The 2026 Music Nova Scotia MUSIC AWARD Nominees Are:

African Nova Scotian Artist of the Year

Nominees for African Nova Scotian Artist of the Year were accepted through a write-in ballot by submitting a name and a music or website link of an artist that fitted in the category.A jury will score the submissions, and a winner will be selected based on that score and announced on November 15 at the MNS Music & Industry Awards Brunch.

Country Recording of the Year

Aaron MacDonald – It's In My Blood; Amy & Arwen – Catchin' Nothin' but a Buzz; Bill Ricky – Shoot The Moon; Cameron Nickerson – The Wagon and Jon Mullane – The Road

DJ of the Year

Badi; DJ Ubuntu; HieroPhunk; KC OKOYE and PINEO & LOEB

Electronic Artist of the Year

HieroPhunk; KC OKOYE; Minus World; PINEO & LOEB and Rich Aucoin

Entertainer of the Year

Braden Lam; Cassie and Maggie; Daniel James McFadyen; Elyse Aeryn; Good Dear Good; HARMZ & Acalus; Laura Roy; Morgan Toney; Nicole Ariana and Rich Aucoin

Folk/Roots Recording of the Year

Daniel James McFadyen – Back To The Country; Dave Gunning – Field Notes; Cassie and Maggie – Gold and Coal; The Dusty Halos – Keep Us This Night;\ and Cameron Nickerson – The Wagon

Hip-Hop/Rap Recording of the Year

Gearl – Escape; Ghettochild + Corey Writes – Life's Not That Bad But It Still Hurts; Mayaya – La sirène; and Snez – Without a Fight

Due to eligibility restrictions, this category is running with four nominees.

Indigenous Artist of the Year

Cherise Basque; DeeDee Austin; Gearl; Joe H Henry and Morgan Toney

Loud Recording of the Year

ANGEL GIRL – LIFE OF AN ANGEL; Last Call Chernobyl – VI: Trials & Tribulations; Puffin – Puffin; Where Giants Once Stood – Selling Salvation; YipHerLastName – The Seed of Tragedy and Is Buried in My Fate

Music Video of the Year

Braden Lam – Hurricane Season, directed by Griffin O'Toole; Burry – TV GLOW, directed by Annaka Gale; Customer Service – Never Meant To, directed by MOOSECANFLY; Good Dear Good – Better Off Dead, directed by Tim Hatcher; JupiterReign – All Mine, directed by Kardeisha Provo & KekeBeatz; Maggie Andrew – Emotional Touchdown, directed by MOOSECANFLY; Nicole Ariana – Return to Sender, directed by Griffin O'Toole & MOOSECANFLY; Rich Aucoin – Space Western, directed by Rich Aucoin & Ian MacMillan; The Boojums – Burnin' Up, directed by Willie Stratton and Yung St4k – Retrograde, directed by Jeff Miller

Musician of the Year

Aaron Lewis; Dilshan Weerasinghe; Kate Bo; Leo Cox and Matt Meuse

New Artist Recording of the Year

Dane Pedersen – Travelling Alone; Dilshan – re:fuge; FERAL CAROL – SUPER DUPER!; Malcolm MacNeil – The Bridge; and Puffin – Puffin

Pop Recording of the Year

Brett Matthews – Tomorrow; Burry – I'm tired; Good Dear Good – sook; Maggie Andrew – HOW TO SING FOR MONEY and Mat Hughes – South-Facing Dumpster

Prix de l'Acadie

Jacques Surette; Kristen Martell; La Jam Acadjen de Sylvie Marie; Serena Wu and Vickie Deveau

Rock Recording of the Year

Beauts – Marigolds; The Boojums – The Boojums; Customer Service – If You're Here, You Must Be Fine; Elyse Aeryn – Everybody Loves You and FERAL CAROL – SUPER DUPER!

SOCAN Songwriter of the Year

Carleton Stone; Laura Roy; Tim Hatcher; Willie Stratton and Yung St4k

Music Week - Not Enough Submissions

In 2026, the following categories did not receive enough submissions to activate awards for Nova Scotia Music Week in Truro:

- Americana/Bluegrass Recording of the Year
- Blues Recording of the Year
- Children's Artist of the Year
- Classical Recording of the Year
- Jazz Recording of the Year
- R&B/Soul Recording of the Year
- Traditional Recording of the Year

Music Nova Scotia looks forward to reviewing the allocation of awards and the submissions process to ensure we are creating an event that more accurately serves our membership ahead of Nova Scotia Music Week's 30th anniversary in 2027.

NSMW
NOVA SCOTIA MUSIC WEEK

The 2026 Music Nova Scotia INDUSTRY AWARD Nominees are:

Artistic Development Award

Chuck Boudreau; Eirinn Fraser; Halifax Jazz Festival; Mi'kmaq Artist Emergence Program – Carol Ann Potter/Andree Gracie and SoundBox Music

Educator of the Year

Eirinn Fraser; Evan Newman; Laura Rae; Reagan Mae Kuzyk and Vladimir Sitnikov

Emerging Industry Professional of the Year

Darcy Walsh; Ebow Darko Dawson; Evan Wiseman; Israel Ekanem and Jayden Duplessis (NoLoveNorthern)

Live Sector Award

Glasgow Square Theatre; Halifax Jazz Festival; Pavilion Youth Association; Sanctuary Arts Centre and The Shore Club

Media Arts Award

Atlantic Broadcasters Ltd; Darcy Walsh; Evan Wiseman (Inside the Scene); Israel Ekanem and Josh Lavoie

Recording Sector Award

Alex LeBlanc; Alex Meade; John Mullane; Laura Rae and Owen Williams

Sound, Tech and Production Award

Derek Martin; Dylan Mombourquette; Leah Timmins; Martin Maunder and Patrick Coleman.

Award winners will be announced at Nova Scotia Music Week in Truro/We'kwampekitk on Sunday, November 15, 2026.

Congratulations to all Nominees



