2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

Alex Cuba - *Ruido En El Sistema*

Smithers, BC
Nominations: World Solo Artist
Label: Caracol Records
Group Members: Alexis Puentes
Singer-songwriter Alex Cuba hails from Artemisa, Cuba (1 hour west of Havana) and resides in Smithers, Canada. Musically, he lives everywhere in between. His fourth studio album, Ruido en el Sistema/Static in the System, follows his critically acclaimed and self-titled Grammy-winning album. Following the compass points of folk, funk and rock on his fourth album, Cuba continues his journey as a critically acclaimed independent artist who's charted his own destiny across the world stage while earning a growing legion of devoted listeners at each new juncture.
www.alexcuba.com @alexcuba

Alexis Normand - *Mirador*

Saskatoon, SK
Nominations: French Songwriter
Label: Independent
Group Members: Alexis Normand
Alexis Normand (Aleksiss) présente un folk chaleureux et atmosphérique dans lequel un groove jazz entrainant et une voix suave s'installent. Sa poésie sincère, empreinte d'émotions discrètes nous révèle une sensibilité touchante. Après sa participation à Chant'Ouest en 2002 (le gala interprovincial de l'Ouest), Alexis poursuit ses études en musique et en éducation à l'Université d'Ottawa avant d'entreprendre une année de formation à l'École nationale de la chanson de Granby. En 2010, la Fransaskoise lance son premier enregistrement - un EP de 5 pistes chaleureusement accueilli par les radios du pays. Depuis, elle offre un grand nombre de spectacles au Canada dont le Regina Folk Festival (SK), le Festival Edmonton Chante (AB) et la Scène des Prairies (Ottawa) en plus de nombreuses tournées canadiennes. Elle a été demi-finaliste au Festival en chanson de Saint-Ambroise et au Festival International de la chanson de Granby en 2010. Sa chanson 'Cet horizon' a remporté le concours Fais-moi une chanson de Radio-Canada Saskatchewan et est devenue la chanson thème de l'Année provinciale des Fransaskois 2012. Mirador est son premier album complet qui est le résultat d'une collaboration avec Zoé Fortier, une artiste visuelle fransaskoise. Elle vient de recevoir deux nominations au Gala des Prix Trille Or dans les catégories «Découverte par excellence de l'Ouest» et «Meilleur album de l'Ouest». De plus, Alexis est en lys aux Western Canadian Music Awards dans la catégorie du meilleur album francophone de l'année.
www.alexisnormand.com @Alex6Normand

Annabelle Chvostek - *Rise*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: Contemporary Album
Label: Borealis
Group Members: Annabelle Chvostek
Annabelle Chvostek is a versatile multi-instrumentalist who was born and raised in Toronto, and who made her professional debut with the Canadian Opera Company at just seven years old. After many years as a solo artist, in 2004 she joined the Juno-winning Wailin' Jennys – a gig that took her from obscurity to international acclaim. During her years with the Jennys, Chvostek toured Europe, performed on A Prairie Home Companion, sang on the Juno Awards telecast and earned a Juno nomination. Then, in 2007, she left the Jennys and reprised her solo career, signing to Borealis Records and releasing what many see as her solo debut: Resilience. Since the album's release, Chvostek has toured the UK yearly, criss-crossed Canada and the US, and completed a 2009 tour through Poland and Slovakia. She also released a live album, Live from Folk Alley in 2010. Last year,

her co-written duet with Bruce Cockburn was released on his Juno-winning album Small Source of Comfort. This fall will see Chvostek touring Ontario, Quebec and Eastern Canada, followed by a tour of the UK and Europe in the first quarter of 2013.
www.annabellemusic.com

Ashley Condon - *This Great Compromise*

Montague, PEI
Nominations: New/Emerging Artist
Label: Laker Music
Group Members: Ashley Condon
Raised between two potato fields on Prince Edward Island, Ashley Condon is the grandchild of Bill Leblanc, a Canadian country pioneer who once spent the night in jail with Hank Snow. Like pecan pie – sweet and nutty – Ashley has won audiences over with her larger-than-life stage presence and down-to-earth charm. Growing up on everything from old-time country to folk, blues and southern rock, her music resonates. Her most recent release was produced by three-time Juno winner David Francey. The album was also release through David Francey's label - Laker Music.
www.ashleycondon.com @AshleyCondon

Aviva Chernick - *When I Arrived You Were Already There*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: World Solo Artist
Label: Independent
Group Members: Aviva Chernick
Those who have experienced Aviva Chernick's intoxicatingly soulful vocals never forget where they heard them first. Whether in her new solo project of original devotional songs, as the lead singer with Juno Award-nominated world music ensemble Jaffa Road, or in concerts of Balkan Judeo-Spanish melodies, Aviva's passionate voice blurs the lines between sacred and secular, asking, isn't it all holy? Writing, recording and touring an original combination of world music sung in Hebrew, Ladino, English and French, this multi-lingual singer collaborates with some of Canada's best world music makers as well as international virtuosos such as Yair Dalal and Frank London. 2012 ended on a high note for Aviva — both her own solo project and Jaffa Road's second album Where the Light Gets In were released to sold out houses. As well as these ongoing collaborations, Aviva studies with 'American Treasure' and Sephardic musician Flory Jagoda. She celebrates this Balkan Judeo–Spanish folk tradition in contemporary re-imaginings with various partners including Eric Stein (Beyond the Pale), Joel Schwartz (Zebrina) and Drew Jurecka (Jill Barber). Aviva's collaborative recordings have garnered nominations and awards including Juno nominations for Jaffa Road's albums Sun Place and Where The Light Gets In and a Canadian Folk Music Award Nomination for The Huppah Project's Under the Canopy. With the release of her first solo, self-penned album of devotional music, When I Arrived You Were Already There, Aviva sings in both English and Hebrew, marrying her pure, raw and unguarded voice to atmospheric, meditative instrumental textures. This first solo outing is anything but — Aviva and co-producer Chris Gartner (Mia Sheard, TASA) enlisted the support of a cross-section of Toronto's amazing music community. The result is a genre-defying fusion that works beautifully. When I Arrived You Were Already There transcends the bounds of culture, faith, and language.
www.avivachernick.com @Avivachernick

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

Catherine Durand - *Les Murs blancs du Nord*

Montréal, QC
Nominations: French Songwriter
Label: Spectra Musique
Group Members: Catherine Durand, Jocelyn Tellier, François Lafontaine, Robbie Kuster, Laurence Hélie
Jeune vétérane de la chanson québécoise, Catherine Durand peut à bien des égards être considérée parmi les plus importantes défricheuses ayant pavé la voie à la réjouissante déferlante de jeunes auteures-compositrices folk. Voix forte de la chanson québécoise depuis près de quinze ans, elle conjugue en français et avec douceur un folk ambiant sur lequel soufflent la brise mordante de l'hiver et l'air chargé de promesses des grands espaces. Sur l'enveloppant Les murs blancs du Nord, qui paraît à l'automne 2012, Catherine Durand s'entoure d'une équipe toute étoile de musiciens, dont Jocelyn Tellier, Robbie Kuster (Patrick Watson) et François Lafontaine (Karkwa). Elle a déjà été récompensé au Canadian Folk Music Awards, et a été deux fois nominé au Gala de l'ADISQ, célébré par la presse et étreint par un public fidèle pour ces oeuvres musicales des années passés. Tout simplement, elle inspire.
www.catherinedurand.com @catdurand

Chantal Archambault - *Les Élans*

Montréal, QC
Nominations: French Songwriter
Label: Indica Records
Group Members: Chantal Archambault, Michel-Olivier Gasse, Dany Placard, Guillaume Bourque, Gabriel Lemieux-Maillé
Chantal Archambault est une auteure-compositrice-interprète qui présente des pièces aux textes intimistes et imagés, sur une musique folk, ornée d'une touche country. En 2008, elle autoproduit "Le Collage", un démo qui lui permet de participer aux Francouvertes et de faire la rencontre de Dany Placard, avec qui elle se lie pour réaliser son premier album, "La romance des couteaux", lancé au FME en 2010. Elle récolte plusieurs prix et bourses en 2011, notamment une nomination à l'ADISQ et aux GAMIQ, le statut d'ambassadrice de sa région qu'est l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue, plus de 20 premières parties de Vincent Vallières dans l'est du Québec et ailleurs, une vitrine à la Bourse Rideau, ainsi qu'une participation à l'émission Belle et Bum, aux Francofolies, en plus d'une tournée à travers le Québec. Enfin, sa chanson "La barque" fut reprise par Renée Martel sur son plus recent album. Chantal revient s'établir à Montréal en 2012, puis y enregistrera un second album, "Les Élans", paru en février 2013.
www.chantalarchambault.com @chantal_archam

Chrissy Crowley - *Last Night's Fun*

Sydney, Cape Breton, NS
Nominations: Instrumental Solo Artist
Label: Independent
Group Members: Chrissy Crowley, Darren McMullen, Jason Roach, Keith Mullins
Deemed a "seriously swinging fiddler, technically flawless with every thrust of her bow and a spellbindingly precocious talent" by the Guardian UK, Chrissy Crowley is a fiddler with a firm foundation in the traditional music of Cape Breton. It's irrepressible curiosity and fearless innovation which has earned the fiddler a Top 20 Under 20 in Canada award, three consecutive Canadian Folk Music Award nominations, and numerous East Coast Music Association and Music Nova Scotia nominations and showcases. Chrissy's new release is titled "Last Night's Fun." Chrissy made a unique yet vulnerable move in her third recording; one that only a true musician could execute. To maintain

the fresh and lively sounds that are so often lost in a recording process, Chrissy and her band isolated themselves in a house for just one week to arrange and write all tracks the night before each studio session. The result is a stunning masterpiece recorded with the same energy and spontaneity you'd find in Chrissy's live shows. The album is literally last night's fun. "True to title, Last Night's Fun soars like an old-school, live off-the-floor Cape Breton kitchen party. Parmar's, Doodlesack Jigs, Trundle's and Castlebay Scrap are sonic single-malts, while Shenanigans highlights Crowley's fury and finesse on the fretboard. The crux of this collection hinges on fun, frolic and and the simple joy of a young woman letting loose on her fiddle." - Celtic Life Magazine
www.chrissycrowley.com @chrissycrowley

Corin Raymond & The Sundowners - *Paper Nickels*
Toronto, ON
Nominations: Ensemble
Label: Local Rascal Records
Group Members: Corin Raymond, Treasa Levasseur, Brian Kobayakawa, David Baxeter
Corin Raymond is admired for his incisive song-writing, witty banter, compelling stage presence, and for being an infectiously enthusiastic champion of great songs and songwriters. His Winnipeg via Toronto wordsmith's latest, Paper Nickels, is a 20-song double album recorded live over two sold-out nights at Toronto's Tranzac with The Sundowners (Treasa Levasseur, Brian Kobayakawa and David Baxter). The goal was to compile Corin's favourite tunes, which he'd "collected" during many years on the road, on an album of "the greatest songs you've never heard". The liner notes (actually a 144-page book), are filled with anecdotal introductions to each song, recall the kitchen parties, front porches and greenrooms where he first heard them. The result of his efforts is, as The Globe and Mail's Brad Wheeler put it, "a live album that couldn't be more 'Made in Canada' if it was scented with maple syrup, shipped by beavers and came with thimbles of Stompin' Tom Connors' blood."
www.corinraymond.com @CorinRaymond

