



SOCAN

Society of Composers, Authors and
Music Publishers of Canada

Société canadienne des auteurs,
compositeurs et éditeurs de musique

FOURTH ANNUAL ECHO SONGWRITING PRIZE, PRESENTED BY SOCAN, LAUNCHES SEPTEMBER 1

Toronto, August 20, 2009 — SOCAN (Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada) is proud to announce the fourth annual ECHO Songwriting Prize, which highlights and celebrates the songwriting talents of some of the best independent and up-and-coming songwriters in Canada.

How it works: An independent panel made up of 10 of the nation's top music community tastemakers, representing various regions of the country and a diverse collection of musical genres, nominates a total of 30 songs. Once the nomination process is complete, the panelists review each of the nominated songs and, using a point-value system, determine the five songs that will be voted on by the public. The public is then able to listen to the songs and vote for their favourite at www.echoprize.ca. The writer(s) of the winning song will receive a \$5,000 cash prize.

Past winners: The 2008 winners, for "Night Windows," were Stephen Carroll, John Samson, Greg Smith and Jason Tait of the Weakerthans. Toronto rapper Abdominal won the 2007 prize for "Pedal Pusher," and Winnipeg punk group Propagandhi won in 2006 for "A Speculative Fiction."

Who the panelists are:

Dan Seligman - Pop Montreal (Montreal)
Carl Wilson - The Globe & Mail (Toronto/National)
Denise Benson – EYE (Toronto)
Jill Wilson - The Winnipeg Free Press (Winnipeg)
Sue Carter Flinn - The Coast (Halifax)
Helen Spitzer – CBC Radio 2, EYE (Guelph/National)
Aubrey McInnis – FFWD (Calgary)
Grant Lawrence – CBC Radio 3 (Vancouver/National)
Addi Stewart – Freelance music journalist (Toronto)
Joshua Ostroff – Spinner Canada (Toronto/National)

The five songs will be posted for voting on the ECHO Songwriting Prize's site echoprize.ca from September 1 until September 29.

"The Echo Songwriting Prize is designed to put the spotlight on some of this country's up-and-coming songwriters who might not otherwise receive recognition for their work at this point in their career," says France Lafleur, VP Membership for SOCAN. "It's also a unique opportunity for SOCAN to introduce itself to future members. Our members are of the utmost importance to us and we continually look to new initiatives to enhance the services we offer them."

The Prix de la chanson ÉCHO, celebrating the songwriting talents of some of the best independent, up-and-coming Francophone songwriters in Canada, is launching concurrently.

...more



About SOCAN

At SOCAN, we understand that the Canadian music industry is only as strong as the sum of its parts. We are proud to play a leading role, working with other organizations to ensure the long-term health of our members' livelihoods and the Canadian music industry as a whole. SOCAN is the Canadian copyright collective for the communication and performance of musical works. We administer these rights on behalf of our members (composers, lyricists, songwriters and their publishers) and those of affiliated international organizations by licensing this use of their music in Canada. The fees collected are distributed as royalties to our members and to affiliated organizations throughout the world. We also distribute royalties received from those organizations to our members for the use of their music worldwide. SOCAN has offices in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton and Dartmouth.

-30-

For more information, please contact: Bill Wilson, Senior Communications & Marketing Specialist and Project Manager, SOCAN Phone: (416) 442-3838 ext. 784 E-mail: wilsonb@socan.ca