



Winery Music Awards
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News Release

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For Immediate Release

Capacity Crowd Sees Exciting Finish At Second Elimination Round of Winery Music Awards

Local Artist Dominic Castillo Edges Just Four Points Over Tucson's Amber Norgaard

Paso Robles, CA –July 16, 2007—A standing room only crowd filled the oak treed grounds of Stacked Stone Cellars in Paso Robles at the second Elimination Round of the summer-long Winery Music Awards original music competition and witnessed another tight-scoring show after a close June concert that took place at Maloy O'Neill Vineyards, also in Paso Robles.

Judged by a panel of noteworthy music and entertainment industry names, two artists, Dominic Castillo and the Rock Savants of San Luis Obispo, CA and Amber Norgaard of Tucson, AZ, stood out the most among five July semi-finalists by giving near-flawless performances of their widely appealing original music. Castillo and his group closed the show and earned the highest score based on originality, musicianship and marketability.

By receiving the most points of all five July semi-finalists, 87.88 out of 100 possible points, Dominic Castillo and the Rock Savants will automatically advance to the Winery Music Awards Final competition on October 7 at River Oaks Hot Springs and Spa in Paso Robles. Two Wild Card winners will also be invited to the Final Competition after the winners of all four Elimination Rounds have been determined.

Although Dominic Castillo had instant name recognition among many in the audience, his music was unknown to the eight judges on Saturday. Influenced by jazz, punk rock, and soul music, not to mention the great literary works of all time, Dominic's performance combined emotion and sincerity in his words and music, along with a dash of wit and harmonic sophistication.

Tom Cartwright, President of RNB Entertainment and one of eight judges present at this Elimination Round, said about the performance by Castillo and the Rock Savants, "Dominic has great stage presence and the whole band has professional poise. They have what it takes."

In second place, only four points below Castillo, was Amber Norgaard and her band from Tucson, AZ. Ms. Norgaard, who was voted runner-up as Up and Coming Artist of the Year in the Tucson Area Music Awards, gave a performance mixed with pop, folk and rock and written with well-crafted and honest lyrics. She was very well-received by the crowd at Stacked Stone, comprised primarily of the competition's target audience of wine drinkers, aged 21-54.

“Amber Norgaard is an original and can be marketed to the target audience,” says Jake Hooker, President of a music production, marketing and branding company, Edge Management, and also writer of one of rock's greatest hits ever, “I Love Rock and Roll.” “Amber was very strong overall, focused with good songs and style.”

The other three Semi Finalists at Saturday's concert were Hard Rain, featuring Andy Hill and Renee Safier, and Delaney Gibson, both from Los Angeles, and Machine, based in Templeton, CA. The second round brought together a variety of musical genres, including pop, various rock styles, and folk.

Hosts Andrew Firestone, General Manager of Firestone Winery in Paso Robles, and once featured on TV's “The Bachelor”, and Janie Terrazas, a Los Angeles-based TV personality and model, kept the audience entertained in between artists with their personable charm and humor.

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 in June with the first five artists out of a total of twenty competing this summer. Elimination Round winners earn a place at the final competition on October 7 and a chance to win prizes, cash, and a breakthrough recording contract. Singer/Songwriter Shannon Curtis won the June elimination round with a captivating solo performance, highlighted by her strong lyrics and angelic voice.

Only unsigned, original music artists compete at the Winery Music Awards Semi-Final Elimination Round concerts. 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> or by calling 1-800-838-3006. 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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