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Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards announce 2009 Performance Line-up

This year's Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards take place at 8:00 p.m. on Friday November 27th at the acoustically-superb Hamilton Place Theatre. Following a "Red Carpet" event outside of the Theatre, the evening offers up an incredible variety of performances from across Canada and around the world; opening with **Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson** performing a traditional Haida Song from the west coast, followed by the mesmerizing performance of **Maori Dancers from New Zealand**.

The energy and excitement continue throughout the night, running the gamut from Hip Hop performed by **Tumivut** to the **Eagle River Traditional Hand Drum Singers**. Leading nominees also perform throughout the Awards, including; **Buffy Sainte-Marie**, **Pappy John's Blues Band**, **Inez**, **Don Amero**, **Lucie Idlout**, **the Whitefish Bay Singers** and **Digging Roots**. This year's awards are hosted by nominee **Andrea Menard** and **Derek Miller**.

In addition to celebrating the best of today's Canadian Aboriginal performers, this year's awards honour two very special performers; **Kenny Mianscum** for the "Keeper of Traditions in Aboriginal Music Awards" and **Darryl S. Hester** for the "Music Industry Award". Since the release of his first CD in 1997, Kenny, who will receive his award at the CAMA Gala Dinner & Pre-Awards on Thursday, November 26th, has been dedicated to the teaching and preservation of the Cree language-Eeyou, helping to keep its traditions alive amongst today's Aboriginal youth.

Hester, who will be honoured at Friday's CAMA awards ceremony, is an established recording artist. Moved by the challenges faced by his Cree community in Northern Quebec, he began writing songs to inspire young people and founded the Waskaganish Cree Youth Music Program (WCYMP). Hester's organization helped produce two outstanding albums; "Broken" and "Rain: Songs of Hope" featuring community youth sharing their dreams and messages of hope to a growing Canadian audience.

The 2009 Awards recognize an exciting mix of emerging, traditional and established artists, such as **Buffy Sainte-Marie**, who's latest album, "Running for the Drum" has been hailed as one of her best and is nominated not only for Album of the Year, but has also garnered Buffy nominations for Best Female Artist, Best Songwriter and Best Song Single. Other multiple nominees include; **Digging Roots**, **Arvel Bird** and **Lucie Idlout**.

This year's Awards also honour some incredibly vibrant and talented performers from across Canada, including;

- Exciting performers from **Alberta**, such as Plex, aka Doug Bedard, founding member of Edmonton's celebrated group "Won 18", and who's album "Brain Storm" is nominated for Best Rap or Hip Hop Album. **The Northern Cree Singers** from Saddle Lake, Alberta are perennial award-winners and one of the top pow-wow groups in North America. They are also 2009 CAMA nominees once again for Best Group or Duo of the Year for their 24th album "True Blue".
- **Lucie Idlout**, who spends her time between **Toronto** and her home community of **Iqaluit, Nunavut**, and who's nominated for Best Female Artist of the Year for her second album "Swagger".
- A multi-talented performer from **Saskatchewan**, **Andrea Menard**, who has been nominated for a Gemini Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Continuing Leading Dramatic Role for her work in Rabbit Fall and is also nominated for Best Music Video of the Year for her newest album "Sparkle."
- **British Columbian**, **Inez Jasper**, who blends traditional native sounds with her love for contemporary hip hop and R & B and is nominated for Best Female Artist of the Year for her album, "Singsoulgirl".
- **Manitoba** performers, **Billy Joe Green**, one of Canada's premier blues guitar slingers, who's album "First Law of the Land" is nominated for Best Blues Album of the Year and **Wab Kinew**, CBC radio host and past "People's Choice" nominee for Best Video, who's most recent album "Live By The Drum" is nominated for Best Rap or Hip Hop Album.
- **Ontario** performers, **Pappy Johns Blues Band**, past Juno Award nominees and winners of the 2004 CAMA Best Blues Album, whose song "Havin' A Good Time Now-Calling for You" is nominated for Best Song Single.

For more information visit the official festival website at www.canab.com or call 519-751-0040. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or through Hamilton Place or Copps Coliseum.

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