

Embargo In Effect: Please do not release information before 8:00 p.m. EST,
Monday November 23, 2009



SOCAN

Society of Composers, Authors and
Music Publishers of Canada

Société canadienne des auteurs,
compositeurs et éditeurs de musique

The Who's Who of Canada's Music Industry Came Out in Full Force Tonight to Celebrate the 20th Annual SOCAN Awards Gala in Toronto

(Toronto, November 23, 2009) – SOCAN (The Society of Composers Authors and Music Publishers of Canada) and the best of Canada's music industry came together tonight at Roy Thomson Hall to honour some of this country's most talented songwriters, composers, lyricists and music publishers at the 20th annual SOCAN Awards Gala. Co-hosted by **Barney Bentall**, **Carolyn Dawn Johnson** and **David Myles**, the SOCAN Awards acknowledged members' and other music industry influencers' outstanding achievements from the previous year.

SOCAN members **Hedley**, **Doc Walker**, **Finger Eleven** and **Rush**, along with **Stompin' Tom Connors**, **Rita MacNeil**, **Gordon Lightfoot**, **Jimmy Rankin**, **Deric Ruttan**, **Tom Cochrane** and **Kardinal Offishall**, among many others, were in attendance to accept their awards.

Cuban soul rocker **Alex Cuba** opened the awards gala with an unforgettable performance and later in the evening **Carolyn Dawn Johnson** and **Doc Walker** took to the stage for a medley performance of SOCAN Classics. Canadian rapper **D-Sisive** performed his 2009 ECHO Songwriting Prize winner, "Nobody with a Notepad," and **Russell deCarle** and **Barney Bentall** closed the show with a lively tribute to **Stompin' Tom Connors**.

The evening was filled with celebration and accolades. Awards handed out included: **Feist** for "1234;" **Hedley** for "For the Nights I Can't Remember;" **Finger Eleven** for "I'll Keep Your Memory Vague" in the pop/rock category; **Kardinal Offishall** and **Cristian "DJ Kemo" Bahamonde** for "Dangerous" in the urban music category; and **Doc Walker** for "Beautiful Life" in the country music category. **Finger Eleven** accepted a second win with the International Song Award for "Paralyzer."

***A complete list of winners for the 2009 SOCAN Awards can be found at
http://www.socan.ca/jsp/en/pub/about_socan/media_releases.jsp***

"In my ten years at SOCAN, the music industry has evolved tremendously, both at home and around the world," said André LeBel, CEO of SOCAN. "In Canada, the industry continues to thrive and our members never stop in their work to bring new and exciting music to the global audience. The SOCAN Awards is one way we can show them how proud we are of their contributions; they are truly great Canadian ambassadors to the world."

Each year, SOCAN celebrates music industry pioneers for their involvement in the



Canadian music industry and their outstanding successes throughout their careers. Recipients of SOCAN's major achievement awards this year went to **Richard Flohil**, who received the **Special Achievement Award**; **Stompin' Tom Connors**, who received the **Lifetime Achievement Award**; and **Rita MacNeil**, who received **The National Achievement Award**. **RUSH – Geddy Lee, Alex Lifeson and Neil Peart** received the **International Achievement Award** in recognition of their outstanding international success in 2008.

SOCAN will recognize outstanding Francophone music creators and publishers at an awards gala on Tuesday November 24 at The Hyatt Regency in Montreal. SOCAN members will join host **Michel Rivard** in celebration of this year's Francophone SOCAN award recipients.

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.

For more information about how we're doing what's right for music, please visit us at www.socan.ca.

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