Dany Placard - *Démon vert*
Montréal, QC
Nominations: French Songwriter
Label: Simone Records
Group Members: Dany Placard
Jusque-là, il portait un nom de famille banal comme en porte la majorité des gens. Mais par une caniculaire soirée d'été, alors que ses colocataires font un boucan du tonnerre de Dieu, notre malheureux planque son matelas dans le placard de l'appartement, à l'abri du bruit, sous l'escalier. Il en ressort le lendemain, après une nuit agitée durant laquelle de séduisantes créatures le visitent en songes, avec un nouveau patronyme. Il sera désormais Dany Placard. Originaire de Laterrière au Saguenay, Placard, saisi d'admiration par son cousin qui joue de l'orgue à l'église, harcèle ses parents afin de pouvoir lui aussi goûter à la musique. On lui met donc une guitare classique entre les mains, il en jouera longtemps. Jusqu'à l'université en fait, où il poursuivra par ailleurs ses études en chant classique avant que l'écriture de chansons le fasse pour de bon bifurquer vers la voie, plus cahoteuse et plus stimulante, du folk-rock. Après un premier album autoproduit en 1998, l'auteur-compositeur jette avec Éric Villeneuve les bases de Plywood 3/4, joyeuse bande de bizouneurs d'airs patraques qui enregistrera deux albums. Seul, Placard pave avec Rang de l'église (2005) et Raccourci (2008), deux albums salués par la critique, un poussiéreux chemin folk entre le Saguenay et le Sud des États-Unis. Réalisateur, Placard reçoit dans sa mythique shed de nombreux auteurs-compositeurs-interprètes qu'il aiguillera dans la direction de l'authenticité et du dépouillement. Chantal Archambault, domlebo, Francis Faubert et Louis-Philippe Gingras signent avec lui des albums éminemment personnels qui portent néanmoins sa patte. À l'automne 2012, Placard revient avec Démon vert, un album plus ambitieux et vulnérable. Mis en boîte en groupe dans un esprit de camaraderie et d'immédiateté typique des grandes séances d'enregistrement des années soixante-

dix, Démon vert lui permet de renouer avec le folk-rock de terre retournée et de routes cabossées de ses premières incursions en solo.
www.danyplacard.com

David Buchbinder & Odessa/Havana - *Walk to the Sea*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: World Group
Label: Tzadik
Group Members: David Buchbinder, Hilario Durán, Roberto Occhipinti, Aleksandar Gajic, John Johnson, Mark Kelso. Joaquin Nunez Hidalgo, Maryem Tollar, Michal Cohen
Award-winning trumpeter and composer David Buchbinder teams up with Cuban master pianist Hilario Durán and a crew of Canada's top jazz and world musicians to present this exciting, unprecedented musical ensemble. Odessa/Havana released its debut CD on the Tzadik label to great critical and audience acclaim, including receiveing over 100 rave and 4-star reviews, being named the Jazz CD of 2007 by Toronto Life and Allmusic.com, and being awarded the 2008 Canadian Folk Music Award for Best World Music Recording. Odessa/Havana has already struck a sonorous chord with music lovers around the world and across the musical spectrum, attracting fans of neo-Klezmer, Latin jazz, world fusion and those who like a music that just kicks hard. Working from the roots of each tradition and finding many areas of sonic commonality the musicians have crafted a sound that is exciting, fresh and compelling as it challenges listeners' comfortable genre preconceptions. This is as far from Fiddler on the Roof meets Desi Arnaz as you can get! The debut recording was followed up with several major North American tours including headlining performances at festivals and concert halls in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston, Washington D.C., Vancouver, Ottawa, Halifax, Toronto and more. In 2011, the ensemble was at the centre of Andalusia to Toronto, a commissioned, sold-out performance at Toronto's Koerner Hall. Now, Odessa/Havana returns with its second recording, Walk to the Sea. Working with Juno-winning producer Roberto Occhipinti, the ensemble has taken its fresh, fiery and original sound and pushed it over the top with the addition of Ladino-influenced vocals.
www.odessahavana.com @dybuchbinder

David Francey - *So Say We All*

McDonalds Corners, ON
Nominations: Contemporary Album, English Songwriter, Producer, Solo Artist
Label: Laker Music
Group Members: David Francey
David Francey is a Scottish-born carpenter-turned-songwriter, who has become known as "one of Canada's most revered folk poets and singers" (Toronto Star). A truly authentic folk singer, Francey is a documentarian of the working person who never imagined earning a living from his music. But when he was in his 40s, his wife, artist Beth Girdler, encouraged him to share his songs and sing in public. His first album Torn Screen Door came out in 1999 and he has since released ten albums and won three JUNO Awards.
www.davidfrancey.com @DavidFrancey

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

David Travers-Smith - *These Wilder Things (Ruth Moody), Jaron Freeman-Fox and The Opposite of Everything*

Victoria, BC
Nominations: Producer
Label: Independent
Group Members: David Travers-Smith
David Travers-Smith is a Toronto-based Producer, Mixer, Engineer and Musician who has produced and engineered recordings for numerous artists including The Wailin' Jennys, Ruth Moody, Deerhoof, Jayme Stone, Jane Siberry, Veda Hille, Oh Susanna, Jaron Freeman-Fox, Luke Doucet, Melissa McClelland, Elizabeth Shepherd, Spiral Beach, Dan Goldman, Oliver Schroer, Lori Cullen, Jim Byrnes, The Brothers Creeggan, Kiran Ahluwalia, Kevin Breit, Harry Manx, David Buchbinder, and many more. He toured extensively with Jane Siberry, as both musician and engineer and his playing can be heard on over 65 albums. He holds music degrees from Yale University (MMus) and The University of Victoria (BFA). His work has been featured in publications including EQ Mag, Recording Magazine and Canadian Musician. Recordings he has produced and/or engineered have garnered 35 Juno Nominations, with 9 wins along with nominations and wins at the Maple Blues Awards, Western Canadian Music Awards, American Folk Alliance Awards, American Indie Music Awards, Canadian Folk Music Awards, and East Coast Music Awards. He was nominated as Engineer of the Year at the 2007, 2010 and 2012 Juno Awards and co-produced the 2012 Juno winner for Roots Ensemble of the Year, Bright Morning Stars. He and Mark Howard were co-recipients of the Producer of the Year Award at the 2011 Canadian Folk Music Awards.
www.davidtraverssmith.com

Dawn and Marra - *Teaspoons and Tablespoons*

Dundas, ON
Nominations: Vocal Group
Label: Independent
Group Members: Dawn Larsh, Marra Koren
Dawn and Marra aren't sisters but most people think they are. Drawn together by a love of music at a young age, they've been performing together since Marra was fourteen and Dawn was sixteen. In 2010, they entered and won the Rising Star competition at the Hamilton Music Awards. In the winter of 2012, they recorded a single with producer Dan Weston (Paper Lions, Northcote, The Reason.) Called "A Love Letter", the song tells the story of two lovers separated by oceans. After writing fifteen songs, they returned to the studio under the production stewardship of Howard Redekopp (Tegan and Sara, Said the Whale, Paper Lions). This culminated in the recording of their debut album, "Teaspoons and Tablespoons."
www.dawnandmarra.com @dawnandmarra

Diem Lafortune - *Beauty and Hard Times*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: Aboriginal Songwriter
Label: Chelsea Manor Mut Music Productions
Group Members: Diem Lafortune
Toronto-based singer-songwriter Diem Lafortune has a streetwise wisdom that is eloquently showcased on her new disc Beauty and Hard Times. With a voice described as "like a barn – big, earthy and full of timber", Lafortune covers a wide swathe of stylistic terrain on the album, drawing from blues, folk, rock, gospel, country, Eastern European, and classical styles.
www.mamadhorizondancer.ca @SisterMamad

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

Don Amero - *Heart On My Sleeve*

Winnipeg, MB
Nominations: Aboriginal Songwriter
Label: Ramero Co.
Group Members: Don Amero
Six years ago, Don Amero left his job as a hardwood flooring installer. Since then, the singer-songwriter from Winnipeg has toured coast-to-coast, performed with the symphony, and showcased at the National Museum of the American Indian in New York City. He captivates audiences of all ages with powerful and expressive vocals, percussion-style guitar play, and engaging storytelling. Don's fourth album, the self-produced Heart On My Sleeve, was nominated Aboriginal Album of the Year at the 2013 JUNO Awards.
www.donamero.com @donaldamero

Erynn Marshall - *Tune Tramp*

Victoria, BC
Nominations: Traditional Album
Label: Hickoryjack
Group Members: Erynn Marshall. Guests incl. Carl Jones, Skip Gorman, Kenny Jackson, Josh Wanstreet, Paul Brown, Terri McMurray, Ira Bernstein, The Canote Brothers, Candy Goldman, Jason Romero, Pharis Romero, Caleb Klauder, Sammy Lind, Nadine Landry, Kirk Sutphin, Snake Smith, Kyle-Dean Smith, Billy McCumbers, Kim Johnson, Uncle Henry's Favorites, Jesse Wells, Jamie Wells, John Harrod, Gerry Milnes, Jesse Milnes, Arnie Naiman, Chris Coole, Chris Whiteley, Ken Whiteley, Rafe Stefanini, Clelia Stefanini, Eddie Bond, Josh Ellis, Mac Snow, Donna Correll, Joel Savoy, Kelli Jones-Savoy, Bruce Greene, and Don Pedi.
Erynn Marshall is a Canadian fiddlers that has carved out a niche for herself as an old-time fiddler in North America and abroad. She has played for over thirty years, performed and taught at many music camps in the US, Canada and England and fulfilled her dream to learn old-time music directly from visiting 80-90 year-old southern fiddlers (many of whom have now passed on). She won first place in the 2008 open fiddle category at "Clifftop" (The Appalachian Stringband Festival) in West Virginia and was the first woman and person from outside the US to do so. This festival is one of the largest and most prestigious for Appalachian music in the country. She also won a Galaxy Rising Star award at the Edmonton Folk Festival and was filmed in the Bravo documentary on old-time/bluegrass music in Canada called "I'll Fly Away Home." Erynn has authored the book, Music in the Air, filmed an instructional fiddle DVD, and recorded four CDs: Calico, Meet Me in the Music, Shout Monah (Haints), including her latest recording Tune Tramp featuring 45 traditional musicians from across North America. Erynn lives in Galax, Virginia, performs with fiancé Carl Jones, and is the Music Program Manager at the Blue Ridge Music Center. Her website is www.hickoryjack.com
www.hickoryjack.com

Gary Rasberry - *What's the Big Idea?!?*

Kingston, ON
Nominations: Children's Album
Label: Independent
Group Members: Sheesham Crow (Teilhard Frost), Lotus Wight (Sam Allison)
Gary Rasberry is a teacher, musician and poet who has released three solo recordings as well as one record with the acoustic trio Fireweed. He releases his 2nd book of poems, "More Naked than Ever" in October 2013 via Hidden Book Press. As an educator, Gary teaches songwriting workshops at Queen's University and offers Song, Story & Sound workshops in schools everywhere. Gary has

appeared at Hillside Music Festival, Ottawa Folk Festival, Summerfolk, Mariposa, Peterborough Folk Festival, Blue Skies Music Festival and Home County Music & Art Festival.
www.garyrasberry.com

Genticorum - *Enregistré Live*

Beloeil, QC
Nominations: Ensemble
Label: Independent
Group Members: Pascal Gemme, Yann Falquet, Alexandre de Grosbois-Garand
Avec ses nominations aux Juno et à l'ADISQ, et ses quatre Prix de Musique Folk Canadienne, Genticorum est un des groupes phares au cœur de l'engouement général que connaît actuellement la musique traditionnelle québécoise. En douze ans, le groupe trad québécois s'est taillé une place de choix sur la scène internationale des musiques traditionnelles, folk et celtiques. Les quatre albums du groupe ont été salués par la critique au Canada et à l'étranger et lui ont permis de développer une solide carrière. Reconnu pour son énergie et sa présence scénique, le groupe a déjà présenté plus de 800 concerts dans une quinzaine de pays et son calendrier de spectacles est bien garni pour les années à venir. Le trio s'est produit sur de nombreuses scènes de renom et a été programmé dans plusieurs festivals prestigieux du milieu world/folk, tels Celtic Connections en Écosse, le Tonder Folk Festival au Danemark, le Vijlandi Folk Festival en Estonie, le Festival International de Chihuahua au Mexique, le Independent Music Festival d'Alexandrie en Égypte mais aussi en Malaisie, en Israël, ainsi qu'en Australie lors de trois tournées mémorables. Ils ont été sélectionnés pour les concerts-vitrines du Womex à Newcastle, et tournent régulièrement en Grande-Bretagne, au Danemark, aux États-Unis et au Canada.
www.genticorum.com

