

SYRACUSE AREA MUSIC AWARDS



SYRACUSE AREA MUSIC AWARDS

March 7-8, 2024

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 7, Upstairs at the Dinosaur Bar-B-Que from 7-10pm. The list of inductees and bios are available on pages 3-9 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 8, at the Palace Theatre at 7:00pm. The list of nominees is available on pages 10-16 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 **Jeffrey Pepper Rodgers, Shawn Seals, Steven Cali, Sydney Irving, and The Rollin' Rust**. In addition to these performances, awards will be presented in 13 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 March 3 at syracuseareamusic.com/peopleschoice.

THE SAMMYS – 2024 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.



STEVE SCHAD



JON LIEBING



SEPP HERBERT



WESTCOTT STREET CULTURAL FAIR



JEFFREY PEPPER RODGERS

Music Educator of the Year



SEAN O'LOUGHLIN

Lifetime Achievement

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STEVE SCHAD

Steve Schad started playing Keyboards in 1978, performing and recording progressive rock with Steppes, and later Animation, back in the 805 era. Shortly after, he began working at Onondaga Music as keyboard specialist and salesman from 1987-1996, until he took a job as “Dr. Johnny Fever” of the United Booty Foundation, a gig that would end up flourishing for over a decade. At that time, he invested in intelligent lights, that were used for bands like The Shuffling Hungarians alongside his brother and fellow sound engineer, Tim Schad.

In 1998 he joined ATS (The Mac Store) as a Digital AV specialist teaching Pro Tools, Video Apps, and selling Macs, and learned to build a home studio where he eventually recorded albums by Ashley Cox and Lisa Romano Ward. And in 1999, his family began a six-year tradition of recording Christmas CDs for their parents, collectively recording over 50 songs.

In 2003, he formed Childhoods End, a Pink Floyd tribute band which later became Radio Floyd, that led to his involvement with Beatlecuse, Vinyl Albums Live, Magical Mystery Tour and later shows at the Ridge Tribute Series. He now plays with Dangerous Type, a six-piece, early MTV band.

Over the years, Schad started running sound and lights for various groups such as New Day, UAD, Mere Mortals, Brass Inc, Gold Dust Gypsies, What About Bob, REV and many others, perfecting his mixing skills.

Currently, he owns and operates his own private recording studio at Studio 106, where he dabbles in 5.1 surround mixes and composing, as well as providing technical help and collaboration with other musician’s home studios.



THE SAMMYS – 2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

JON LIEBING

Jon was first inspired to become a musician in 1975, when his older brother, Kim invited a friend from school over. This friend brought his guitar, and planted a seed that would never stop growing. At just 15 years old, Jon began playing guitar, and though he sought guidance from those he admired, Jon was mostly self-taught. While Jon was always learning and growing as a musician, he mastered the guitar and became skilled on piano, drums, bass, and several other instruments, as well as being an amazing vocalist.

After high school, Jon began playing gigs on his own, hosted a local cable talent showcase (“Guitars Along the Mohawk”), and came to be a familiar voice on Utica’s WOUR-FM. He went on to perform for thousands around the U.S., and in Bermuda. Jon also had the privilege to perform for and with many world class musicians, including Greg Allman, Emmylou Harris, Hot Tuna, and many more.

Over 45 years, Jon wrote and recorded 18 albums. He wrote every word and played every instrument on his first record, *Dancing on a Snowflake*. His next two releases saw Jon assembling the best musicians to bring his songs to life. He went on to release eight more records produced in his home studio. Jon was an amazing teacher during these sessions.

Jon grew into a player who could pick up just about anything he heard by ear. He had perfect pitch. If you were fortunate enough to catch any of his shows, you surely would notice his continuous mid-song adjustments. You would also have noticed he never missed a beat, note, or lyric. His musical quirks were always accompanied by his never-ending sense of humor as well as a story or two. He loved to entertain, and he loved getting to know people.



