

JAG Entertainment

4265 Hazeltine Avenue · Sherman Oaks, CA 91423 · (818) 905-5511 ·
Fax (818) 501-4911

JOHN LENNON SONGWRITING CONTEST ANNOUNCES SESSION I WINNERS

**Session II Competition Is Underway and Will Be Judged By A Stellar Panel
Including Award Winning Songwriters Robin Gibb and Jesse Harris**

(New York – November 15, 2005) – Brian Rothschild, Executive Director of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest and Educational Tour Bus, announced the 12 Grand Prize Winners and 36 Finalists for Session I of the 2005 Contest. Session II, currently in progress, is accepting entries until December 15, 2005. The public will then be asked to vote online for their favorites in each of twelve categories. Those 12 Lennon Award winning songs are then sent to the Executive Committee consisting of Elton John, Carlos Santana, the Black Eyed Peas, Enrique Iglesias, Dave Koz, John Legend, Carol Bayer Sager, Tim McGraw, and others, who will then select the Maxell Song of the Year, which will be announced on July 21 at NAMM Summer Session 2006 in Austin, Texas.

There is a total of over \$225,000 worth of cash and prizes distributed to the winners, with a \$20,000 check going to the Song of the Year courtesy of the Maxell Corporation. Other prizes include Project studio equipment from Roland, iGuitar, Edirol, and Audio-Technica; gift certificates from MusiciansFriend; publishing advances from EMI Music Publishing; and custom CDs courtesy of Disc Makers. In addition, one band will be selected to perform for one week on Warped Tour '06.

Grand Prize Winners are: Cathy Fink (Kensington, MD) for “Scat Like That” in the Children’s category, Jen Waters (Arlington, VA) for “Yellow Roses” in the Country category, Nathan Asher & the Infantry (Raleigh, NC) for “Turn Up the Faders” as the Electronic music choice, “Any Precious Girl” by Ben Sures (Alberta, Canada) in Folk, “Live for the Line” by Jim Vilandre (Devil’s Lake, ND) in Gospel, Alvin Mathews (Columbus, OH) for “Shine”, the Hip Hop pick, Dylan Bell’s (Toronto, Ontario) “Blues on Sunday” is the Jazz selection, “Nina” by Marcelo Travino (Toronto, Ontario) in the Latin category, “Twisted Ballerina” by Jayne Sachs (Englewood, OH) in Pop, Shu (Brooklyn, NY) for the R&B choice “I Wanna Leave”, Fergus Brown (Sydney, Australia) in the Rock category for “Nerd In Love”, and “Night Fall In Istanbul” by Yener Korkut (St. Croix, VI) in the World category. Notable are the number of entries and winners from songwriters around the world.

Kevin Bacon voted for “Yellow Roses” in the country category because he felt it is, “Hooky, simple, well constructed and clever.” **The Bacon Brothers (Michael & Kevin Bacon)** were judges for Session I along with **John Legend, Fergie (Black Eyed Peas),**

and **Ken Komisar**, VP, A&R, Sony Records.

Judges for Session II are Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famer **Robin Gibb**, singer/songwriter **Lyfe Jennings**, **Senior Director of A & R and Artist Development for Columbia Records** and television personality **Matt Pinfield**, Grammy Award winning songwriter **Jesse Harris** (Norah Jones' "Don't Know Why"), and R&B Breakout artist **Teairra Mari**. Session II winners will be announced March 1, 2006. For more information, log onto HYPERLINK "http://www.jlsc.com" www.jlsc.com.

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About the John Lennon Songwriting Contest:

The John Lennon Songwriting Contest, in its ninth year, is dedicated to providing opportunities to both professional and amateur songwriters. Winners in 12 categories receive awards and prizes totaling over \$225,000. The \$20,000 Maxell Song of the Year is selected by a stellar Executive Committee including Elton John, Tim McGraw, Sugar Ray, Carlos Santana, Black Eyed Peas, John Legend, Enrique Iglesias, Mary J. Blige, Nick Lachey, and many more. Sponsors of the Contest include Maxell, Roland, Brian Moore Guitars, Audio-Technica, EMI Music Publishing, musiciansfriend.com, and Disc Makers. The John Lennon Songwriting Contest is made possible by an agreement with Yoko Ono Lennon who said "I hope this Contest will encourage, inspire and help the songwriters of the world to share their dreams with us."

For Media Information:

Jo-Ann Geffen

JAG Entertainment

(818) 905-5511

HYPERLINK "mailto:jgeffen@jagpr.com" jgeffen@jagpr.com