



RULES & REGULATIONS

FOR THE 2009 AWARDS

Basic Mechanics
(Revised March 2009)

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THE CANADIAN COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS

The winners of the Canadian Country Music Awards are chosen by the combined votes of all eligible members of the Canadian Country Music Association (CCMA). The winners are not chosen by fans, or by a panel of judges, but by their peers. Exceptions: Fans' Choice Award, Rising Star Award, Top Selling Album, Top Selling Canadian Album, On-Air Personality(s) of the Year (Major Market & Secondary Market), Radio Station of the Year (Major Market & Secondary Market).

The Association has authorized the presentation of 40 Awards. Only one award will be presented in each category. Exception: On a collaboration of work one award will be presented to each contributing member.

All Nominees must be Canadian citizens or have landed immigrant status. Exception: On a collaboration of work at least one of the contributors must be a Canadian citizen or have landed immigrant status. Within a Group or Duo at least 50% of the contributing members must be Canadian citizens or have landed immigrant status.

As of 2005, all final Nominees are required to be members of the Association (Industry, Corporate, or Lifetime status) in good standing. Any ballot containing a nomination in the wrong category will be considered as a "spoiled category".

CCMA members have the right, should they so desire, to have their name eliminated from any particular category.

There must be three (3) Contenders in any particular category in order for that category to remain in that current year. If there are less than three (3) Contenders, the category will be placed on hiatus for the current year only. Each Contender must receive a minimum of five (5) nominations in any category in order to be eligible to appear on the Second Ballot. Categories with equal to or less than five (5) Contenders will be placed directly on the Third & Final Ballot as Nominees.

The eligibility period for all award categories will last from March 1, 2008 through to May 31, 2009. Recordings must have been released during the eligibility period.

Participation in online balloting is limited to voting members of the CCMA in good standing as of April 30, 2009. The Association will precede each stage of the balloting process by a mailing announcement to members containing a voting 'PIN number'. By mailing this announcement to the last address provided to the Association by the member, the Association then considers the member deemed to have received their 'PIN number' within the specified period of time after the mailing date.

Voting rules are subject to change at the discretion of the CCMA's Board of Directors.

SELECTION PROCEDURES

FIRST BALLOT:

Each eligible Association member may propose ONE AND ONLY ONE Contender in each category. The ten (10) Contenders receiving the most mentions in each category will appear on the Second Ballot, providing they meet the eligibility requirements as determined by the Association's Awards Verification Committee.

SECOND BALLOT:

From the list of Contenders supplied, each eligible Association member may select TWO AND ONLY TWO Contenders in each category. The five (5) Contenders receiving the most votes in each category will appear on the Third Ballot as Nominees.

THIRD & FINAL BALLOT:

From the list of Nominees supplied, each eligible Association member may vote for ONE AND ONLY ONE Nominee in each category. The Nominee receiving the most votes will be announced as the winner at the annual Awards Presentation.

Note: As of 2005, all final Nominees appearing on the Third and Final Ballot are required to be members of the Association (Industry, Corporate, or Lifetime status) in good standing.

Disclaimer: It is the responsibility of the Membership to notify the CCMA in writing of changes to ballot information prior to the deadline of the Third Ballot: July 23, 2009. Information as it appears on the Third Ballot is final.

THE AWARDS DESCRIPTION

These Awards are presented to honour those individuals who have excelled as country music performers during the last year.

AWARD 1 FANS' CHOICE AWARD

This Award is given to the Act (Solo, Duo or Group) displaying the greatest competence in all aspects of the entertainment field. The voters should give consideration not only to the recorded performance, but also to live performance, videos, staging, public acceptance, attitude, leadership and overall contributions to the country music image. One Award is presented to the Act. The Act must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. Within a Group or Duo at least 50% of the members must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. The five (5) Nominees receiving the most votes will appear on the Third and Final Ballot for CCMA Membership voting. Country music fans will also have the opportunity to vote for their favourite entertainer. A combination of the CCMA membership vote and fan vote will determine the winner of the Fans' Choice Award.

AWARD 2 SINGLE OF THE YEAR

This Award is for single records only. Tracks from albums are not eligible unless they have been released as singles during the eligibility period. Final Nominees from the previous year are not eligible in the current year. One Award is presented to the Act (Solo, Duo or Group). The Act must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. Within a Group or Duo at least 50% of the members must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants.

