

SYRACUSE AREA MUSIC AWARDS



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March 2-3, 2023

Nominees and Inductees

Press Kit

syracuseareamusic.com



The mission of the Syracuse Area Music Awards has remained true since the first awards ceremony was held in 1993 to honor the musicians who work so hard to imbue the local music scene with their artistry. The SAMMY's has lived on since its founding in 1992, which speaks to the dedication of the volunteers on the Sammy's Executive Committee, aiming to bring Syracuse's most prominent musicians to the forefront of public attention.

SAMMYS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION DINNER

The Hall of Fame Induction dinner will be Thursday, March 2, Upstairs at the Dinosaur Bar-B-Que from 7-10pm. The list of inductees and bios are available on pages 5-11 of this packet. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at syracuseareamusic.com/tickets. Free online streaming of the event will also be available.

SAMMYS AWARDS SHOW

The Sammy's Awards Show will be Friday, March 3, at the Palace Theatre at 7:00pm. The list of nominees is available on pages 3-4 of this packet. Tickets can be purchased at syracuseareamusic.com/tickets for \$25. Online streaming of the event is also available for \$15.

The awards show will feature performances by **Brownskin Band, The Carolyn Kelly Blues Band, Chuck Schiele's Quatro, Not Robots!, and Trauma Cat**. In addition to these performances, awards will be presented in 14 recording categories, as well as the People's Choice awards for Best Artist or Band, Best Event or Music Series, Best Academic or Musical Organization, and Best Venue. The Brian Bourke award for Best New Artist will also be announced. As in the past, this year's Best New Artist will receive six hours of recording time from SubCat Studios.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Get in on the Sammys' action by participating in our annual People's Choice vote. Each year we host a web-based competition to see whose fans are the most psyched about their favorites in each of four categories: Artist or Band, Event or Music Series, Academic or Musical Organization, and Venue. Since 2007, the Sammys has attracted millions of votes through its online voting system. Voting is free, open to the public and continues through February 28 at syracuseareamusic.com/peopleschoice.

THE SAMMYS – 2023 SAMMY NOMINEES

SAMMY awards are given based on the judgement of submissions sent to the SAMMYS Board by musicians in Syracuse and the surrounding area. Congratulations to the 177 artists that submitted 233 recordings! An independent panel of music industry professionals and educators from around the country, led by James Abbott, review the submissions and make their selections based on their merit within their genre.

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

BEST JAZZ

- London McDaniel – The Christmas Album
- Shawn Seals & SMX – Color
- Test Kitchen – Wings of Dreams

BEST AMERICANA

- Brian and the Beautiful Birds – Brian and the Beautiful Birds
- Christian Parker – Every Passing Mile
- The Dirty Doves – Bumblebee Brandywine
- John Cadley – I Never Knew
- The Rollin' Rust – Road Rats

BEST OTHER STYLE

- Jeff Tripoli – Wabi Sabi
- Jim Elenteny – Twelve String Acoustic Guitar Music
- Max Scialdone – Christmas Songs
- Tom Rasely – Nylon
- The Turbulents – Stick to the Script

BEST JAM BAND

- Adam Brooks – Ain't All About You
- Anthony Saturno – Mixed Bag of Beans, Vol. 1
- Master Thieves – Wanderlust

BEST POP

- Amoreena – The Garden
- Cloey Tierno – I Fell in Love with the Rain
- DreaMe – Chapter 22 New Beginnings
- Jess Novak – Bad Bitch
- Keith Calveric – Untold

BEST HARD ROCK

- Gainer – A Blackened Embrace
- Head Underwater – It Gets Worse
- No Blush – No Blush
- Our 11th Hour – Of Halos & Hand Grenades
- Stone Thrower – This is Permanent

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THE SAMMYS – 2023 SAMMY NOMINEES

BEST R&B

- FB – For U
- FB – For U Too
- Nate Glyn – Greatest Hits (2017-22)
- Shawn Seals & SMX – Session Files #1

BEST ALTERNATIVE

- Bell & Sgroi – Candy Apple
- The Kiwis – Strange Danger
- Sound Discard – Riptide
- Steven Page – Excelsior
- Trauma Cat – The Truth Doesn't Live Here