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SEPP HERBERT

Hailing from Barbados, Joseph “Sepp” Herbert is a musician, producer and mix engineer. At an early age, Sepp fell in love with music. His desire to learn led him to ask his parents to take steel pan lessons. His quest didn’t stop there.

Soon after starting steel pan lessons, Sepp took up the piano. His ability to play the steel pan and other instruments would pave his way to tour the world, entertaining guests on various cruise ships. He soon found himself playing steel pan on a television show called Dreamship, the European version of The Love Boat.

Sepp expanded his love of music to the recording studio. He started as a studio runner then became a junior engineer at a subsidiary studio in Denmark. An eager learner, Sepp made the most of every possible opening to help at recording sessions, earning him respect from studio engineers and providing the foundation for his recording engineer pathway.

While touring the world on cruise ships, Sepp spent time as a producer/recording engineer, working on Phillip Michael Thomas’ debut album. Four years later, his touring band, Love, Unity, and Strength would sign with a management company based in Upstate NY. Sepp’s talent would earn him a position with Columbia Records as a producer.

LUS dissolved and Sepp settled in Syracuse where he became a partner in the company, FE FE Entertainment, LLC/Palm Tree Records, as a producer. While there, Sepp created music for local artists such as Alani Skye, Seth Marcel, KHYM/Zani’ya and Electric Relaxation. He also collaborated with a variety of international artists such as Jazzy Jeff, Hidden Beach, P-Nut Frost, 1Jay Fenix and Bert Price.

All of his credits and accomplishments have earned him membership into the prestigious Recording Academy – Producers and Engineers Wing and the Audio Engineering Society (AES).



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WESTCOTT STREET CULTURAL FAIR

The Westcott Street Cultural Fair (WSCF) is a significant neighborhood event that embodies the eclectic spirit of the “Westcott Nation”. A mission of WSCF is to support local performing artists while keeping the event free for residents and visitors. We showcase established and emerging regional performers, visual artists and crafters, and Westcott merchants. We have six stages (three music stages, a kids’ stage, dance, and belly dance). In addition to music and dance, we feature over 120 booths, a parade, and free art-making activities for children.



The first WSCF was in 1991 and it has grown dramatically, with over 10,000 people attending in 2023. The performers are picked by a committee of fellow performers; Mark Zane (Chair), Pam McGrath, Mark Bostick, Connie Walters, Eric Cohen, Cora Thomas, Adam Gold, Sam Roux, Qiana Williams, Biboti Ouikahilo, Roberto Perez, Alison Mullan-Stout, and Mary Hagemann. Mark Wright from the CRC (CNYARTS) played a significant role in developing and guiding the performing arts committee in the early days of the fair.

The Performing Arts Committee strives to be fair and transparent. Every performer, including the most well-known, has to submit an application. In 2023, the committee implemented a rubric to codify the values of the Fair. Here are some of the priorities: Local - We focus on artists who are from the “Westcott Nation” or surrounding area, and/or have a strong connection to the neighborhood. Diverse - We showcase the diversity of the neighborhood and beyond, including identities that are historically underrepresented, such as cultural background, race, and gender. We also promote a multiplicity of genres and groups that promote positive and inclusive messages. Skill - Of course, we are looking for talented performers who will be appealing to fairgoers.

We attempt to find a balance between giving newer performers a platform, while still featuring fair favorites. We prefer musicians to perform original music and require performances to be “family-friendly”. Ultimately, we are striving to create a vibrant, high-caliber Fair each year.

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JEFFREY PEPPER RODGERS – MUSIC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Jeffrey Pepper Rodgers has combined his twin passions for words and music into a multifaceted career as a musician, author, and teacher.

A grand prize winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, he plays kinetic folk rock, combining vivid imagery and storytelling with masterful band-in-a-box guitar playing. He has released six solo albums. His original music has racked up numerous honors in recent years, including a Sammy Award for Best Americana, an Emerging Artist showcase at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, and a video feature on public radio's Folk Alley. His duo Pepper and Sassafra, with songwriter/multi-instrumentalist Wendy Ramsay, was the New Voices winner at the Turtle Hill Folk Festival and finalist for Best Duo at FreshGrass.