Good Lovelies - *Live at Revolution*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: Ensemble, Vocal Group
Label: Independent
Group Members: Kerri Ough, Caroline Brooks, Susan Passmore
Funny and upbeat, with just a pinch of sass, the Good Lovelies (Caroline Brooks, Kerri Ough and Sue Passmore) textbook three-part harmonies, constant instrument swapping and witty on-stage banter have enlivened the folk music landscape since they joined forces in 2006 for their first show at Toronto's funky Gladstone Hotel. Lighthearted songwriting and irresistibly buoyant dispositions have made them the darlings of the summer festival circuit, including spots at the storied Mariposa and Hillside Festivals and the Montreal Jazz Festival. They have toured with Stuart McLean and the Vinyl Cafe and appeared on stages and in studios with Broken Social Scene, Kathleen Edwards and Jill Barber. The Good Lovelies' self-titled full-length album proved their blithe brand of folk music has year-round appeal winning New Emerging Artist at the Canadian Folk Music Awards and a Juno for Roots/Traditional Album of the Year. Let the Rain Fall, their third full-length album, was recently nominated for the 2012 Juno for Roots/Traditional Album of the Year.
www.goodlovelies.com @goodlovelies

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

Gordon Grdina's Haram - *Her Eyes Illuminate*

Vancouver, BC
Nominations: Instrumental Group
Label: Songlines
Group Members: Gordon Grdina, Jesse Zubot, Jp Carter, Chris Kelly, Emad Armoush, Liam MacDonald, Tim Gerwing, Francois Houle-Clarine, Tommy Babin-Bass, Kenton Loewen
Her Eyes Illuminate is the debut album from Haram, a ten piece power-house ensemble from the depths of Vancouver's rich avant garde improvisational music community. The album was released in August, 2012 on Songlines, just prior to the band's first national Canadian tour. Led by Gordon Grdina (Dan Mangan, Paul Motian, Gary Peacock), Haram was first formed in 2008 as a large ensemble vehicle to study and perform Arabic repertoire that Grdina had been performing in small groups. Though more publicly known for his guitar playing, he here exchanges it for the Iraqi oud. The pieces on Her Eyes Illuminate are lovingly reinterpreted with an ensemble half studied in the tradition and half who cut their teeth in the improv-indie-rock-jazz scene. This blend of musicians is what gives Haram its unique sound. The songs are not simply recited, but paid reverence to amid the openness of improvisational ideologies. Approaching Haram as a listener is a juxtaposing intention. Its traditional foundation feels familiar but avoids the kitsch of a simple homage band. The music developed over time and has reached that sublime state of effortless cohesion while retaining its sense of wild abandon. The repertoire starts with Iraqi folk music and ends at the mid-century era of Egyptian radio music in which Oum Khalsoum and Farid Al Atrash reigned.
www.gordongrdina.com/haram#!haram/c1xhf @gordongrdina

Helen Austin - *Always Be A Unicorn*

Comox Valley, BC
Nominations: Children's Album
Label: Independent
Group Members: Helen Austin
After years of writing songs while making a living as a musical stand-up comedian, Helen Austin's move to Canada in 2002 was the catalyst for her musical career. Ten years and six albums later, Helen is a prolific songwriter with over 70 TV, movie and ad placements, awards and competition wins under belt, the most recent being a JUNO nomination and a John Lennon Songwriting Contest Grand Prize win. Helen brings her quirky humour to her music, as well as the ability to tug at your heart strings with her more serious songs.
www.helenaustin.com @helenaustin

Ian Bell - *Forget Me Not, When Far Away*

Waterford, ON
Nominations: Traditional Singer
Label: Independent
Group Members: Ian Bell
Almost always a part-time musician, Ian Bell has performed professionally across Canada and in the United States since the late 1970's. On his own and with a number of different groups, he has appeared at numerous folk festivals (Winnipeg, Mariposa, Edmonton, Ottawa, Yellowknife, Owen Sound, Lunenberg , Montmagny, and others.) As a long-time freelance broadcaster, Ian has worked on many occasions with Stuart McLean on CBC Radio's Vinyl Café. Ian has co-written and served as musical director for five Vinyl Café national concert broadcasts. For seven years Ian was a regular contributor to the weekend Fresh Air program on CBC radio. Ian has also contributed to numerous film scores and performed period music for and occasionally appeared in the TV series, The Road to Avonlea. Ian performs material from a large repertoire that includes both Canadian traditional music

and his own songs and instrumental compositions. His original songs have been performed and recorded by Anne Lederman, Ian Robb, Bobby Watt, Allison Lupton, Lee Murdock and others. An accomplished multi-instrumentalist, Ian appears on dozens of recordings as sideman as well as many under his own name.
www.ianbellmusic.ca

Ian Sherwood - *Live At The Hive*

Halifax, NS
Nominations: Contemporary Singer
Label: Independent
Group Members: Ian Sherwood
Ian Sherwood is a story teller whose stories of loss, joy, regret and reward are often painted with the backdrop of Canadian landscapes. He is a constant creator and has penned tunes for many other artists as well as film and television. In 2012 he was named Male Artist of the Year by the International Acoustic Music Awards for his song "What Am I Doing Here". He was the 2008 and 2010 Music Nova Scotia Musician Of The Year and has been described as "... a natural performer, a highly personable guy who entertains as much with his wit and stories as with his songs."Starting his music career as an in-demand saxophone player in Toronto, Sherwood began looking for an outlet for his poetic side. Soon, with words and music coming together in full compliment, he quickly gained recognition as a solid performer, lyricist and player which garnered him a nomination for the 2011 ECMA award for Male Solo Artist Recording of the Year. "Live at The Hive" is the latest musical creation from this prolific broken-heart. His energetic stage presence and honesty truly captures the essence of what has made Ian so popular with his audience.
www.iansherwood.com @ian_sherwood

Indian City - *Supernation*

Winnipeg, MB
Nominations: Aboriginal Songwriter
Label: Independent
Group Members: Vince Fontaine, Pamela Mason, Neewa Mason, Tik Mason, Gerry Atwell, Marty Chapman, Don Amero, William Prince
Indian City is the realization of guitarist, composer, and producer Vince Fontaine, best known for his multi-award winning band Eagle & Hawk. Building on his 20-year career, the founder and leader of one of North America's most successful Indigenous groups of the past 10 years has brought together some of today's best Indigenous music talents to release their debut album "Supernation."

The group includes vocalists Pamela Davis and William Prince as well as established award-winning musicians Neewa Mason, Tik Mason (Segway) and rising star Don Amero. The 10-piece live band is rounded out by Eagle & Hawk veterans Marty Chapman on drums, slick keyboardist Gerry Atwell, traditional singer Ray "Coco" Stevenson and multi-style Native dancer Buffy Handel. Indian City's sound is a unique mix of world music fusion combining Indigenous music elements and themes with pop, rock and folk.
www.indiancity.ca

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

Jaffa Road - *Where The Light Gets In*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: World Group
Label: Independent
Group Members: Aaron Lightstone, Aviva Chernick, Chris Gartner, Jeff Wilson, Sundar Viswanathan
Jaffa Road is a Toronto-based world music group made up of some of Canada's most exciting and innovative interpreters of inter-cultural music. Their organic fusion blends influences and inspirations from the worlds of Jewish music, Classical Arabic and Indian music, modern jazz, electronica, rock, pop, and dub. Their music has been recognized with Juno nominations (2010, 2013), Grand Prize and a Lennon Award in the prestigious John Lennon Songwriting Contest and Best World Music Artist at the Toronto Independent Music Awards. They released their second CD Where the Light Gets In in to critical acclaim, and an enthusiastic, standing room only, crowd at Toronto's Hugh's Room. The album was not even officially released when the first track Ana El Na, won the prestigious Songs from the Heart Song Writing contest from Folk Music Ontario (formerly OCFF). The band has enjoyed sharing their music all over Canada through frequent airplay on CBC, community radio, and at folk music and jazz festivals. They will make their international debut this coming fall at Klezfiesta, the Jewish Music Festival of Sao Paolo, Brazil. The band's trailblazing musical odyssey is ignited by the ethereal vocals of multilingual lead singer Aviva Chernick, the evocative oud playing of Aaron Lightstone, the visionary grooves of bassist Chris Gartner, the entrancing exhillerating sounds of saxophonist/flutist Sundar Viswanathan and the driving beat of percussionist Jeff Wilson. Together, these stellar musicians challenge accepted notions of Jewish music while creating a new form of expression that breaks cultural boundaries.
www.jaffaroad.com @JaffaRoad

Jaron Freeman-Fox & The Opposite of Everything - *Jaron Freeman-Fox & The Opposite of Everything*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: Instrumental Group, Pushing the Boundaries, World Group
Label: Independent
Group Members: Jaron Freeman-Fox, Charles James, Dan Stadnicki, John Williams, Robbie Grunwald
Contorting the violin into new traditions, violinist/composer Jaron Freeman-Fox dances down the fine line between the beautiful and the ridiculous, while redefining what the violin is capable of. Having produced or played on over 40 albums, and toured the world as a solo artist and collaborator, Freeman-Fox fuses his roots of Celtic and bluegrass fiddling with his study of Indian classical music and jazz, playing the 5-string violins of his late mentor; fiddle pioneer Oliver Schroer. Now, after 3 years of touring, writing, recording and spelunking with his fiery band "Jaron Freeman-Fox & The Opposite of Everything", Jaron unveils his new self-titled album, fully demonstrating the breadth, depth, and general lunacy of this ensemble's creativity. Jaron is most proud of the fact that he's broken 3 different fiddles on stage, had his violin stolen by monkeys in Bali and stole it back without contracting rabies, and mostly that he gets to play with his favourite musicians in the world. Described as "Tom Waits playing the fiddle, backed up by the Mahavishnu Orchestra", The Opposite of Everything transform Freeman-Fox's intricate compositions into an infectious party. The line-up consists of clarinetist John Williams, accordionist Robbie Grunwald, bassist Charles James, and drummer Dan Stadnicki. After 3 years of touring and festivals (including the Vancouver Folk Fest, The Ottawa Jazz Fest, and WOMEX) the band tours coast-to-coast in Canada soon and overseas for a european tour this fall.
www.theoppositeofeverything.com @jaronfreemanfox

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

Jennifer Gasoi - *Throw a Penny in the Wishing Well*

Vancouver, BC
Nominations: Children's Album
Label: Sparkling Productions
Group Members: Jennifer Gasoi, Andy Dacoulis, John Sadowy, Gilbert Joanis, Rich Irwin
Since moving from Vancouver to Montreal, Jennifer Gasoi has established herself as one of the hottest children's entertainers in Montreal. Her ability to appeal to kids and adults alike is one of Jennifer's most unique and endearing qualities. Jennifer's debut CD was nominated for a 2005 Juno Award for Children's Album of the Year as well as Outstanding Children's Album at the 2004 Western Canadian Music Awards. She was awarded a coveted 2004 Gold Parent's Choice Award.
www.jenifergasoi.com @jennifergasoi