BEST SINGER/SONGWRITER

- Breaking Bones – Sleepyhead
- Cam Caruso – On the Other Side (5 Year Anniversary Edition)
- Gina Holsopple – All the Things I Wanna Hear
- Jason Decker – Fall Under The Sun
- Paul Case – This Love

BEST ELECTRONIC

- AK Kastro – 2009
- C-u-RT – The Yellow Seahorse
- Everett – Alien's Attempt
- Mazedude – Game Remix, Tracker Homage
- The Stranger – Cold Out Here

BEST COUNTRY

- Lisa Gentile – Start Flying
- Mike Gibson – Suburban Hillbilly
- Steven Cali – Own Kinda Fix
- Tink Bennett – Collaborations
- Whiskey Hollow Rush – Linda Lu

BEST ROCK

- Ben Wayne – spectator
- Bradford Allen – Selfishly Empathetic
- Glass Image – Mixed Emotions
- Irv Lyons Jr. – What Are We Fighting For
- O T B (Old Tall Buildings) – Lost In The Loud

BEST HIP-HOP OR RAP

- Blackman Preach – 12 Years Gone
- Christenelle Diroc – With Synchronosity & Serendipity
- FB and Exoticz – The Round Table
- Slick Fashionz & Queeto ABF – The World Is Yours
- The WiZdom G.O.A.T. – Perseverance

BEST SINGLE

- Adam Brooks – Gone & Forgotten
- All Poets & Heroes – Give It To Me Straight
- MániSoul – Run This Back
- The Real RAW Breed – Sun Don't Shine
- Ryla – Intuition

THE SAMMYS – 2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

It is always our honor to honor esteemed individuals, with roots to the Syracuse Community. Individuals that have, though out their careers, advanced to the top of their fields. We are proud to recognize the 2023 Hall of Fame class of outstanding individuals.



LARRY HOYT



CAROLYN KELLY



DOUG THALER



KEVIN DORSEY

Music Educator of the Year



IRVING KAUFMAN

Lifetime Achievement

THE SAMMYS – 2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

LARRY HOYT

Larry Hoyt's love of music has manifested itself in many ways -- as a music fan; as a performer; as a presenter; as a manager; as a writer and reviewer; as an open mic host; as a video producer; and as a deejay.

At LeMoyne College in the late 1960s, Hoyt was the first chair of the LeMoyne Student Union, presenting concerts and dances. He was also a member of the LeMoyne Radio Club, hosting a radio program for the on-campus radio station, WLMU.

In the early 1980s, Hoyt was associate producer for "Musicuse," the locally focused program on Syracuse public access television. He later went on to produce the Cable Ace Award winning program, "Variety Tonight," and later, "JazzBeat" with Frank Malfitano.

In the mid-1980s, Hoyt managed the local band, Eve's Faces; booking and publicizing the band, and bringing them and a busload of their fans to a showcase gig in New York City.

In the late 1980s, Hoyt wrote concert previews and reviews for the Post-Standard, plus a weekly column, "Rhythm and News." He later went on to write for the Syracuse New Times.

In 1997, Hoyt began hosting the folk/acoustic program, "Common Threads," on WAER-FM. Hoyt was also the concert coordinator for the Westcott Community Center, presenting such acts as Joanne Shenandoah, Leo Crandall, Karen Savoca, and Loren Barrigar.

A performer and songwriter, Hoyt began playing at area open mics, as a solo act then later with his band, the Goode Brothers, the Good Acoustics, a duo act with Rush Tattered and a children's duo, Cindy Lou and Larry Too.

Hoyt still plays out occasionally with the Good Acoustics and recently celebrated his 25th anniversary as host of "Common Threads." In addition, Hoyt hosts the eclectic radio program, "Hit 'n Mix," on Spark Syracuse Community Radio.



THE SAMMYS – 2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

CAROLYN KELLY

Carolyn “Dessie” Kelly arrived in Syracuse in 1968. Having sung gospel solos at the Surprise Baptist Church in South Carolina, Kelly built a solid foundation for singing the blues.

