



News Release

Winery Music Awards
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For Immediate Release

Singer-Songwriter Shannon Curtis Edges Debra Arlyn Band To Win First Elimination Round of Winery Music Awards

Paso Robles, CA –June 10, 2007—Sultry soloist Shannon Curtis captivated the crowd Saturday at Maloy O’Neill Vineyards in Paso Robles with her powerful original music and lyrics to win the opening Elimination Round of the 2007 Winery Music Awards competition. In a field of five Semi-Finalists, Ms. Curtis, a Sacramento native who recently moved to Los Angeles, earned a total average score of 86.73 points out of 100 from eleven judges in the music and entertainment industries, only four points higher than second place artist, the Debra Arlyn Band, originating from Portland, Oregon.

Judges expressed near unanimous opinions on Shannon Curtis, who scored highest in all three categories of Musicianship, Originality, and Marketability. Debra Arlyn, however, was the only artist to earn a perfect score of 100 from any of the eleven judges, awarded by judge Timothy Drury.

Many judges expressed how difficult it was to vote on so many good artists. “I liked Debra Arlyn a lot, but I loved Shannon Curtis,” said judge Ruth McCartney. “She is unafraid and her lyrics were great.”

As Judge Michael Caruso explained “Debra’s musicianship is excellent, song structure good, and her voice is stellar. On the other hand, Shannon is an excellent lyricist. She was very soulful with an expressive voice.”

Judge John Braheny perhaps expressed the slim advantage of Ms Curtis best. “Shannon has an engaging personality and is a good storyteller—funny, personal and adventurous.”

“The results today demonstrate our dedication to discovering pure, original talent, be it a solo act or five-piece band, said Kathy Kelly, Founder and Producer of the Winery Music Awards. “I am proud of our distinguished panel of judges for their very thoughtful consideration of every facet of each artist’s performance—everything from lyrics to stage presence. Their jobs are difficult. I always tell people I am glad I’m not a judge at these competitions.”

The breakdown of scores earned by each artist is posted on the website for the Winery Music Awards, www.winerymusicawards.com.

In addition to determining the top artist of the first Elimination Round, judges also voted on their favorite song of the day. A three-way tie for Best Song was shared by Shannon Curtis for “Boomerangs and Seesaws”, Kerri Dopart for “Letters”, and Kimberly Jean for “No Boys Allowed”.

The Paso Robles-based showcase of original music artists from the US and Canada who are unsigned with major record labels began its series of four Semi-Final concert competitions with the first five artists out of a total of twenty competing this summer. Winners earn a place at the Final competition in October and a chance to win prizes, cash, and a breakthrough recording contract.

The other three Semi Finalists at Saturday’s concert were Kerri Dopart from San Diego, Rocky Gaines from Los Angeles, and Kimberly Jean from Los Angeles. The first round brought together a variety of musical genres, including pop, rock, country and folk.

Host Andrew Firestone, General Manager of Firestone Winery, and once featured on TV’s “The Bachelor”, and co-host Janie Terrazas, a Los Angeles-based TV personality and model, kept the audience entertained in between acts with their personable charm and humor.

Audience member, and one of the show sponsors, Douglas Thomsen of Orchard Hill Bed and Breakfast in Paso Robles, commented on the quality of artists: “I can’t believe how talented these artists were today. Knowing now how good these Semi Final concerts are, we’ll be at all of the shows. And the October Final will be amazing.”

Original music artists compete at the Winery Music Awards Semi-Final Elimination Round concerts, held on one Saturday each month from June to September, with the Final competition on Sunday, October 7. The performers for the Final Competition will be the winners of each Elimination Round plus two “Wild Card” winners who earn the next two highest scores among all artists. Artist performances are judged in the categories of originality, musicianship and marketability to the prime wine-consuming market, men and women aged 21-54.

Founded and produced by Kathy Kelly Productions, Inc., the competition was created out of the growing popularity of quality musical performances at many wineries throughout California. Attendees enjoy fine wine, food and quality original music in a variety of genres surrounded by rows of vineyards and stacks of wine barrels.

Tickets for any of the remaining Rounds of the Winery Music Awards concerts are available through <http://www.BrownPaperTickets.com>. More information is available at www.winerymusicawards.com.

Note to Editor:

Artist & event photos are available to download at the MEDIA page of the Winery Music Awards website. Go to: <http://www.winerymusicawards.com/media.php>

If your publication plans to cover the Winery Music Awards, media passes are available. Contact Kathy Kelly to make arrangements.

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