John Wort Hannam - *Brambles And Thorns*

Fort Macleod, AB
Nominations: Contemporary Singer, English Songwriter, Solo Artist
Label: Borealis
Group Members: John Wort Hannam
With comparisons to Gordon Lightfoot, James Keelaghan, and John Prine, Southern Alberta's John Wort Hannam is a born story-teller with a keen eye for the quirky and lyrics that create stories behind songs. For five years John Wort Hannam taught grade nine language arts on the largest reserve in Canada – The Kainai Nation, part of the Blackfoot Confederacy. But in 1997 he heard a Loudon Wainwright III record and was hooked by the music and stories. Eventually, he quit teaching and began to pursue the dream of being a working musician. In the ten years since, John has captured a Juno Award nomination for Best Traditional/Roots album, a Canadian Folk Music Award for Album of the Year, and awards for his finely crafted, narrative songwriting. His music has taken him across Canada to the US, UK, Australia, to appearances in Trafalgar Square, the winter and summer Olympics, the Smithsonian, and a solo main stage slot at the coveted Kerrville Folk Festival.
www.johnworthannam.com

Jorge Miguel - *Guitarra Flamenca/Flamenco Guitar*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: Instrumental Solo Artist, World Solo Artist
Label: Andaluz Music
Group Members: Jorge Miguel, Justin Gray, Luis Orbegoso, Daniel Stone, Eliana Cuevas, Lisa La Mantia
Jorge Miguel is a Spanish Canadian Flamenco guitarist and composer. Jorge's new CD "Guitarra Flamenca/Flamenco Guitar" is an exploration of the depth and breadth of Flamenco Guitar by an artist that has dedicated his life to this art form. Eight diverse songs styles, known in Flamenco circles as "palos", are performed with precision, passion and originality, yet remain firmly rooted in tradition. Jorge's family is from Cadiz, Andalucia, Spain and his parents moved from Seville to Toronto just one year before he was born. After years of trying to ignore his Spanish roots, Jorge realized his true calling was playing Flamenco guitar. Jorge moved back to Spain in 1995 to immerse himself in the study of Flamenco Guitar, and he has not strayed from that path since. Jorge has studied with maestro's Pepe Russo in Cadiz, Don Antonio Villar in El Puerto de Santa Maria, Carlos Del Rio in Madrid, Augustin Carbonell in Seville and attended workshops w/ Diego Del Morao and singer Rocio Marquez in Toronto. Jorge has also accompanied renowned dancers such as Esmeralda Enrique, Soledad Barrio, Isabel Bayon, La Choni, and Maria Serrano. In 2002, Jorge formed the Jorge Miguel Flamenco Ensemble with a mandate to take true Flamenco to audiences across Canada. His ensemble combines the three pillars of Flamenco, the guitar, the dance and the song (el Toque, el

Baile y el Canté). Jorge has performed over 1000 shows from Whitehorse, The Yukon to Antigonish, Nova Scotia as well as in the U.S. and Europe. Jorge's ensemble was nominated in 2011 for Capacoa Touring Artist of the Year.
www.jorgemiguel.com

Jory Nash - *Little Pilgrim*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: Producer
Label: Thin Man Records
Group Members: Jory Nash
Jory Nash is an award-winning singer-songwriter and storyteller who blends elements of folk, jazz, blues, pop & soul. He has recorded seven albums, including his newest CD, Little Pilgrim. His 2009 album, New Blue Day, was named Penguin Eggs Magazine Critic's Choice Album of the Year as well as a Canadian Folk Music Awards Producer nomination. He is also a previous winner of the OCFF Songs From The Heart Award. Jory Nash is a past Artistic Director of the Shelter Valley Folk Festival, and is the co-founder of an annual large scale, multi-artist concert celebrating the music of Gordon Lightfoot. He plays acoustic guitar, piano and banjo and his music is regularly heard on numerous CBC Radio programs, SiriusXM, BBC, Galaxie, and stations across North America. He tours regularly and festival appearances include Summerfolk, Mariposa, Home County, Stewart Park, Eaglewood, Shelter Valley, Hillside, Blue Skies, Live From The Rock, Winterfolk and more.
www.jorynash.com @jorynashmusic

Justin Rutledge - *Valleyheart*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: Contemporary Album, Contemporary Singer, English Songwriter
Label: Outside Music
Group Members: Justin Rutledge
"Travel is a major theme on Valleyheart," says Justin Rutledge. "It is perhaps my most 'Canadian' album to date, even though it is heavily influenced by California." Rutledge has twice been nominated for a Juno Award, and twice been long-listed for the prestigious Polaris Music Prize. The quiet songwriter returns to his roots with a stately collection of spacious songs featuring Rutledge's trademark poetic lyrics. His 5th studio album is spare in its arrangements, and patient in its delivery. It has been almost three years since Justin Rutledge has released an album,Äîthe longest stretch in between albums for the 33 year-old songwriter who was born and raised in The Junction, an old railway neighbourhood in the west end of Toronto. During this time, he recorded an album with his band in Los Angeles, and also became involved in the world of theatre. Rutledge has worked with such pivotal directors as Daniel Brooks and Morris Panych, and collaborated with Michael Ondaatje on adapting his novel Divisadero for the stage. Rutledge was also the composer and music director for Canadian Stage's production of The Arsonists, featuring such venerable Canadian actors as Michael Ball and Sheila McCarthy. Valleyheart was recorded in Toronto with Rutledge's veteran backing band, featuring his best friend Bazil Donovan (Blue Rodeo) on bass, and mixed in Los Angeles by Dan Burns (Puscifer, Chuck Prophet.)
www.justinrutledge.com @JustinJRutledge

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

Keiffer Mclean - *Keiffer Mclean*

Regina, SK
Nominations: Young Performer
Label: Independent
Group Members: Keiffer Mclean
Keiffer is a genuine prairie kid who is taking giant steps on the path of the folk/indie music scene. From his stories about skipping out of choir and learning the piano from his grandmother, to him recalling the impact a Bob Marley poster had on his music career, makes you appreciate how far he has come in such a short time. Keiffer's lyrics and the simple melodic arrangements that he creates have a depth and meaningfulness that far exceeds his nineteen-year old mind. Because he comes from a musical family, Keiffer is adept on many instruments including the piano, melodica, accordion and hand-drums. His main instrument is the acoustic guitar. In his first year of actively performing, he has already made an impact on the Saskatchewan music scene, with upcoming performances in the summer of 2013 at the Regina Folk Festival, Gateway Festival and Ness Creek Music Festival. In addition, Keiffer performed at JunoFest 2013 held in Regina, Saskatchewan. Keiffer performs as a solo act or as part of the Curiosity Club Trio with Robert Mclean on hand percussion and Chris Pripch on stand-up bass. Keiffer recorded his first EP "Keiffer Mclean" during the winter of 2011-2012. He finished the recording in January 2012 at the age of 17.
www.keiffermclean.ca @KeifferSinger

Ken Whiteley - *The Light Of Christmas*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: Traditional Singer
Label: Pyramid Records
Group Members: Ken Whiteley, musical friends of Ken Whiteley
Canadian roots music legend, Ken Whiteley has been honoured with numerous accolades including Lifetime Achievement awards from Mariposa Folk Festival and the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals, a Canadian Folk Music award, a Genie award for Best Original Song in a Canadian film, Parent's Choice award, 7 Juno nominations and 14 Maple Blues nominations. A powerful singer, prolific songwriter and versatile multi-instrumentalist, he has performed in every province and territory of Canada. His recent Borealis release, Another Day's Journey received a Canadian Folk Music Award nomination. The Light of Christmas, Ken's 28th recording, was released in November 2012. His popular, once-a-month winter Sunday afternoon gospel series at Hugh's Room is now in its eleventh season.
www.kenwhiteley.com

Kevin Breit - *Field Recording*

McKerrow, ON
Nominations: Pushing the Boundaries
Label: Poverty Playlist
Group Members: Kevin Breit
Kevin Breit is without a doubt one of North America's most enigmatic and multifaceted guitarists. Considered a "guitarist's guitarist", Breit has recorded with Norah Jones, Rosanne Cash, k.d. Lang, Hugh Laurie, Holly Cole, Amos Lee, Jane Siberry, Molly Johnson, Serena Ryder, Natalie McMaster, Jane Bunnett, and many others. Breit's extensive career has seen him garner multiple awards and accolades - he has performed on recordings that have earned ten Grammy Awards. He is a member of the popular all male quartet, Sisters Euclid. Their brilliant disc, Run Neil Run, received a Juno Award for best instrumental recording in 2006. They have performed throughout Canada and Europe several times. Several of the group's compositions have been featured in movies, television and radio

programs. In 2009, they were presented with the award for Electric Jazz Group of the Year from the National Jazz Awards. Kevin has recorded three albums with Harry Manx, and was awarded the Maple Blues Award for Acoustic Act of the Year in 2007. His trio, Folkalarm, has recorded five CD's and toured throughout Canada. He has recorded three solo discs for his label, Poverty Playlist. His group, the Stretch Orchestra, was awarded a Juno for Best Instrumental Recording in 2012. Always on the lookout for new musical adventures, Kevin Breit has created the Upper York Mandolin Orchestra and its megalomaniac leader, Thomas Dooley to release this collection of 11 brilliant originals. Field Recording showcases Breit's adept skills on the mandolin and vocals as well as masterful, thought provoking and sometimes quirky lyrics.
www.kevinbreit.com

Kierah - *Stonemason's Daughter*

South Surrey, BC
Nominations: Young Performer
Label: Independent
Group Members: Kierah
After 13 years of classical training (receiving one of Canada's highest marks on her ARCT Performance exam with the Royal Conservatory of Music) combined with 12 years of learning and performing Celtic fiddle music, Kierah is a "fiddler extraordinaire". Inspired by the hearfelt playing of Martin Hayes, her own playing radiates with the love she has for traditional (and not so traditional) Celtic music - always playing with the clear and precise intonation for which she is known. After spending last summer in Ireland, she was further inspired by the music, the musicians, the history and the kindness of the people - much of which is reflected on her new release - "Stonemason's Daughter". Kierah's first 2 CDs ,"Irish Madness" and "A Fiddle Affair" earned her CFMA nominations in 2008 and 2010 in the Young Performer category. As a prolific composer, Kierah has published Western Canada's first book of all original fiddle tunes found in music stores across Canada, called "Kierah's Collection" and features 15 of them on her new CD.
www.irishmadness.com

Kristi Lane Sinclair - *The Sea Alone*

Prince Rupert, BC
Nominations: Aboriginal Songwriter
Label: Independent
Group Members: Kristi Lane Sinclair, Cris Derksen, Joy Mullen, John Walsh
Raised on grunge in the backwaters of British Columbia, singer-songwriter Kristi Lane Sinclair's musical roots are reflected in her sophomore album The Sea Alone. It is an intoxicating mix of grunge, folk and classical. Grunge and classical you say? Yes, grunge and classical, Kristi growls back. In her low, hard-edged vocals, Kristi sings about heartbreak, great loves and the sea on her latest album. Growing up in Prince Rupert, B.C., with family roots in Masset, Haida Gwaii, it is no wonder Kristi finds healing in open waters. A Canadian Folk Music Award nominee for her first album I Love You, Kristi calls on her good friend cellist Cris Derksen to provide doleful accompaniment on The Sea Alone.
www.kristilanesinclair.com @kristi_lane