In the 1970s, she befriended Roosevelt Dean, joining him in his band the Soul Doctors. She performed with them for many years before leaving the Soul Doctors to raise a family and apply her singing talents to gospel. She traveled throughout the area with her church’s choir, singing in churches throughout Upstate NY.

In 2006, Kelly reunited with Dean, performing on three tracks on his CD, *Don’t Leave Me*. This led to live performances at places such as Party in the Plaza and the Dinosaur Bar-B-Que. “I was scared and nervous, but excited to be back on stage,” Kelly recalled. “I felt like I was out of the scene for too long, but the response from the crowd gave me back my confidence.”

In 2007, Kelly released her first solo CD with backing from Dean and his band; the SAMMY nominated *Keep All My Secrets*.

Her 2009 CD, *Slow Cooking on Hot* won the SAMMY for Best Blues. Roosevelt Dean lost his battle with cancer in 2009 and Kelly continued performing as Carolyn Kelly and the Carolyn Kelly Blues Band.

Kelly’s 2012 CD, *Somebody Told Me*, was dedicated to the memory and legacy of Dean.

Kelly lists among her influences Bessie Smith and Koko Taylor, while forging a sound all her own. In 2015 Carolyn was inducted into the NY State Blues Hall of Fame.

She has been a featured artist at The Salt City Waltz, Ladies Night at the Palace and The Great Salt City Blues Concert and continues to perform her unique blend of gospel-inspired, soulful blues at many events throughout Upstate NY.



THE SAMMYS – 2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

DOUG THALER

Doug Thaler began his career as a musician in Cortland, NY joining Ronnie Dio and the Prophets in the summer of 1967. He played in The Elves through 1971 and worked the Upstate New York scene in 1972 with John Arthur Foster (Buddy DiStefano) before moving on to New York City. He quickly made a place for himself in the business side of music as a booking agent for such attractions as AC/DC, Judas Priest, and The Outlaws amongst others. It was in the early 80s that Doug turned his attention towards personal management where he remained throughout the rest of his career.



Thaler has more than three decades of experience in domestic and international touring and artist management, having been named Pollstar and Performance Magazine's Personal Manager of the Year in 1987 and again by Performance Magazine in 1989. He began his years in management as a management partner for the fledgling Motley Crue and Bon Jovi, seeing the bands from club acts to international superstars. His background includes oversight and coordination for worldwide promotion, marketing and publicity as well as overseeing merchandising, recording and all aspects of touring for artists including Motley Crue, Bon Jovi, Scorpions, Winger, Verticle Horizon, Bruce Hornsby, Art Garfunkel, and Rusted Root.

THE SAMMYS – 2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

KEVIN DORSEY – MUSIC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Kevin Dorsey is in his 25th year at Seymour Dual Language Academy in the Syracuse City School District. During his career he has taught PreK-6 Classroom Music, Chorus, Guitar Ensemble and Ukulele Ensemble. He has presented at the NYSSMA Winter Conference, All-Eastern, and the Inspiration Showcase at the NAfME National Conference. Kevin builds his own instruments to help his students build their music literacy skills. Most notable is the Dorseymer, a one string instrument that is a cross between a dulcimer and a Diddley bow. In April 2020, Mr. Dorsey's Music World, review video lessons for his students, appeared on "TV Classroom" on WCNY.



Other stations picked it up, including Mississippi Public Broadcasting. During the 2020-2021 school year, he was the demonstration teacher for Music Grades 3-5, which were also shown on WCNY.

His music education began in his hometown of Auburn under the tutelage of Dr. Stephen Gage, Bill Tiberio, Bob Piorun, Kevin Ladd, and Mark Anderson. He holds a Masters of Music in Studio Jazz Writing from The Frost School of Music at the University of Miami, and Bachelor of Music in Music Education with a Performers Certificate from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. He studied jazz composition with Gary Lindsay, Ron Miller and Bret Zvacek.

Kevin has released seven CDs as a leader, with "Gateway" and "A Collective Christmas" winning SAMMYs for Best Jazz Recording. He was a voting member of The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for 20 years. His playing has also been heard on recordings by The Susquehanna String Band, The VanNorstrand Brothers, A Cast of Thousands, Donna Dennihy, Liz Strodel, The Intention, El Sabor, The Stan Colella Orchestra, and the University of Miami Symphony Orchestra.

