

Below: Halo Jordan, winner of three ABoT Music Awards, arrived at the awards in a horse-drawn carriage.



It's hard to believe that the first annual ABoT Music Awards have already come and gone. So many months of voting, promotion and planning went into that one special night last Saturday, and it was, by any measure, a smashing success.

85,000 votes were cast to determine the winners for 27 categories, and the results were often surprising. The relative unknowns of Halo Jordan came out of left field to take home statues for all three categories in which they were nominated, beating such established popular acts as PDA, My Solstice and Pillar for "Album of the Year," "Single of the Year" and "Christian Performance of the Year."

The vocalist categories were surprising as well; the "Best Female" category went to the old school, with torch crooner Rebecca Ungerman beating young favorites Annie Ellicott and Fiawna Forte for the prize, while the "Best Male" category went just the opposite, with newcomer Eric Himan shocking us all by beating resident ABoT winner Ben Kilgore.

Other upsets: jazz guitarist Joesf Glaude beat Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey for "Best Jazz" and "Best Instrumental." The young kids of Restless Ribbon beat out favored-to-win Eric and the Adams for "Newcomer of the Year." And pop/rock act My Solstice took the one truly unpredictable category of the evening, "Band of the Year."

Aside from the awards themselves, it was a colorful, interesting night. The red carpet ceremony featured bands and artists arriving by limo, bicycle, horse & carriage, flatbed truck and occasionally by just walking down the sidewalk.

Once inside, guests were treated to TSO's Rock Ensemble performing a classical rendition of "Kashmir" as they milled about, acquired beverages and found their tables. Once our gracious master of ceremonies Zac Maloy took the stage, the show was off and running. After a handful of statues were awarded, Callupsie was broadcast from Bob's stage for the first "Band of the Year" performance of the evening.

The rest of the night was punctuated by surprise upsets and victories, celebrity presenters and performances by My Solstice, Dead Sea Choir, Vandevander and Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey.

The most moving moment of the evening: Wayman Tisdale's family accepting a Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of the late musician. The award, respectfully dubbed the "Wayman Tisdale Lifetime of Tulsa Music Award," will be a tradition for future ABoT Music Awards to come.