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

Lemon Bucket Orkestra - *Lume, Lume*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: Instrumental Group, New/Emerging Artist, Traditional Album, World Group
Label: Independent
Group Members: Mark Marczyk, James McKay, Emilyn Stam, Anastasia Baczynsky, Tangi Ropars, Alex Nahirny, Jaash Singh, Stephania Woloshyn, Oskar Lambarri, Rob Teehan, Chris Weatherstone, Karl Silveira, Michael Louis Johnson, Nic Buligan, John David Williams, Mike Romaniak
From Toronto to New York, Budapest to Berlin, audiences around the world are hailing the Lemon Bucket Orkestra as folk music revolutionaries. Since their birth three years ago, the band has grown from its initial quartet of buskers to a fifteen-piece guerrilla folk force with an army of grass roots followers and mainstream fans at home and abroad. Those discovering the band for the first time quickly realize that their shows are more than concerts: they're wild, joyful experiences rarely contained by four walls; they're celebrations of tradition and culture expressed with an explosive punk spirit; they're ecstatic street parades that erupt from the collision of nostalgia and imagination. The LBO enjoyed worldwide media attention last summer after playing klezmer music on a delayed Air Canada flight en route to a three week tour of Romania-- the video garnered 250,000+ YouTube hits and was covered by CNN, New York Times, Fox News, Huffington Post, Jimmy Kimmel, CBC, CTV, The Toronto Star, The Globe and Mail, and more. 2012 was a monumental year for LBO: they released their debut full-length album "Lume, Lume"(produced by Michael Phillip Wojewoda at Toronto's Revolution Recording), toured eight countries in Europe and North America, shared stages with the most renowned artists in their genre (Shantel and the Bucovina Club Orkestar, Taraf de Haidouks, and Fanfare Ciocarlia, among others), and were featured performers in "Midwinter Night: Sacred and Profane Rituals"at the legendary LaMaMa Theater in New York City. CBC Music describes their music as "Music to shake you by the scruff, in the best possible way."
www.lemonbucket.com @lemonbucket

Lenka Lichtenberg - *Embrace*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: World Solo Artist
Label: Sunflower Records
Group Members: Alan Hetherington, Ravi Naimpally, Chris Gartner, John Gzowski, Ernie Tollar
Born in Prague, Lenka Lichtenberg is a composer, vocalist (Yiddish, English, Czech, French, Russian, Hebrew), and bandleader with 6 solo CD releases and several collaborations on her resume. She creates uniquely Canadian world music, channeling the rich Toronto soundscapes of Middle East, India and Brazil, and her own East European heritage. A prolific composer, Lenka's two new compositions were chosen for publication in 2013 by Shalshelet International Festival of New Jewish Liturgy. Lenka is in the midst of a diverse international concert career, traveling across continents as a solo artist, with a trio, her six piece ensemble Fray, or with one of her collaborative projects: "Bridges - Jewish and Arabic music in dialogue," and "Lullabies from Exile," a recording work-in-progress with Yair Dalal, of intertwined Yiddish and Babylonian music. Lenka was also the bandleader and principal arranger for the award-winning group Sisters of Sheynville. Lenka has been written about as "…a force of nature within Canada's world music scene" (Nicholas Jennings, Penguin Eggs); CBC Radio's Karen Gordon describes Lenka's 2013 album "Embrace" as "absolutely exquisite" (Fresh Air.)
www.lenklichtenberg.com/home.cfm @LenkaLichtenber

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

Louis-Jean Cormier - *Le treizième étage*

Laval, QC
Nominations: French Songwriter
Label: Simone Records
Group Members: Louis-Jean Cormier
Après 15 ans de tournées et d'aventures musicales avec la formation Karkwa, Louis-Jean Cormier s'était promis un repos bien mérité. Pourtant, après quelques jours seulement, son nouveau projet s'est tout naturellement imposé à lui. Il faut dire que Louis-Jean n'a jamais vraiment cessé de gratter la guitare depuis son adolescence. À cette époque, il écumait déjà le circuit des bars de son Sept-Îles natal, en interprétant classiques québécois et compositions. C'est au Cégep Saint-Laurent, en 1998, que Louis-Jean se pose et s'accorde avec ses futurs collaborateurs, Karkwa naît de cette amitié grandissante. En 2001, le groupe se fait connaître du grand public lors des Francouvertes, où ils se rendent en finale. Au fil des années, le groupe sort 3 albums, notamment Les Chemins de verre en 2010, pour lequel ils gagnent le prestigieux Prix Polaris. Que ce soit à Londres, en Islande, au Texas ou durant la première partie d'Arcade Fire à la place des Festivals à Montréal, Karkwa a toujours su bouleverser et soulever son public. La signature singulière du groupe fait probablement écho à la nature curieuse du chanteur. « Mélomaniaque » à ses heures et toujours désireux de repousser ses propres limites, Louis-Jean a parsemé son parcours musical de défis hautement créatifs. En s'unissant entre autres à Patrick Watson pour la série de spectacles Karwatson en 2008, Louis-Jean et sa bande prouvent qu'il est possible de traverser le mur du son et de la langue. Avec les années, sa réputation de guitariste et de multi-instrumentiste l'a emmené à travailler sur la réalisation du projet musical des 12 hommes rapaillés de Gaston Miron. Son rôle en tant que réalisateur sera, également notable sur les albums de Marie-Pier Arthur et de Lisa Leblanc. C'est avec l'aide d'une équipe de qualité que Louis-Jean, nous livre un premier album marqué de sonorités folks et d'une une poésie puissante sculptée autour de cette nouvelle aventure plus personnelle.
www.louisjeancormier.com @LouisJean_solo

Lynn Miles - *Downpour*

Ottawa, ON
Nominations: Contemporary Album, English Songwriter, Solo Artist
Label: Independent
Group Members: Lynn Miles
There's something to be said for experience, for taking the time to grow into your own skin. All sturdy things need time to root firmly into the ground to find their strength. Lynn Miles is one of Canada's most accomplished singer-songwriters. With twelve albums to her credit, the winner of multiple Canadian Folk Music Awards (including a nod in 2011 for the English Songwriter of the Year category), and 2003 Juno Award for Roots and Traditional Solo Album of The Year, she has certainly found her strength over time. Through a career that has seen her move from Ottawa to Los Angeles and back again, with stops in Nashville and Austin TX., and a healthy touring schedule that regularly takes her through the US, Europe and Canada, she has always created and performed music with unbridled feeling and vulnerability. Lynn's new release "Downpour", has been described as "11 remarkable new songs of love, life, darkness and light-a celebration of our fragile, flawed and beautiful world".
www.lynnmilesmusic@gmail.com @lynnmilesmusic

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

Madame Diva - *Viva la Diva*

Winnipeg, MB
Nominations: Children's Album
Label: Independent
Group Members: Jocelyne Baribeau
In spite of her slightly flamboyant, eccentric self, Madame Diva's underlying goal en anglais et in French, is to take her young audience on a journey to explore an absolutely inclusive world. This summer, Madame Diva is touring with a crazy gang of live musicians in the 'I love Madame Diva band'! They will get your toes tapping and your hands clapping!
www.madamediva.com

Maria Dunn - *Piece By Piece*

Edmonton, AB
Nominations: Solo Artist
Label: Distant Whisper Music
Group Members: Maria Dunn
A true preserver of the spirit of folk music, Maria Dunn is often compared to Woody Guthrie for her keen social awareness and her unvarnished songs about the lives of working men and women. With her new CD, Piece By Piece (2012), Maria pays tribute to immigrant women who worked at a Western Canadian clothing factory over its 93-year history (1911 – 2004). Locally inspired, the songs are universal in theme—immigration, family, striving for a better life. Stylistically, Maria's previous four recordings have melded North American roots music with influences from her Scottish-Irish heritage. With Piece By Piece, Maria adds musical inflections and instrumentation that evoke the countries of origin (Italy, India, Vietnam, Ukraine) of the women who inspired the songs. Distributed in Canada by Outside Music, Piece by Piece is Maria Dunn's fifth independent recording, produced by Shannon Johnson (Juno award winner with The McDades for 2007's Bloom). Guest musicians include: Shannon Johnson (violin), Ojas Joshi (tabla, percussion), Michael Lent (upright bass), Sharmila Mathur (sitar), Jeremiah McDade (bansuri, whistles). Media accolades for Piece By Piece include: #4 on Penguin Eggs "Albums of the Year for 2012." Maria's four previous independent CDs include: The Peddler (Nominee - 2009 Canadian Folk Music Award), 2004's We Were Good People (a concept album exploring the vibrant people's history of Western Canada), For A Song (Nominee - 2002 Juno Award), and From Where I Stand (Nominee – 1999 Prairie Music Award), all produced by Shannon Johnson.
www.mariadunn.com @mariadunnmusic

Mary Jane Lamond - *Seinn*

Mary Jane Lamond: Glendale, Cape Breton and Wendy MacIsaac: Creignish, Cape Breton, NS
Nominations: Traditional Singer
Label: Turtlemusik
Group Members: Mary Jane Lamond, Wendy MacIsaac, Seph Peters, Cathy Porter
Seinn reflects the great love and respect that Mary Jane Lamond and Wendy MacIssac have for Nova Scotia tradition, and for each other. The record achieves a delicate balance between the musical sensibilities of two artists, showcasing traditional and original compositions among the melancholy of Gaelic song and the joy of fiddle tunes. Some of the material was learned from the recordings of older Cape Breton singers and fiddlers, some songs were chosen from existing repertoires, and some were written specifically for this project. A powerful collaboration borne of a long-time friendship and a shared love of Celtic music, the record fuses Roots arrangements with a traditional presentation. Mary Jane has continued to dedicate her musical career to the preservation of Scottish Gaelic songs and has garnered numerous Juno and ECMA award nominations. Wendy is an award-

winning fiddler, piano player and step dancer from Creignish, Cape Breton. She has toured the world as a solo performer, and with The Rankins, Ashley MacIsaac and Beolach.
www.maryjaneandwendy.com

Mary Jane Lamond and Wendy MacIsaac - *Seinn*

Mary Jane Lamond: Glendale, Cape Breton and Wendy MacIsaac: Creignish, Cape Breton, NS
Nominations: Ensemble, Traditional Album
Label: Turtlemusik
Group Members: Mary Jane Lamond, Wendy MacIsaac, Seph Peters, Cathy Porter
Seinn reflects the great love and respect that Mary Jane Lamond and Wendy MacIssac have for Nova Scotia tradition, and for each other. The record achieves a delicate balance between the musical sensibilities of two artists, showcasing traditional and original compositions among the melancholy of Gaelic song and the joy of fiddle tunes. Some of the material was learned from the recordings of older Cape Breton singers and fiddlers, some songs were chosen from existing repertoires, and some were written specifically for this project. A powerful collaboration borne of a long-time friendship and a shared love of Celtic music, the record fuses Roots arrangements with a traditional presentation. Mary Jane has continued to dedicate her musical career to the preservation of Scottish Gaelic songs and has garnered numerous Juno and ECMA award nominations. Wendy is an award-winning fiddler, piano player and step dancer from Creignish, Cape Breton. She has toured the world as a solo performer, and with The Rankins, Ashley MacIsaac and Beolach.
www.maryjaneandwendy.com

Maxim Cormier - *Maxim Cormier*

Cheticamp, NS
Nominations: Instrumental Solo Artist
Label: Independent
Group Members: Maxim Cormier, Gervais Cormier
Maxim Cormier has played guitar since he was 11 years old and is now a student of guitar performance at Dalhousie University, balancing his days as a full-time student, solo guitarist, composer and freelancing musician. Cormier's dedication to instrumental guitar, both with the use of a pick or in pure finger style, is beautifully captured in his self-titled 2012 release. Cormier's guitar playing demands the listener's attention as he effortlessly provides a musical experience that is truly peaceful and yet extremely complex. The word "versatility"best defines Cormier's virtuosic talent as at a young age he masterfully performs styles as diverse as jazz blues and traditional Celtic music. When asked what he loves best about music, Cormier confides, "I love that music is accessible to everyone. Anyone can feel it. Yet, it's complex enough to be a life long journey."In 2012, Cormier was awarded the Drive'ers Association and Lakewind Sound's Big Sampie Award. In addition to this award, Cormier's talent has been featured at the Celtic Colours Festival and appreciated in collaboration with Grammy Award winning Gordie Sampson. Tom Knapp of Rambles.net wrote: "Maxim Cormier is the next in a line of gifted guitarists to crop up in the music-rich soil of Cape Breton. I expect to hear a great deal more from him in years to come."
www.maximcormier.com @MaximCormier