He also leads Dead to the Core, a collective of singer-songwriters and acoustic musicians celebrating the Grateful Dead, and he has released a best-selling video series teaching his acoustic arrangements of classic Dead songs. Dead to the Core tours the Northeast and hosts monthly concerts at Syracuse's 443 Social Club.

Rodgers is the founding editor of Acoustic Guitar magazine and a contributor to NPR's All Things Considered. His books include Rock Troubadours, featuring his interviews with Jerry Garcia, Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell, James Taylor, Ani DiFranco, Dave Matthews, and more; The Complete Singer-Songwriter; and the multimedia guitar guide Beyond Strumming.

A "renowned guitar teacher" (Boston Globe), Rodgers leads workshops on guitar and songwriting at schools and events such as the Passim School of Music, Berklee College of Music, and the Woodstock Invitational Luthiers Showcase, as well as online. He has been a staff instructor at Ashokan Acoustic Guitar Camp and Lamb's Retreat for Songwriters, and for 15 years he has taught courses on songwriting and creative nonfiction writing in the Honors Program at Syracuse University.

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SEAN O'LOUGHLIN – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Sean O'Loughlin has been the Principal Pops Conductor for Symphoria in Syracuse since its inception in 2012. He also serves in the same position with the Victoria Symphony in B.C. Canada. As a conductor, he has led performances with such major orchestras as the Chicago Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony, the Vancouver Symphony, the Dallas Symphony and the Houston Symphony amongst others.

In addition to conducting, Sean enjoys a varied career as a composer and an arranger. Recent collaborations include such artists as Alicia Keys, Jason Mraz, Journey, Kelly Clarkson, Diana Ross, Boyz II Men, Steven Tyler and Joe Perry, Melissa Etheridge, the Beach Boys and more. He has served as conductor for tours with Josh Groban, Sarah McLachlan and the Jerry Garcia Symphonic Celebration. He has also appeared on ABC's Good Morning America and NBC's "A Very Pentatonix Christmas."



Sean's music for concert band and orchestra is published by industry leaders Hal Leonard, Excelcia Music and Carl Fischer. Sean also frequently works with local Syracuse schools including recent commissions for the Liverpool, Chittenango and Baldwinsville school districts. Through these projects, Sean enjoys nurturing and inspiring the next generation of musicians.

Sean was born and raised in Syracuse. His music studies were cultivated by such great mentors as Anthony DeAngelis, John Spillett, John Raschella and Dan Sapochetti. Music degrees from Syracuse University and New England Conservatory in Boston gave him the tools and confidence to move to Los Angeles to pursue a career as a professional musician.

There are many people to thank for this journey including his wife Dena, their two daughters Kate and Lily, along with his parents John and Danielle and his two sisters Claudine and Kristine. An award like this is shared with all of the amazing musicians that Sean has worked with and will continue to work with in the future.

THE SAMMYS – 2024 SAMMY NOMINEES

SAMMY awards are given based on the judgment of submissions sent to the SAMMYS Board by musicians in Syracuse and the surrounding area. Congratulations to the 178 artists that submitted 237 recordings! An independent panel of music industry professionals and educators from around the country, led by James Abbott, reviewed the submissions and made their selections based on their merit within their genre.

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

BEST JAZZ

- Bob Holz – Holz-Stathis: Collaborative
- Dave Solazzo & The Bridge – Locrian Skye
- Salt City Voices – For Once In My Life
- Vanessa Vacanti – Vanessa Vacanti

BEST AMERICANA

- Brian and the Beautiful Birds – HeartWind
- Brian Thomas and The Strikes – Wild Mountain Honey
- George Mann – This Chain
- Mike Powell and The Echosound – Plastic Spoon Honeymoon
- Ryan Holweger – Emerado