THE SAMMYS – 2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

IRVING KAUFMAN – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Irving Kaufman was the youngest of five sons (Jack, Phil, Charles, Harry & Irving). Born Isadore Kaufman to Russian immigrants in Syracuse on February 8, 1890, Kaufman was raised in a musical family where his father and two uncles sang in a local synagogue.

At age five Irving started singing for money, passing the hat when he performed on street corners, hotels, streetcars, trains, and even in bars. When he turned eight Kaufman sang for soldiers leaving Syracuse for the Spanish-American War. That year he and his brother Phil signed with a booking agent to sing with Vaudeville act, the Jenny Eddy Trio, touring across Upstate New York and New York City.



After two years traveling with the trio, Irving joined the Adam Forepaugh and Sells Brothers Circus, singing with the fifty-piece Merrick's Band. He traveled with this circus for two seasons and after its closing, was offered a job singing by John Ringling. Kaufman only appeared once with the Ringling Brothers Circus in Denver before heading back to Syracuse.

While in Syracuse, he worked various jobs including as an elevator operator and as a greeter with the L.C. Smith Typewriter Company. At age 14, Kaufman obtained a \$10 per night position singing at a local motion picture show. In 1911 he made his way to New York City, gaining employment pushing songs for \$35 a week for the Leo Feist Music Company, Inc., one of the city's largest sheet music companies.

In 1913, Irving Kaufman headed to vaudeville, landing in the comedy act, The Avon Comedy Four. Tours in the USA, Canada, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, and England followed.

On September 21, 1915, he married his childhood sweetheart, Syracuse native Sara Lazarus, and settled in New Rochelle, N.Y.

Soon after joining the Avon Comedy Four, Kaufman attracted the attention of the Edison Recording Company as a solo singer. The Edison Company was located at 75 Fifth Avenue. This is where Kaufman made his first test recording. In 1914, the Edison Company issued Irving Kaufman's first recording on Blue Amberol Cylinder titled "I Love the Ladies" (Edison #2328).

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Irving then moved to Victor Records in April 1914 and then to the Columbia Records in 1916. The Avon Comedy Four appeared in Flo Ziegfeld's melodrama "Why Worry" which opened in New York in July 1918 with Kaufman playing the role of Dubin.

After his departure from the Avon Comedy Four, Kaufman worked in the Shubert Brothers (Syracuse natives) production of "The Passing Show of 1918." He left the show after the premature death of his brother Phillip who fell victim to the flu epidemic. Phillip was one-half of the singing group The Kaufman Brothers along with Irving's other brother Jack. Jack and Irving then teamed in a new Kaufman Brothers in 1919. This partnership lasted through 1923.

Irving rejoined the Shubert Brothers in "The Passing Show of 1919" at the Winter Garden Theater on Broadway. In September 1919, Irving and Jack, along with bandleader Arthur Fields (The Kaufields), signed a three-year recording contract with Emerson Records. Kaufman next appeared in the Ziegfeld Follies of 1920, followed by a return to vaudeville with the B.F Keith Theater circuit in 1921, a chain of vaudeville theaters across the United States and Canada.

Irving Kaufman's amazing recording career lasted from 1914 through 1974 (cylinders, 78s, LPs and 45s). A heart attack in 1949 sidelined Kaufman until 1974, when the double LP career retrospective "Reminisce with Irving Kaufman" was released. Kaufman recorded eight new tracks from his home for this release, accompanied by his second wife Belle Brooks. The Archeophone label released another collection in 2006 called "The Last Recording Pioneer."

Throughout his career, Irving Kaufman's voice was heard on over twenty different labels recording under ten different names.

This American recording pioneer died on January 3, 1976 in Indio, California at age 85.

THE SAMMYS – OUR SPONSORS

Each year, hundreds of local musicians and members of the Syracuse music community attend the SAMMYS. Since the first SAMMY award show was held at the Landmark Theater in 1993, this annual celebration of the Syracuse music scene has become the number one local music event in Central New York. The Board of Directors would like to thank all of our sponsors for supporting this community focused event, which is produced by a dedicated group of volunteers and supported by grants as well as private and corporate donations.