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

Mo Kenney - *Mo Kenney*

Waverley, NS
Nominations: New/Emerging Artist
Label: Pheromone Recordings/New Scotland Records
Group Members: Mo Kenney
She may be just 22, but Mo Kenney is far from being a novice songwriter. She began writing in her early teens, and by the age of 14, she'd already done some recording at a small studio in Bedford, Nova Scotia. Her musical tastes have undergone a transition over the past decade. Having influences and inspirations drawn from classic and alt-rock artists rather than the traditional singer/songwriter pantheon helps account for the bracing freshness of Mo Kenney's style. The buzz on Mo Kenney started before the release of her self-titled debut, fuelled by her quirky songs, unique voice and the admiration and support of industry veterans such as Joel Plaskett, Ron Sexsmith and Gordie Sampson. East Coast rock and roll hero Plaskett, produced and played on the album, as well as contributing a couple of co-writes. Plaskett's label New Scotland Records released the recording in partnership with Pheromone Recordings. Fitting her sound into a neat box is an exercise in futility, though, if pressed, Mo can settle for "pop music with a folky twist." Since the release of her debut recording in September 2012, Mo Kenney has toured the country with Joel Plaskett and The Emergency, selling record numbers of CDs offstage and gleaning outstanding reviews. She has played the prestigious Iceland Airwaves Festival, has been nominated for the CBC Radio 3 Bucky Award for 2012 Rookie of the Year and is on the iTunes list of the Best Singer Songwriters of 2012.
www.mokenney.com @mo_kenney

Natalie Edelson of The Blue Warblers - *Birds*

Whitehorse, YT
Nominations: Traditional Singer
Label: Independent
Group Members: Kim Beggs, Natalie Edelson
The latest in a series of brilliant old-time projects from the Yukon, The Blue Warblers feel like an edgy back-porch sing-along in which Beggs' sweet, girlish vocals grind with Edelson's more rough-hewn alto over a backdrop of old-timey guitar, clawhammer banjo, and skin-and-bone percussion. The result is a sweet and savoury mix: warm yet unaffected, like silk worn under wool.They celebrate vocally-driven old time music. Their brand new record, BIRDS, features a total of 15 tracks. Six songs penned by Edelson and/or Beggs are intertwined with inspiring renditions of songs from campfire heroes including Bruce Springsteen, the Rolling Stones, Neil Young, Martha Scott Stey, and Hazel Dickens, and complemented by four traditional old time standards. The vocally-driven album features Edelson's clawhammer banjo meshed with Beggs' rhythm guitar and Skin n' Bones percussion. Special guests on the album include Amelia Rose, Bob Hamilton, Linda McRae, and MC Hansen from Denmark. Following an autumn that saw them nominated for both a Canadian Folk Music Award and two Western Canadian Music Awards, the duo of esteemed Yukon artists Kim Beggs and Natalie Edelson returned from their successful CD release tour for their debut record Pretty Good. Their "Rails To Routes" tour took them from Ontario to BC on Via Rail.
www.thebluewarblers.com @thebluewarblers

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

New Country Rehab - *Ghost of Your Charms*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: Pushing the Boundaries
Label: Kelp Records
Group Members: John Showman, Champagne James Robertson, Ben Whiteley, Roman Tomé
It's been two years since New Country Rehab grabbed the folk world's attention with their impressive self-titled debut. Since then, the band have built a dedicated brood of fans, bringing their unique stew of traditional country, bluegrass, rock and jazz to audiences in Canada, the US, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, and the United Kingdom. Featuring singer/fiddler John Showman, guitarist "Champagne"James Robertson, double bassist Ben Whiteley and drummer Roman Tome, NCR's unique blend of instruments and playing approach have left critics with a tough task in describing the band's sound. Hailed as "the next big thing in Canadian music"(Tom Power-CBC) and "Canada's answer to the Avett Brothers and Mumford and Sons"(UNCUT), NCR have raised a raucous that shows no signs of slowing down on their sophomore effort, Ghost of Your Charms. NCR have stepped up their sonic palette on Charms, and the result is the sound of a band that has gotten very comfortable in their skin. Working again with producer Chris Stringer (Timber Timbre, Ohbijou), Charms was recorded live off the floor at Casa Wroxton. Love, loss and tall tales of sordid characters inhabit the album's eleven tracks, including reworkings of Hank Williams Sr.'s ("Too Many Parties"), and "Image of Me," a Wayne Kemp country classic that Conway Twitty took to #1 in 1961.
www.newcountryrehab.com @newcountryrehab

Njacko Backo & Kalimba Kalimba - *Ici Bas, Rien N'est Impossible (Here Below, Nothing is Impossible)*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: World Group
Label: Independent
Group Members: Njacko Backo, Celina Carroll, Anne Lederman, Joaquin Nunez Hidalgo, Paco Luviano, Chip Yarwood , Altaf "Bwana Moto" Vellani, Paul Neufeld, Valery Woloshyn
Musically and spiritually Njacko Backo draws on the lessons he learned in Cameroon from his musical family, mentors and village life. He often points to the movie "The Gods Must Be Crazy" to demonstrate the truly rural and organic nature of his upbringing. With an adventurous spirit, he left home at age 17 to look for new musical styles and approaches to add to his repertoire. He spent 15 years travelling and performing in Africa and Europe before coming to Canada in 1989. He created his band Kalimba Kalimba in 1990 in Montreal to introduce the kalimba to all generations and to give everyone the opportunity to enjoy its sweet soothing sounds. Njacko re-created the group when he moved to Toronto in 1999 and has been working with the same core group of musicians ever since. The band features Njacko on lead vocals, kalimba and ngoni, and the music is rhythmically supported by two percussionists (Bwana Moto, Joaquin Nunez Hidalgo) and electric bass (Paco Luviano). Other colours are added by Chip Yarwood (guitar, banjo, flute, backing vocals), Anne Lederman (violin, accordion, backing vocals), and Celina Carroll (backing vocal). Njacko is celebrating 24 years of making music in Canada with the release of Ici Bas, Rien N'est Impossible, a collaboration with some of Canada's most accomplished musicians (Jane Bunnett, Ken Whiteley , George Koller, Pat O'Gorman, Paul Neufeld, Colin Doroschuk, Sahara Sloan). As Backo's 11th independent release, this album marks an important milestone in the musician's journey that began 54 years ago in a small village in rural Cameroon. Njacko and Kalimba Kalimba have appeared at major festivals across North America. He won the first prize in the 17th Annual Billboard World Song Contest for his song "Afrique Réveille Toi". He also was recognized for his song "Mama Oh" with honourable mentions from both the 2006 International Songwriting Competition (world music category) and the 15th Annual Billboard World Song Contest.
www.NjackoBacko.com @NjackoBacko

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

Old Man Luedecke - *Tender is the Night*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: Contemporary Singer, English Songwriter
Label: True North Records
Group Members: Chris Luedecke (Old Man Luedecke)
Old Man Luedecke's narrative-driven folk songs are playful, coy, and soul warming. Based in Chester, Nova Scotia, the two-time Juno award-winning roots singer-songwriter's latest album, Tender Is The Night muses on love, art and purpose. With skillful precision and a storyteller's heart, Luedecke charms audiences with his heartfelt folk tunes.
www.oldmanluedecke.ca @OldManLuedecke

Orchid Ensemble - *Life Death Tears Dream*

Vancouver, BC
Nominations: Pushing the Boundaries
Label: Independent
Group Members: Lan Tung, Jonathan Bernard, Haiqiong Deng
Established in 1997, the Juno nominated Orchid Ensemble transforms its Chinese roots to create a unique repertoire that breaks down boundaries between musical genres. Taking ingredients from Chinese, Indian, Jewish, and Central Asian music, reconstructing within a contemporary framework, and adding spirited improvisation, the Orchid Ensemble takes its audience on unexpected journeys. With artistic director Lan Tung on the erhu/Chinese violin & vocals, Haiqiong Deng on the zheng/Chinese zither, and Jonathan Bernard on marimba & percussion, the ensemble creates a distinct new sound. The Orchid Ensemble gives over seventy performances/presentations internationally every year, including music festivals, community concerts, school presentations, and university residencies. Past appearances included National Arts Centre (Ottawa), Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, Harbourfront Centre (Toronto), Centre Pierre Peladeau (Montreal), Kennedy Center for the Arts (DC), the Smithsonian Institution (DC), Detroit Institute of the Arts, Ottawa Chamber Music and Folk festivals, and Vancouver Jazz, Folk and Children's festivals.
www.orchidensemble.com @orchidensemble

Pharis Romero - *Long Gone Out West Blues*

Horsefly, BC
Nominations: Traditional Singer
Label: Lula Records
Group Members: Pharis Romero, Jason Romero
In the tiny town of Horsefly, B.C. lives a pair of musicians with a pair of extraordinary claims to fame. Jason Romero is widely considered one of the best boutique banjo builders in the world, with a client list that includes Jerry Douglas, Ricky Skaggs and Martin Simpson. He and Pharis – an alumnus of the roots act Outlaw Social – also have a vintage roots duo that's taking off in the folk world.
Like the second coming of some 1937 country act, Pharis & Jason combine unadorned lead vocals with top-notch picking, powerful harmonies, and a collection of songs so honest-sounding you'd swear they were plucked off a field recording. The glorious originals are virtually impossible to distinguish from their stirring covers of old time classics. And they perform everything on vintage pre-war guitars and their own splendidly hand-crafted banjos and resonator guitars.
Their debut duo album A Passing Glimpse earned a 2012 Canadian Folk Music Award and an American Independent Music Award. It was #1 at American folk radio in September 2011, and was also named one of the best albums of the year by Folk Alley.
Its follow-up, Long Gone Out West Blues, was released in early 2013 to ebullient endorsement from Utne Reader to CMT Edge, The Herald Scotland

to the Huffington Post. CMT Edge said it "effortlessly evolves tradition with innovation." Folk Alley called the duo songwriters and pickers extraordinaire, with "as much natural talent for the traditions of American folk music as they do for the intrinsic musicality of their two voices."
When not touring or building, they teach music to emerging singers and pickers at workshops across North America. 2013-2014 takes them to performances in A Prairie Home Companion, the Vancouver Folk Festival, Pickathon and other global stages. Their delight in making music for music's sake no doubt contributes to the joyful lack of pretense in their albums and performances and to the rapidly-growing fan-base for both.
www.pharisandjason.com

Pharis Romero, Jason Romero - *Long Gone Out West Blues*

Horsefly, BC
Nominations: Traditional Album
Label: Lula Records
Group Members: Pharis Romero, Jason Romero
In the tiny town of Horsefly, B.C. lives a pair of musicians with a pair of extraordinary claims to fame. Jason Romero is widely considered one of the best boutique banjo builders in the world, with a client list that includes Jerry Douglas, Ricky Skaggs and Martin Simpson. He and Pharis – an alumnus of the roots act Outlaw Social – also have a vintage roots duo that's taking off in the folk world.
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www.pharisandjason.com

Rachel Davis - *Turns*

Baddeck, NS
Nominations: Instrumental Solo Artist
Label: Independent
Group Members: Rachel Davis
Strongly influenced by the playing of her grandfather, Clarence Long, Baddeck native Rachel Davis has been a student of the fiddle since she was twelve. She fondly recalls sitting in a corner of her grandfather's barber shop, squeaking away at tunes under his careful guidance. Those first efforts lead to more teachers (including Karen Beaton, Kyle MacNeil and Stan Chapman) and great progress, as she has developed into a dynamic player with great timing and a great lift to her music. Now considered one of the best young Cape Breton style players, she was fortunate enough to be the recipient of the 2009 Frank "Big Sampy" Sampson Award, which is sponsored by the Celtic Colours Festival Volunteer Drive'er Association, and Lakewind Sound Studios, giving financial aid for a Cape