BEST OTHER STYLE

- Ama Kutin – The Journey
- Anthony Saturno – Mixed Bag of Beans, Vol. 2
- Asael Puentes – Forgotten Ideas
- Ceili Rain – Crash This Gate
- Empires In Orbit – Notes from the Ether: Above

BEST JAM BAND

- Count Blastula – BLAST OFF
- One Man. The Band – Galaxy Light Machine
- Transient Kicks – The Clock Has Problems

BEST POP

- Coughlin – Run to the Light, Carol Anne!
- Jess Novak & Ben Wayne – Sunrise
- Sydney Irving – Unfashioned Creatures

BEST BLUES

- King Kool and His Royal Blues – Leaving Behind
- Nate Gross – Raw Turkey: Live

BEST HARD ROCK

- AMOK – AMOK
- From Ruins – Left for Dead
- KILTER – Another Failed Attempt
- Landslide – In Waking Life
- Max Scialdone – A Light In The Darkness

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BEST R&B

- Bead N' Bone – Undercover
- Sadeesha Morgan – Higher
- Tyjhier – The In-Betweens

BEST HIP-HOP OR RAP

- Amanda Marie – REBORN
- A Kid Called Danger – Cowards & Kings
- Mikey T – Before I Go
- Trex – My Story, Our Story?
- Zak G – For The Gs (Side A)

BEST COUNTRY

- Christian Parker featuring Earl Poole Ball – Sweethearts: A Tribute To The Byrds 'Sweetheart Of The Rodeo'
- Jon Rogalia Ft. Whiskey Hollow Rush – Unapologetic
- Steven Cali – Nights To Burn

BEST ROCK

- Boustrophedon – The Colossus
- Elephant Back – The Black Album
- The Flashcubes – Pop Masters
- Pale Green Stars – Become Who You Are
- Perilous – Yeah!!!

BEST ALTERNATIVE

- Filled to the Brim – Confessions
- Gina Holsopple – More
- Mike Gibson – The Perfect Nothing
- Professional Victims – High & Mighty
- Vagabonds – Live @ SubCat Studios

BEST SINGLE

- The Action! – Astronaut
- Al Papers – Gotta Get It
- Isaac French – Drunk When I Wake Up
- Steven Cali – Girls & Whiskey
- Tyjhier – Better Off

ADDITIONAL AWARDS...

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

- Carrie Lazarus

JACK O BOCCHINO SPIRIT OF THE SAMMYS AWARD

- Lori Newcomb

FOUNDER'S AWARD

- The Critics Choice

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CARRIE LAZARUS – COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

NewsChannel 9 WSYR's Carrie Lazarus established the Fund for Extraordinary Talent in 2013 to support performing arts students in Central New York who lack the financial means to further their training. The fund helps musicians, singers and dancers reach their fullest potential by funding the expenses of lessons, instruments, and other special opportunities.

Carrie came to college here more than three decades ago and made Central New York her permanent home. She spent more than 30 years on the anchor desk at NewsChannel 9 before dedicating herself full time to "Carrie Lazarus Presents: Extraordinary People and Places of Central New York," including profiles of student talent that air weekly on NewsChannel 9.

One of Central New York's most trusted journalists, Carrie has been honored with plaques on both the Syracuse Press Club's Wall of Distinction at the Mulroy Civic Center and the New York State Broadcasters Association's Hall of Fame, on display at her alma mater, the S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

The Carrie Lazarus Fund for Extraordinary Talent is administered through the Central New York Community Foundation. You can learn more about the Fund and how you can help at cfcny.org.



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LORI NEWCOMB – JACK O BOCCHINO SPIRIT OF THE SAMMYS AWARD

Lori grew up in the hamlet of Lysander. Her first exploration into music took her north to Oswego's Great Laker Inn, with a huge dance floor and live music. As the path expanded she found local band, Back Alley Boys, a favorite. One member, Terry Quill, still plays but now with Mark Doyle and at Moondog's Lounge in Auburn, sitting behind the soundboard for all shows. Lost Horizon on Erie Blvd. is where she discovered Duke Jupiter from Rochester.



