



2009 Absolute Best of Tulsa Music Awards

Saturday, August 8th

PHOTOS BY JEREMY CHARLES

Above: Dan Crossland accepted the award for "Best Party Cover Band." Below: Halo Jordan, winner of three ABoT Music Awards, arrived at the awards in a horse-drawn carriage.



Above: A nominee for "Band of the Year," Dead Sea Choir and friend enjoyed their time on the red carpet. Below: Arthur Thompson, who worked closely with Wayman Tisdale, presented the "Wayman Tisdale Lifetime of Tulsa Music Award."



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 Elliott and Fawna 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 Josef 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 show, the show was off and running. After a handful of statues were awarded, Callupisic 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.

Thank you to all sponsors, presenters, musicians, guests and volunteers. Special thanks to Garage Media, LLC for producing this one-of-a-kind event. Until next year!

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| "Absolute Best Female Vocalist"
REBECCA UNGERMAN | "Absolute Best Red Dirt"
BRANDON CLARK BAND | "Absolute Best Hip-Hop"
KAWNAR |
| "Absolute Best Male Vocalist"
ERIC HIMAN | "Absolute Best Indie Rock"
CALLUPSIE | "Absolute Best Instrumental"
JOESF GLAUDE |
| "Absolute Best Blues/R&B"
THE WANDA WATSON BAND | "Absolute Best Pop/Rock"
STARS GO DIM | "Absolute Best Latin"
MEZCLAVE |
| "Absolute Best Jazz"
JOESF GLAUDE | "Absolute Best Lounge Cover Band"
THREE HOUR TOUR | "Absolute Best Party Cover Band"
CROSSLAND |
| "Absolute Best Country"
OUTLAW SON BAND | "Absolute Best Metal/Hard Rock"
CHUK COOLEY & THE DEMON HAMMERS | "Absolute Best Dance Party Band"
DANCE ROBOTS, DANCE! |



Left: A nominee for "Best Live Performance," Smuntzy Voje attempted to live up to the award by performing on the back of a flatbed truck. Right: Rebecca Ungerman shared her many thanks after winning "Best Female Artist."



"Absolute Best Christian Music Performance"
HALO JORDAN

"Wayman Tisdale Lifetime of Tulsa Music Award"
WAYMAN TISDALE

"Absolute Best None of the Above"
SAM AND THE STYLEES

"Absolute Best Club DJ"
DJ SPIN

"Absolute Best Live Stage Performance"
DR. SQUEALS GOOD

"Absolute Best Radio Station"
Z104.5 THE EDGE

"Absolute Best Radio Personality/Show"
106.9 WYLDE WAKE UP SHOW

"Absolute Best Local Producer/Studio"
HANK CHARLES/VALCOUR SOUND STUDIO

"Absolute Best Song of the Year"
HALO JORDAN

"Absolute Best Album of the Year"
HALO JORDAN

"Absolute Best Newcomer of the Year"
RESTLESS RIBBON

"Absolute Best Artist of the Year"
ERIC HIMAN

"Absolute Best Band of the Year"
MY SOLSTICE



Above: The folks of 106.9's Wylde Wake Up Show proudly accepted their ABoT Music Award for "Best Radio Personality/Show." Below: My Solstice, winner of "Band of the Year," stopped on the red carpet for a group shot. The group also performed during the event.



Left: Restless Ribbon could have won "Most Ecstatic Award Receivers." Instead, they took home "Newcomers of the Year." Right: Hip-hop artist P.D.A. performs along with TSO's Rock Ensemble.

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