AWARD 3 ALBUM OF THE YEAR

This Award is for an album as a whole unit. An Album is defined as a project containing no less than six (6) tracks and can be a special project or commemorative package. The Album must have been released during the eligibility period. Final Nominees from the previous year are not eligible in the current year. The Album should be judged on all aspects including, but not limited to, artistic performance, production, design, art layout and liner notes. One Award is presented to the Act (Solo, Duo or Group). The Act must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. Within a Group or Duo at least 50% of the members must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. Greatest Hits albums do not qualify.

AWARD 4 SONGWRITER(S) OF THE YEAR

This category is not based on the songwriters' body of work, but rather an individual song released to radio during the eligibility period. A song from a Greatest Hits album is eligible if not previously nominated. A song nominated on the final ballot from the previous year is not eligible in the current year. A songwriter(s) may receive multiple nominations determined by the release of their songs within the eligibility period. Consideration should be given to lyrics, music, and public acceptance of the song. One Award is presented to (each of) the songwriter(s). The songwriter must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. On collaborations, at least one of the songwriters must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.

AWARD 5 CMT VIDEO OF THE YEAR

This Award is for an original audio visual program not more than ten minutes in length featuring the performance of not more than one song or medley. The video should be judged on all audio and video elements, artistic performance, video concept and production. The video must have been released for broadcast during the eligibility period. Final Nominees from the previous year are not eligible in the current year. One Award is presented to the Act (Solo, Duo or Group). The Act must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. Within a Group or Duo at least 50% of the members must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants.

AWARD 6 FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

This Award is based upon individual performance, either on record or in person. One Award is presented to the Artist. The Artist must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.

AWARD 7 MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

This Award is based upon individual performance, either on record or in person. One Award is presented to the Artist. The Artist must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.

AWARD 8 GROUP OR DUO OF THE YEAR

A Group or Duo is defined as an Act, composed of two or more people, all of whom normally perform together. The Act may include an individual who has, or currently does perform, as a solo artist under a name different than that of the group or duo. Any group or duo that capitalizes in whole or in part by incorporating the name of a solo artist in the name of the group or duo is not permitted to stand for nomination in this category. This Award is based on the performance of the Group or Duo as a unit, either on record or in person. One Award is presented to the Act (Solo, Duo or Group). At least 50% of the Group or Duo must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants.

AWARD 9 ROOTS ARTIST OR GROUP OF THE YEAR

This Award is given to a Roots Act whose music is based on traditional country styles, but through innovations and originality, is different from what is considered mainstream country. Roots music embraces a multitude of musical styles, including, but not limited to: Alternative Country, Bluegrass, Celtic, Country-Blues, Folk, Gospel, Hillbilly, Honky Tonk, Rockabilly and Western Swing. One Award is presented to the Act (Solo, Duo or Group). The Act must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. Within a Group or Duo at least 50% of the members must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants.

AWARD 10 RISING STAR AWARD

This category is open only to those artists who have never before won the Rising Star Award and who have never before been nominated for the Fans' Choice Award, Group or Duo of the Year, Female Artist of the Year, Male Artist of the Year, Album of the Year, Video of the Year, or Roots Artist or Group of the Year. Nominees in this category are eligible in other categories in the current year. An individual performing artist who has been previously nominated within a group or duo and now performs as a solo artist, or has changed his/her name does not qualify. A group or duo who has a group member previously nominated as an individual performing artist does not qualify. No Act (Solo, Duo or Group) shall be nominated for the Rising Star Award more than twice. The top ten contenders are chosen by Mediabase/BDS spins and will be placed on the second ballot for voting members to vote on. One Award is presented to the Act. The Act must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. Within a Group or Duo at least 50% of the members must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants.

AWARD 11 TOP SELLING ALBUM

This Award is for an album as a whole unit and must have been released during the eligibility period. Eligibility for this Award extends to all recording artists, Canadian or foreign. The Award will be given based upon Canadian record sales only during the eligibility period. Sales figures supplied may be audited by our accounting firm. The album with the greatest unit sales will be declared the winner. There is no voting in this category. Multi-artist compilations do not qualify. One Award is presented to the Act (Solo, Duo or Group).

AWARD 12 TOP SELLING CANADIAN ALBUM

This Award is for an album as a whole unit and must have been released during the eligibility period. Eligibility for this Award extends to all Canadian recording artists. The Award will be given based upon domestic and international record sales only during the eligibility period. Sales figures supplied may be audited by our

accounting firm. The album with the greatest unit sales will be declared the winner. There is no voting in this category. Multi-artist compilations do not qualify. One Award is presented to the Act (Solo, Duo or Group).

