, by **Thana Redhawk** featuring the intertwined words of both Trudell and Redhawk.

The evening closed with a bittersweet moment when the award for Record of the Year went to the late **Jim Boyd** for his last recording, *Bridge Creek Road*. His wife Shelly, was on hand to accept the award accompanied by 15 members of Jim's family including Jim's eldest son, daughter, his sister, nieces and nephews. Their somber acceptance was followed by a tribute performance held by **Keith Secola** and Jim's long time drummer **Alfonso Kolb** along with special guests **Annie Humphrey** and **Sage Bond**.

Other award winners in attendance include; **Logan Staats** for Debut Artist of the Year, **David Rose** and **Pete Barnhart** for Debut Duo of the Year, **Rona Yellow Robe** for Flutist of the Year, **7 Trees** for Best Historical Recording, **Connor Chee** for Best Instrumental Recording, **Conrad Benally** for Best Inspirational Recording, **Blue Flamez** for Best Music Video, **B of Dakota South Records** for Song of the Year, **Sue Straw** for Best Spoken Word Recording, **Women of Heart** for Best Traditional Recording, and **Michael Longrider** for Native Heart.

The Native American Music Awards extends their sincerest congratulations to all the Award winners.

## **NATIVE AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS**

### **2016 WINNERS**

#### **ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

Shelley Morningsong  
Love Medicine

**BEST BLUES RECORDING**

All Our Relations  
Blue Mountain Tribe

**BEST COUNTRY RECORDING**

Reservation Girl  
Desert West

**DEBUT ARTIST**

Logan Staats  
Goodbye Goldia

**DEBUT DUO OF THE YEAR**

David Rose & Pete Barnhart  
Falling To Grace

**BEST FEMALE VOCALIST**

Fawn Wood  
Kikawiynaw

**BEST FOLK SPOKEN WORD RECORDING**

Native American Songs & Stories For Children  
Sue Straw

**FLUTIST OF THE YEAR**

Rona Yellow Robe  
Shoot For The Moon

**GROUP OF THE YEAR**

Rain Dance The Album  
Lil Mike & FunnyBone

**BEST INSPIRATIONAL RECORDING**

Heart and Soul  
Conrad Benally

**BEST HISTORICAL RECORDING**

Mackenzie's Raid  
7 Trees

**BEST INSTRUMENTAL RECORDING**

The Navajo Piano  
Connor Chee

**BEST MALE VOCALIST**

Roman Orona  
Circling Spirits Contemporary Apache Songs

**BEST POP RECORDING**

Stupid In Love  
Spencer Battiest

**BEST POW WOW RECORDING**

Born To Sing  
Young Bear

**BEST RAP/HIP HOP RECORDING**

The Addiction  
Night Shield

**RECORD OF THE YEAR**

Bridge Creek Road  
Jim Boyd

**BEST ROCK RECORDING**

Spirit Cry  
Spirit Cry

**SINGLE OF THE YEAR**

Come And Get Your Love  
B. of Dakota South Records

**BEST TRADITIONAL RECORDING**

Sisters In Spirit  
Women of Heart

**BEST MUSIC VIDEO**

Rez Life

Blue Flamez

**BEST WAILA RECORDING**

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Father & Uncle  
Family Pride

**NATIVE HEART**

Michael Longrider

In Through The Mist

**ENTERTAINERS OF THE YEAR**

Williams & Ree

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

Joseph FireCrow

**LIVING LEGEND**

Saginaw Grant

**HALL OF FAME**

Taboo