Her journey into photography began when she bought a camera with film and started taking nature shots along with family memories. Soon she put snapping pics to another use. Competitive car racing took the wheel as she joined Sports Car Club of America for 25 years. Competing in autocross, rallies, and taking photos lead her to be voted in as Regional Executive of the CNY Chapter. SCCA divided regions by size; as editor of the newsletter she won first place in national competition for medium regions twice.

Credit Vince Lumia for her finding the local Syracuse scene in 2014. Modern Mudd was playing during Winterfest and she reminisced about live music. Lori searched out venues and musicians - always branching out, she found favorite places and artists in the 518 and 585 area codes too. This June, she celebrates 48 years with Eagle News as Production/Circulation Manager.

Lori also enjoys low level nature hikes, reading, flower gardening, movies, plays and musicals. Her first 45 was "These Boots Are Made For Walking", but only because she practically lived in her cowboy boots for years. She was part of the musical TV show, The Banana Bunch and still has that 45 in her collection of mementos. Lori enjoys multiple genres – country, oldies, blues, and rock. She has a true appreciation for original music here on the local scene too.

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THE CRITICS CHOICE – FOUNDER’S AWARD

In a now nearly-forgotten era, when black jazz clubs thrived and proliferated throughout urban Syracuse, great jazz was being played nightly in rooms all over town in clubs like Phoebe’s Harkay Lounge, the Intrigue Room, Sid’s Hightower Lounge, the English Inn, the Penguin, the Embassy, the Coda, the Casa Di Lisa, the Clinton House, the Jazz Corner and the Club 800. Around that time, there were two other unforgettable joints on the north and east sides of town, the Clef and Soo Lin, each run by two guys whose paths would one day cross to become one of the unlikeliest duos of all time.



They were the oddest of couples. Peter Procopio was a brash 22-year old drummer who bought a strip club on Wolf Street he renamed The Clef, a tiny little northside bistro that regularly brought in jazz greats like Woody Herman, Chuck Mangione, Chick Corea, Donald Byrd and Sal Nistico long before they became superstars and household names. Buddy Pynes was a smooth and slick Matre’d type and another denizen of the Syracuse music scene. As the colorful and larger-than-life owner and host of the legendary Soo Lin nightclub and Chinese restaurant, located on the shore of what was once the Erie Canal, Soo Lin on Buddy’s watch became the go-to nightspot that regularly played host to the area’s best dance bands, and perhaps best known as the place with the world’s smallest dance floor.

One night, 50 years ago, Procopio was approached by Pynes, who asked Pete to put together a jazz group for Soo Lin for the weekend. After a change in personnel, the band Procopio assembled for the two-day gig was so sensational they wound up playing six nights a week for the next 18 months at the popular east side nightspot. With three recent Crane Music School grads from Potsdam, - Gary Keller, Glenn Drewes, and John Mahoney - and Pete and Adele, two self-taught, hard core jazzers who gigged regularly in black jazz clubs before meeting at drummer Chris Powell’s Jazz Corner on a night when Stan Getz was headlining. On paper, the group was a long shot. On stage, it was a different story. The Critics Choice became an instant success and an overnight sensation.

Instrumentally, the band could swing, but they could also really sing. For a young guy, Pete had big ears and he knew what he had. He also knew the band would need to include commercial tunes and more

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Pop vocals to get work, so after Keller left the group, Procopio advised former SU football player and replacement saxophonist Andy Fusco to throw his tenor into the river and switch over to alto and flute. Andy on alto and Glenn on trumpet became a great jazz front line, while Adele, Pete and John worked tirelessly to create intricate four-part harmonies that resulted in a sound that rivaled the iconic vocal blend popularized by The Four Freshmen, who were the Manhattan Transfer before ManTran was ManTran. While The Critics Choice didn't ultimately enjoy the major studio success and worldwide fame of The Freshmen or The Transfer, their sound was easily on a par with both of their more well known counterparts. And what makes that comparison even more astonishing is the fact that none of the band's members, other than Adele, had ever sung professionally before. But, together, they sang like birds.

