

OutWest Performers, Radio Show Up for WMA Awards

Recording artists featured in OutWest Concert Series on SCVTV, KHTS Radio show nominated for Western Music Association awards.

By Leon Worden, SCVNews.com | August 10, 2011



OutWest Owners Jim and Bobbi Jean Bell (Center) with The Tumbling Tumbleweeds in November

The KHTS AM-1220 radio show “Around the Barn” has been nominated for radio show of the year in the annual Western Music Association awards competition.

The program airs Saturdays at 9 a.m. and is hosted by Nancy Pitchford Zhe of Heads Up Therapy on Horseback, Bobbi Jean Bell of OutWest Boutique and Cultural Center in Old Town Newhall, and veteran KHTS host Mike Dowler.

While it’s a first-time nomination for the show, several recording artists who’ve performed at OutWest over the past year are looking to reprise their past success at this year’s awards banquet Nov. 19 in Albuquerque.

Topping the list in nominations is WMA board member Juni Fisher for outstanding songwriter, entertainer of the year, original song (“Yakima,” about the late movie stuntman Yakima Canutt of the Acton-Agua Dulce area), and best traditional album by an individual (“Let ‘er Go, Let ‘er Buck, Let ‘er Fly”).

The harmonic trio of The Tumbling Tumbleweeds are also in the running for entertainer of the year and for best album by a group (“Blaze Across the West”).

Ray Doyle of Wylie and the Wild West is nominated for outstanding instrumentalist, while Mary Kaye Knaphus and Judy Coder are competing for outstanding female performer.

SCVTV produced the OutWest performances of all five for television — Fisher, Doyle, Knaphus, Coder and The Tumbling Tumbleweeds. They can be seen in the “music” category on SCVTV.com.

There is no WMA awards category for television shows.

In addition, several “regulars” at the annual Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival are in the running for top honors in the genre. Many have been featured in the past on SCVTV talk shows that can be viewed [here](#).

Festival host and performer R.W. Hampton is nominated for a spot in WMA’s Hall of Fame, in addition to entertainer of the year, outstanding male performer and best individual album (“Austin to Boston”). Crooner Don Edwards also is nominated for outstanding male performer and best individual album (“American”).

Jack Hannah of the Sons of the San Joaquin is nominated for best songwriter and the group is up for entertainer of the year.

Waddie Mitchell is looking for another win in the cowboy poetry category, while Belinda Gail is in the mix with Fisher, Coder and Knaphus for outstanding female performer. Festival favorite Hot Club of Cowtown is nominated for Western swing album (“What Makes Bob Holler”).

Several additional 2011 nominees have performed at the Santa Clarita festival. See the entire list of nominees below. Sept. 15 is the deadline for voting WMA members to return their ballots.

Founded in 1988, the WMA is dedicated to fostering the professional growth of individual performers and educating the public about the contributions of Western music to our culture.