THE INDUSTRY AWARDS

These Awards are presented to honour individuals and organizations that have made a significant contribution to Canadian country music in the eligibility period.

ALL STAR BAND AWARDS

These Awards are designed to recognize individual instrumentalists on record or stage and who are known primarily as instrumental performers. One Award is presented in each of the following categories:

AWARD 13 **ALL STAR BAND - DRUMS**

AWARD 14 **ALL STAR BAND - BASS**

AWARD 15 **ALL STAR BAND - GUITAR**

AWARD 16 **ALL STAR BAND - KEYBOARDS**

AWARD 17 **ALL STAR BAND - FIDDLE**

AWARD 18 **ALL STAR BAND - STEEL GUITAR**

AWARD 19 **ALL STAR BAND - SPECIAL INSTRUMENT** such as Dobro, Banjo, Harmonica, Mandolin, Accordion, Sax, etc.

If a person wins the same All Star Band Award more than five times, he or she will be added to an honour roll for that category, making he or she no longer eligible to win in that category. Instrumentalists must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.

AWARD 20 **MANAGEMENT COMPANY OF THE YEAR**

This Award recognizes a Management Company that oversees the career of a Canadian country Act(s) during the eligibility period. A Management Company is defined as a company which has an operating office located in Canada. One Award is presented to the company.

AWARD 21 **BOOKING AGENCY OF THE YEAR**

This Award recognizes a Booking Agency that procures employment for a Canadian country Act(s) during the eligibility period. A Booking Agency is defined as a company which has an operating office located in Canada. One Award is presented to the company.

AWARD 22 **TALENT BUYER OR PROMOTER OF THE YEAR**

This Award recognizes talent buyers or promoters who present and promote Canadian country artists in Canada. The Talent Buyer or

Promoter must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. One Award is presented to the Talent Buyer or Promoter.

AWARD 23 COUNTRY CLUB OF THE YEAR

This Award recognizes a Canadian establishment, which regularly employs Canadian country artists. One Award is presented to the establishment.

AWARD 24 ALBUM DESIGN OF THE YEAR

This Award recognizes excellence in design of a specific CD and/or DVD packaging. The CD and/or DVD must have been released during the eligibility period. Previously released packaging does not qualify. However, design elements of previously released CD and/or DVD packaging qualifies when the design elements are incorporated into a new design (i.e. Greatest Hits packaging.) Final Nominees from the previous year are not eligible in the current year for the same piece of work. Only those relevant names listed within the CD and/or DVD packaging will be considered members of the Design Team. Within the Design Team at least 50% of the members must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. A maximum of two (2) Awards will be presented to the Design Team.

AWARD 25 WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

This Award recognizes excellence in the area of website design of a country artist's 'official' website. Voters should give consideration to the website's layout, visual appeal, ease of use, timeliness of content and availability of contact information. The Webmaster must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. One Award is presented to the Webmaster.

AWARD 26 VIDEO DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

This Award recognizes a Video Director who directed a country video that was released during the eligibility period. The Video Director must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. One Award is presented to the Video Director.

AWARD 27 MUSIC PUBLISHING COMPANY OF THE YEAR

This Award recognizes a Canadian publishing firm which publishes original country works by Canadian writers. One Award is presented to the firm.

AWARD 28 RECORD PRODUCER(S) OF THE YEAR

This Award recognizes a Producer(s) who produced a country album that was released during the eligibility period. The Producer(s) must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. On collaborations, at least one of the Producers must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. One Award is presented to (each of) the Producer(s).

AWARD 29 RECORDING STUDIO OF THE YEAR

This Award recognizes a Canadian recording establishment that facilitates the production of Canadian country music product released during the eligibility period. One Award is presented to the establishment.

AWARD 30 RECORD COMPANY OF THE YEAR

This Award recognizes a Record Company which has released Canadian country product for sale during the eligibility period. A Record Company is defined as a company or label which has an operating office located in Canada, that makes and sells musical recordings independently, in partnership with, and/or operates with full services as a division of a multi-national company. One Award is presented to the company.

AWARD 31 RECORD COMPANY PERSON OF THE YEAR

This Award recognizes an individual (an executive or any employee) of a record company, with offices located within Canada, which has released Canadian country product at retail level during the eligibility period. The recipient must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. One Award is presented to the individual.

AWARD 32 RETAILER OF THE YEAR

This Award recognizes outstanding support of Canadian country music by a music retailer during the eligibility period. A music retailer is defined as a company which actively sells Canadian country music, either through store locations, online purchase of digital download and/or online purchase of a manufactured CD. A retailer must have an operating office located in Canada to be eligible for nomination. One Award is presented to the company.