And then there was Adele Durham, one of the best female jazz vocalists you've probably never heard of. As great as they come, Adele was a musician's musician and a great technician at her instrument. But what set her apart was her soulfulness, her sound and her style. She had great feel, great intonation and great taste and she was selfless, a collaborator first, and a lead vocalist a distant second. Someone who was far more interested in being an equal part of a band of equals than being the focal point of the group. Despite her best intentions to remain one of many, Adele was a major standout and a star, and a great jazz vocalist that few could match.

Shortly after they wrapped their 18-month 'debut' engagement at Soo Lin, they were 'discovered' a second time by frequent Mike Douglas Show vocalist Julie DeJohn who was working the main room with comedian Pat Cooper at the legendary Three Rivers Inn in nearby Phoenix. At the same time, The Critic's Choice was performing opposite them in the lounge. That chance encounter, followed by a recommendation from Pat and Julie, led to a year in residency in Pittsburgh at the famed Harmer House, followed by a six-year stint on the road that took the band to the best jazz clubs in New Jersey, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio and cities like Cleveland, Fort Wayne, Youngstown and Detroit and up and down the eastern seaboard playing hotel lounges under contract to one of the nation's top chains after being spotted in Pittsburgh by jazz greats Buddy Rich, Stan Kenton and Maynard Ferguson.

For years, the band had long wanted to play a gig at Manhattan's famed Cafe Carlyle, which was the band's Holy Grail, according to Procopio. Ironically, the Cafe came calling just as the band was heading their separate ways and Procopio, with great sadness, had to respectfully decline their offer to play the

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room. The late Andy Fusco went on to record six CDs as a leader after achieving fame as Buddy Rich's longtime featured alto player. Trumpeter Glenn Drewes, also a Buddy Rich alum, continues to be a first-call NYC trumpet player and a member of the Birdland Big Band, while also being a member of the Chicago pit band on Broadway for the last 30 years. John Mahoney became an educator and full-time jazz musician in New Orleans, while Pete and Adele remained in Syracuse, living in relative musical obscurity despite the enormity of their previous accomplishments as one of the region's greatest jazz groups.

Fast forward 50 years. A lone two-track reel-to-reel tape of the band had been discreetly recorded in 1973 by the group's Swiss Army keyboardist John Mahoney at Soo Lin, without the rest of the band's knowledge. It was eventually 'rediscovered' gathering dust in Peter's office a decade ago, when it was given to vocalist Adele Durham's nephew Frank Ferris, a Nashville drummer who was anxious to see what could be done to preserve it. Frank brought it to the late Charles Fadale in Buffalo who archived it beautifully and brilliantly, before losing his life in an horrific car crash.

The rest is Syracuse Music history, and perhaps a bit of SAMMYS magic. In 2023, 50 years after it was recorded, Peter and Adele handed a copy of the recording to longtime friend and jazz pianist Joyce DiCamillo last June at Syracuse Jazz Fest where Joyce was appearing with her trio. Joyce and her husband Malcolm had seen the band regularly at Soo Lin when they were music students at SU back in the early 1970 and were devoted followers. Joyce handed it to Frank Malfitano over brunch at Grand Central Terminal last October when Frank was on business in New York City. Frank immediately sent it to SAMMYS president Liz Nowak while simultaneously recommending a special SAMMYS Founder's Award for the group. Both were knocked out by what they heard. So Frank and Liz sent it on to veteran producer and engineer Ron Keck at SubCat studios, where it was remastered by Ron and his team, after Keck repeatedly exclaimed, "This is CRAZY!" while listening to the recording for the first time. As the producer of a thousand plus CDs, Keck couldn't believe what he was hearing. Truthfully, neither can we.

Recorded before a live audience on a single microphone by a two-track tape recorder by group archivist, arranger, organist, bassist and vocalist John Mahoney, the result is what many are calling the single greatest live recording by a jazz group in Syracuse Music History. We couldn't agree more.

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.