Breton artist to record their first CD. Her self-titled debut album was released during the Celtic Colours Festival that October, with a CD release party held at the late night Festival Club. Her CD has received rave reviews, with articles in the Cape Breton Post, Rambles.net, fRoots magazine, and Penguin Eggs Magazine. Cuts from Rachel's debut album have been featured on promotional CDs for Lakewind Sound Studios and Cape Breton University. She has also been honoured as the winner of the 2007 Tic Butler Memorial Award, given each year to a young performer for outstanding contribution to Cape Breton culture. And this past year, Rachel was nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award in the Young Performer of the Year category. Rachel has toured across Canada, the US, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Her latest album, "Turns", which includes Rachel's fiddling and singing talents, was released in April 2013.
www.rachel-davis.ca @racheldavis26

Rebecca Lappa - *Avant Garden*

Edmonton, AB
Nominations: Young Performer
Label: Independent
Group Members: Rebecca Lappa
Edmonton teen, Rebecca Lappa, is a prolific songwriter and born storyteller. She received CFMA "Young Performer of the Year" Nominations in 2011 & 2012. Her music has played on CBC, CKUA, CJSF, CJSR, CJLY, CJUM, and CHMR. Her CD "Myths and Monsters" charted #8 on the Top Ten Roots/Country Albums at CFBX and #23 on CHMA's top 31. "Rebecca's an accomplished keyboard player and moves easily from blues to jazz to pop styles. Her songwriting often weaves historical threads and evokes powerful images and emotions. She can move you to tears and laughter in the same song" Red Door House Concerts, Feb. 2013 In June, Rebecca released her 3rd CD "Avant Garden" produced by Alana Levandoski. These folk-pop tunes represent a range of styles: a veritable garden of songs. The CD includes "Welcome to Wayne" a top 6 finalist in the All Albertan Songwriting contest and the Sonic Youth winner at the 2013 Calgary Folkfest Songwriting Contest. Besides a new CD, Rebecca wrote the music for 6 songs in Alison Neuman's Fringe musical "Searching for Normal". Rebecca also stretched her wings as a playwright and performed her Folk Opera, "The Earl"at Edmonton's Nextfest. "The teen composer is an incredible artist... I was blown away by her incredible stage presence... she has successfully created music that switches between different voices, different ages and genders." Laura Raboud Director of The Earl, Edmonton Journal; June 8, 2013 She has opened for Back Porch Swing, Joanne Janzen, Maria Dunn and Alana Levandoski. Her national performances include the Galaxie Young Performers Program at the 2012 Winnipeg Folkfest, and a CFMA Showcase in St. John, NB. as well as the Winnipeg Folkfest, Calgary Folkfest and the "Young Albertan"at the Arts Touring Alliance of Alberta Showcase.
www.rebeccalappa.com @rebecca_lappa

Rick Scott - *The Great Gazzoon - A Tall Tale With Tunes & Turbulence*

Protection Island, BC
Nominations: Producer
Label: Grand PooBah Music, Jester Records
Group Members: Rick Scott. Guests incl. a cast of 25 actors, singers and musicians.
Rooted in folk and blues and inspired by Broadway musicals, Pete Seeger and Danny Kaye, Rick Scott is his own genre. Canada's leading proponent of the Appalachian dulcimer, over 40 years he's released 19 recordings and performed his lively, original music in nine countries, solo and with iconic folk trio Pied Pumkin. His gift for combining wacky humour and poignant human commentary has earned him a devoted following of all ages. Kudos for his 7 children's CDs include 3 Juno nominations and Parents' Choice, NAPPA Gold and Children's Music Web Awards. Pied Pumkin's

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

Pumkids (with Shari Ulrich and Joe Mock) was honoured with a 2007 Canadian Folk Music Award. In fall 2012, Rick released the 4-CD musical audio novel The Great Gazzoon, co-written and produced by his longtime collaborator Valley Hennell, with a 40-page songbook illustrated with 50 original paintings by Ottawa artist Linda Sanborn. Combining the talents of 25 actors, singers and musicians, Gazzoon tells the epic tale of how one boy's love of music overcomes his fear and transforms his community. It won 2012 Parents' Choice Approved and Family Choice Awards, was named a 2013 Best Books for Kids & Teens by the Canadian Children's Book Centre, and is nominated for Package Design in the prestigious APA Audie Awards in New York. Rick is Goodwill Ambassador for the Down Syndrome Research Foundation and curator of the Protection Island Museum.
www.rickscott.ca, www.gazzoon.com

Ruth Moody - *These Wilder Things*

Winnipeg, MB
Nominations: Contemporary Album
Label: True North Records
Group Members: Ruth Moody
Ruth Moody is a two-time Juno Award winning singer-songwriter from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Founding member of the internationally renowned, Billboard-charting trio The Wailin' Jennys, and former lead singer of the Canadian roots band Scruj MacDuhk, she has performed in sold-out venues around the world, made numerous critically-acclaimed albums, received five Juno awards nominations, and has appeared more than a dozen times on the American national radio show A Prairie Home Companion.
www.ruthmoody.com @ruthmoodymusic

Sora - *Scorpion Moon*

Calgary, AB
Nominations: World Solo Artist
Label: Independent
Group Members: Andrea Sora Helen Hunt
Sora fuses Celtic poetry, world music and Neo-Classical melodies. Her fourth studio album, Scorpion Moon, Sora delves deeply into personal stories following opposing themes; light and dark, joy and sorrow, urban versus nature, birth, rebirth and death. She has released three previous recordings -- Winds of Change (traditional folk songs from the British Isles), Light (a four-song EP) and Heartwood. In 2010 Sora was a featured performer three times for the Winnipeg Concert Series Musica Speciale as well as a featured performer with the Lily Quartet. In 2011, choral arrangements of Sora's songs were requested by the Airdrie Community Choir, for a performance in which Sora was the featured soloist. In 2011/2012, Sora's unique collaborative concert series, The Mask and the Music, were each performed to sold out crowds.
www.soramusic.ca @sorasinger

Stephanie Cadman - *Foggy New Year*

Ottawa, ON
Nominations: Instrumental Solo Artist
Label: Independent
Group Members: Stephanie Cadman, Jake Charron, Charles James, Daniel Lapp
Stephanie Cadman grew up in Canada's capital, Ottawa. Born into a musical family, she was drawn to the fiddle and developed a passion for dance and theatre starting at age 4. She was the top female at the World Tap Dance Championships in Germany at age 16. She also holds three stepdancing titles at the prestigious Pembroke Championships. Now as an accomplished artist, her professional

reputation extends throughout North America and around the world. Stephanie began her professional career as a lead in the hit musical 'Swingstep' combining her skills as actor, dancer, singer and fiddler. She then went on to perform in the Mirvish Productions Celtic review 'Needfire', and the Broadway National Tour of '42nd Street'. She is a founding member of the hit stepdance show 'The StepCrew', and is also one of Canada's top violinists featured in the production of 'Bowfire'. She is also a member of the CMT super group Belle Starr.
www.stephaniecadman.com @StephanieCadman

Stephen Fearing - *Between Hurricanes*

Halifax, NS
Nominations: Contemporary Singer, Solo Artist
Label: LowdenProud Records
Group Members: Stephen Fearing
Multiple Juno Award-winning, Blackie & the Rodeo Kings member, Stephen Fearing returns with his first solo album in seven years: the highly anticipated Between Hurricanes. A mainstay of the Canadian Folk Music scene since his first album (Out To Sea) was released in 1988, has continued to establish himself within Canada, the US and overseas through his long relationship with Bernie Finkelstein of True North Records, his celebrated work with Colin Linden and Tom Wilson of Blackie & The Rodeo Kings and his ongoing collaboration with Belfast singer-songwriter Andy White from Fearing & White. Over the course of 25 highly creative years, Fearing has released eight albums under his own name, seven with B&RK and one with F&W. He has been nominated for numerous awards and received two Junos, a Canadian Folk Music Award and a West Coast Music Award. Between Hurricanes is both the document and result of many significant changes for Fearing. The disc's eleven tracks were shaped with the idea of crafting a solo record while not employing a traditional 'folk' approach to the music.
www.stephenfearing.com @StephenFearing

Steve Dawson, Producer - *Brother Sinner & The Whale (Kelly Joe Phelps), I Hear The Wind In The Wires (Jim Byrnes)*

Vancouver, BC
Nominations: Producer
Label: Black Hen Music (both)
Group Members: Kelly Joe Phelps, Jim Byrnes
Over the past decade or so Steve Dawson has become such an indelible fixture on the Canadian musical landscape that it's tempting to take him for granted. One of the drawbacks of being so talented is that Dawson makes everything he does sound so effortless. The music that continually flows out of him is so natural and unforced that it's possible to forget all of the toil that went into producing it. Behind the organic, flowing guitar work, the crisp arrangements and the laconic singing voice, resides one of the brightest, hardest working musicians the country has ever produced. In addition to working on his own music, he's kept very busy producing memorable albums by such luminaries as Jim Byrnes, Kelly Joe Phelps, Old Man Luedecke, The Sojourners, and The Deep Dark Woods, as well as bringing the award winning Mississippi Sheiks Tribute Project to fruition (featuring Steve's work with Madeleine Peyroux, Bruce Cockburn, John Hammond, and many more). Add to that his session work and touring commitments and it's amazing that this 2-time Juno award winning artist (not to mention 5 other Junos for his production work!) ever finds the time to create any new work under his own name. A new solo album from Steve is always something special. Because Dawson is such a diverse artist, you're never quite sure what kind of mood he'll be in when he finally makes it into the studio to record. A master of many genres from gentle acoustic ditties and gut bucket blues through to free flowing experimental compositions, Dawson is comfortable in

almost any musical setting you could name, and his newest album, "Nightshade" draws from these many interests to form his most satisfyingly complete album to date.
www.stevedawson.ca @blackhenmusic

Sydney Delong - *My Vow To You*

Oakville, ON
Nominations: Young Performer
Label: Independent
Group Members: Sydney Delong
In May 2013, 17 year old Sydney Delong won a chance to perform at Georgian Bay Folk Society's Summerfolk Festival this coming August as the youngest performer on a bill that also included some of her idols; Kathleen Edwards, The Proclaimers, Alex Cuba and The Bills. This honour came after two rounds of the GBFC's Discoveries Series' competitive auditions. Just 24 months earlier, 15-year-old Sydney was writing urban-folk inspired songs alone in her bedroom, performing only for her mom as she cleaned the kitchen after dinner. Yet between May and July of that year, Sydney went from teen bedroom obscurity to national TV after being selected as a Top 16 Finalist (out of 4000 who auditioned) on a national YTV teen talent search show. She was labeled an "indie-rock hopeful" with a "powerful voice" by judges after hearing her perform an Americana-themed original called Little King. But Sydney quickly discovered she didn't fit the "pop star" model of reality TV. So without any previous formal training, performance experience or industry connections, Sydney committed herself to the long path towards trying to make a name for herself as a singer-songwriter. Over the last two years, Sydney has written and recorded her first 6-song EP (Rose Red, Black Stone), gained a solid YouTube fan base, and has showcased at numerous high profile festivals -- including Burlington Sound of Music Festival, Indie Week Canada, and 2013 NXNE Festival in Toronto. She also looks for performance opportunities to support charities – recently raising her voice at shows to help stop sex trafficking in Cambodia, fund breast cancer research, and support Rotary charity efforts in Oakville and overseas. Sydney is currently writing songs for her second EP (tentatively titled Cruel, Adore) to be released in the fall of 2013.
www.sydneydelong.com @sydney_delong