AWARD 33 COUNTRY MUSIC PROGRAM OR SPECIAL OF THE YEAR

This Award recognizes an original Canadian-produced country music program or special whose original airing on television or radio (including network or cable) was within the eligibility period. The program or special must be a minimum of thirty (30) minutes in duration. One Award is presented for the show.

AWARD 34 COUNTRY FESTIVAL, FAIR, OR EXHIBITION OF THE YEAR

This Award recognizes a Canadian Festival, Fair, or Exhibition which utilizes Canadian country artists as a major element of the event and presents country music in a positive manner while attracting a large and diverse audience, and has displayed professional organization, management and production during the eligibility period. One Award is presented.

BROADCAST AWARDS

The CCMA will present awards to Radio Station of the Year, On-Air Personality of the Year and Music Director of the Year in both major and secondary markets. A major market is defined as a city with a population over 150,000. According to Statistics Canada 2006 census figures, cities with a population over 150,000 (in order of population) are: Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, Ottawa, Edmonton, Mississauga, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Hamilton, Quebec City, Brampton, Surrey, Halifax, Laval, London, Markham, Gatineau, Vaughan, Longueuil, Windsor, Kitchener, Burnaby, Saskatoon, Regina, Richmond, Oakville, Burlington, Richmond Hill, Greater Sudbury.

AWARD 35 MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR (Major Market)

AWARD 36 MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR (Secondary Market)

This Award recognizes the individual who exemplifies the development and airplay of Canadian country talent through his/her radio station. The individual must hold the title of either Music Director or Program/Music Director for a Canadian radio station. The recipient must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. One Award is presented to the Music Director in each market.

AWARD 37 ON-AIR PERSONALITY(S) OF THE YEAR (Major Market)

AWARD 38 ON-AIR PERSONALITY(S) OF THE YEAR (Secondary Market)

This Award recognizes the individual(s) who exemplifies the development of Canadian country talent through his/her presentation on-air for a Canadian radio station, including but not limited to strong entertainment value, sense of community, knowledge of country music, and ability to communicate. Any radio station is entitled to submit for consideration. A jury of industry professionals will independently judge each submission. The tallied results of the jury will declare the winner. There is no voting in this category. One Award is presented in each market.

AWARD 39 RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR (Major Market)

AWARD 40 RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR (Secondary Market)

This Award recognizes the Canadian country radio station that exemplifies the development of Canadian country talent through presentation of the music on their station through (but not limited to) community involvement, promotions, leadership and recognition. Any radio station is entitled to submit for consideration. A jury of industry professionals will independently judge each submission. The tallied results of the jury will declare the winner. There is no voting in this category. One Award is presented to the Radio Station in each market.

AWARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT

The following categories are for Members' information only. They are non voting categories. Notice of these Awards will appear with the First Ballot only.

HALL OF FAME

This Award recognizes long-term contributions to the growth and development of Canadian country music. The recipient may be living or deceased, an Artist, Builder or Broadcaster, but must be recognized for his/her achievements as a Canadian. Members are allowed to submit one nomination in the categories of Artist, Builder, and Broadcaster. Nomination packages must be forwarded to the Canadian Country Music Association. The Hall of Fame Elector's Committee will review and vote annually on the Nominees. It is the discretion of the Elector's Committee as to whom will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in each category (Artist, Builder and Broadcaster).

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

This Award recognizes a person(s) and/or event(s) that has made an outstanding contribution of time and energy in the support of humanitarian causes through country music in Canada. Members are allowed to nominate one person or event. Nomination packages must be forwarded to the Canadian Country Music Association. The decision will then be made to award one or more Humanitarian Award(s) by the Board of Directors of the Canadian Country Music Association.

LEONARD T. RAMBEAU INTERNATIONAL AWARD

This award recognizes someone who has demonstrated extraordinary effort in assisting the aims and initiatives of the Canadian country music industry internationally. Members are allowed to nominate one person, Canadian or foreign. Nomination packages must be forwarded to the Canadian Country Music Association. The decision will then be made to award one or more Award(s) by the Board of Directors of the Canadian Country Music Association.

THE HANK SMITH AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

This Award recognizes the individual who has contributed his or her time and talents behind the scenes to the advancement of Canadian country music. Members are allowed to nominate one person. Nomination packages must be forwarded to the Canadian Country Music Association. The decision will then be made to award one or more Award(s) by the Board of Directors of the Canadian Country Music Association. The recipient must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.