Ten Strings And A Goat Skin - *Corbeau*

Rustico, PEI
Nominations: New/Emerging Artist, Young Performer
Label: Independent
Group Members: Jesse Périard, Rowen Gallant, Caleb Gallant
Rooted in the traditional, members of this award winning trio celebrate the music of the Irish and Francophone cultures they share, infuse their original compositions and traditional standard tunes with modern and world rhythms and interpretations to create an infectious energy and unique sound that speaks to all ages. Building on a base of much loved traditional Maritime music with a good dose of originality, innovation and humour, the band grabs both French and English audience right from the first note. Milestones saw the group making waves on both English and Francophone venues at the 2011 and 2012 ECMAs and their début bilingual album, TRI, was awarded MUSIC PEI's 2012 Roots Traditional Recording of the Year and was nominated for the 2012 ECMA Roots Traditional Group Recording of the Year. Ever traveling more often and further afield, the group was nominated for Music PEI's 2013 SpinCount Touring Artists of the Year. Touted as "the busiest and hardest working band on PEI, ...playing seemingly everywhere... ", the group now includes some of Maritime Canada's major folk festivals on their resume, having performed at The Stan Rogers Folk Festival, The Halifax Urban Folk Festival and The Canadian Irish Festival as well as The Festival of Small Halls and numerous local festivals. For the second consecutive summer the group hosted daily weekday ceilidhs at the Prince Edward Island Preserve Company's Garden Theater in New Glasgow, PEI.
www.tenstringsandagoatskin.com @StringsAndGoat

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

The Boxcar Boys - *Rye Whiskey*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: Instrumental Group
Label: Independent
Group Members: John David Williams, Laura C. Bates, Rob Teehan, Ronen Segall, Karl Silveira
The Boxcar Boys deliver a veritable gumbo of wild gypsy, Dixieland jazz, Klezmer, and folk music performed with a good time New Orleans spirit. They are the combined forces of clarinetist and tunesmith John David Williams (Jaron Freeman-Fox and the Opposite of Everything, The Roofhoppers), jazz master Karl Silveira on trombone (The Lemon Bucket Orkestra), violin whiz Laura C. Bates (Trent Severn) soulful accordionist Ronen Segall and Juno nominee Rob Teehan (Heavyweights Brass Band, Saidah Baba Talibah) on sousaphone. With their first album Don't Be Blue [2011] they caught the ears of critics across the country, placing on the Ejazznews list of Best Canadian Jazz of 2011, receiving 3.5/4 stars in the Toronto Star, as well as praise in Wholenote, Canadian Folk Music and Penguin Eggs magazines. Their new album Rye Whiskey further explores their unique instrumentation as they delve deeper into both the folk and jazz genres. These 15 live-off-the-floor studio tracks showcase the band's raw acoustic sound and lively performances. Their ability to effortlessly switch from a gritty sprawling blues into a tight western swing number or an emotive tango is demonstrated in compositions by all band members. Rye Whiskey also features charming vocal renditions of folk classics "Sam Hall", "Rye Whiskey", and "Freight Train", a joyous instrumental performance of "You Are My Sunshine." Rye Whiskey captures The Boxcar Boys at their finest, musicians with appreciation for old jazz and folk music who have honed a sound that is undoubtedly their own.
www.theboxcarboys.ca @laura_c_bates

The Funky Mamas - *Pickin' in the Garden*

Guelph, ON
Nominations: Children's Album
Label: Independent
Group Members: Tannis Maynard-Langedijk, Chantal von Maydell, Georgia Urban, Kate Vsetula
One of Canada's best loved children's bands, The Funky Mamas have been putting the 'fun' in 'funky' since 1998 with their winning combination of folk, funk, bluegrass and blues. Their three critically-acclaimed albums have been known to inspire spontaneous dance parties in kitchens, giggles on car rides and "it's-great-to-be-alive adrenalin rushes" for children and adults alike. Their joyful, banter-filled live performances and original, yet familiar songs have had them much in demand across Canada and as far afield as Australia. The Guelph, Ontario quartet are Georgia Urban (guitar, mandolin and musical saw), Chantal von Maydell (fiddle, bass), Tannis Maynard-Langedijk (guitar, ukulele) and Kate Vsetula (banjo, percussion).
www.thefunkymamas.com @thefunkymamas

The Jerry Cans - *Nunavuttitut*

Iqaluit, NV
Nominations: Aboriginal Songwriter
Label: Independent
Group Members: Andrew Morrison, Nancy Mike, Stephen Rigby, Brendan Doherty, Gina Burgess
Growing up in Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, and Arctic Bay, Nunavut, The Jerry Cans have had a multidimensional musical upbringing with influences ranging from rock n' roll, community square dances, to seal hunting. The band started to jam together over the long dark Iqaluit winters in a

garage that had heat - most of the time - and had little vision of sharing their music beyond the borders of Nunavut.

In 2009, the band began to experiment with fusing northern and southern musical styles. It was through this exploration that The Jerry Cans developed their highly unique sound blending traditional and contemporary musical styles - a sound that is highly reflective of the life in the contemporary Arctic. By singing in Inuktitut and incorporating traditional Inuit throat singing with country and reggae rhythms, the band has developed a sound that is truly one of a kind.
www.thejerrycans.com @thejerrycans

The Log Drivers - *The Log Drivers*

Winnipeg, MB
Nominations: Instrumental Group
Label: Independent
Group Members: Spencer Murray, Julie Fitzgerald, Nate Douglas
With jaw dropping virtuosity and a maturity that belies their ages, The Log Drivers are a new force to be reckoned with on the Canadian folk scene. Their stunning blend of fiddle, pipes, flute, guitar and vocals creates a sound that has the weight of tradition, the fire of youth and a strong sense of place. These young musicians are taking Canadian Celtic music to places its never been before and changing the way their generation thinks about folk.
www.thelogdrivers.ca @TheLogDrivers

The Sweet Lowdown - *May*

Victoria, BC
Nominations: Vocal Group
Label: Independent
Group Members: Amanda Blied, Shanti Bremer, Miriam Sonstenes
The Sweet Lowdown is an acoustic roots trio from Victoria, B.C. Drawn together by mutual passion for old-time groove, hard driving bluegrass, sweet harmonies and well-wrought songs, Amanda Blied (guitar), Shanti Bremer (banjo) and Miriam Sonstenes (fiddle), blend original songwriting with old time roots music. Formed in 2008, The Sweet Lowdown recorded an EP with Adam Iredale-Gray (Fish and Bird) the same year. In January 2011 they traveled by train to Parry Sound, Ontario, to record their first full-length self-titled album with musician and sound engineer Andrew Collins (Creaking Tree String Quartet, Foggy Hogtown Boys). By the early spring, the trio won the Monday Magazine M-Award for Favorite Roots/World Music Group. In June, they released their self-titled debut album which was nominated for 2012 "Album of the Year" by the Vancouver Island Music Awards. In early 2012, the trio headed back into the recording studio with musician, producer and recording engineer Adrian Dolan (The Bills, Ruth Moody), on Mayne Island, BC. The result of that session is May, an emotionally intimate collection of 10 original compositions and two traditional songs that build upon their previous collection of music while demonstrating a greater range of their influences, including Irish and Indian music. May recently won the 2013 Vancouver Island Music Award for Roots Album of the Year. The Sweet Lowdown has traveled around the continent sharing their music and teaching their craft, including Haida Gwaii (Edge of the World Music Festival), Nova Scotia (Cape Breton Island, Lunenburg Folk Harbor Festival), Saskatchewan (Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Tyme Camp and Festival), California and the Midwest (Old Town School of Folk Music, Chicago).
www.thesweetlowdown.ca @TweetLowdown

2013 CFMA Nominated Artist Bios

Alphabetical by first name

The Wilderness of Manitoba - *Island of Echoes*

Toronto, ON
Nominations: Pushing the Boundaries, Vocal Group
Label: Pheromone Recordings
Group Members: Will Whitwham, Amanda Balsys, Sean Lancaric, Wes McClintock
From its inception, the Wilderness of Manitoba has been known for its three and four part harmonies. In addition to Will Whitwham's vocals, the presence of Amanda Balsys along with Elise Legrow and Felicity Williams brought the high end/female vocals to another level and contributed to the more dynamic music direction being pursued by the band. Rounding out the band is drummer/percussionist Sean Lancaric and bassist Wes McClintock.

There are elements of folk happening throughout the album, but it is in no way strictly a folk. The seventies is areference point and they included some of their favourite influences such as Fleetwood Mac and the kind of instrumentation you hear from that era that is heavy with electric guitars, Hammond organ and synthesizers and a prominent backbeat. There were a number of highlights for the Wilderness of Manitoba over the past two years, ranging from their UK debut at the End of the Road Festival where they received a standing ovation, to playing the Philadelphia Folk Festival and meeting Levon Helm; from their first shows in Berlin, Hamburg and the Netherlands to touring the U.S. opening for artists ranging from Cloud Cult to Aimee Mann; from playing the WOMAD festival in the UK with artists like Robert Plant to performing at SXSW in Austin and doing a monthly residency in New York.
www.thewildernessofmanitoba.com @wildofmanitoba

Trent Severn - *Trent Severn*

Stratford, ON
Nominations: New/Emerging Artist, Vocal Group
Label: Independent
Group Members: Dayna Manning, Emm Gryner, Laura C. Bates
Trent Severn is a trio from Stratford, Ontario comprised of indie songster Emm Gryner, the multi-talented Dayna Manning and violin whiz/songbird Laura C. Bates. When listening to their self-titled 10-track debut album, the first influence that comes to mind is Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. There is no lead singer in Trent Severn. There are no doubled tracks. There is a guitar or banjo (Manning), a bass and stomp box (Gryner), a fiddle, and a shaker here and there. You can hear the watermarks of greats like Spirit of The West, Simon and Garfunkel, Tom Petty, Joni Mitchell, Hazel Dickens and Alice Gerrard. The sound of this band is Canadiana based in Folk, Roots and Old Country. Every note on the album is played, arranged and penned by the trio with the exception of a one track guest appearance by Joel Plaskett. Song titles like "Snowy Soul", "Muskoka Bound" and "Bluenose On A Dime" paint instant Canadian portraits. The lyrics seamlessly o_er inside jokes our citizens will laugh at, yet nothing a welcome visitor couldn't relate to and enjoy.
www.trentsevernband.ca @trentsevernband

Vishtèn - *Mosaïk*

Mont-Carmel, PEI/Étang-du-Nord, Îles de la Madeleine, PEI & QC
Nominations: Ensemble, Traditional Album
Label: Independent
Group Members: Emmanuelle LeBlanc, Pastelle LeBlanc, Pascal Miousse
For the past decade Acadian powerhouse trio Vishtèn have acted as Francophone musical ambassadors to the world. The Canadian trio has dazzled audiences with their fiery blend of traditional French songs and original instrumentals that fuse Celtic and Acadian genres with a

modern sensibility of rock influence. Hailing from Prince Edward Island's Evangeline area and from the most remote reaches of Quebec - the windswept Magdalen Islands - twin sisters Emmanuelle and Pastelle LeBlanc join musical forces with Pascal Miousse to form a sophisticated sonic signature combing tight sibling harmonies, layered foot percussion, virtuoso acoustic and electric instrumentation create an expansive sound that would be difficult to reproduce, in sheer complexity, by a quintet. Their trademark blend of fiddle, guitar, accordion, harmonium, whistles, piano, bodhrán, jaw harp, moog, electric guitar and percussive dance make for a unique tour de force of traditional and contemporary sounds.
www.vishtenmusic.com