

## JUNO NOMINATIONS

**Nickelback scores a fiver**

GUY DIXON  
FEBRUARY 4, 2009

If a growing international community of Canadian critics, Japanese hipsters and British soul-jazz aficionados had their say, Elizabeth Shepherd would walk away from next month's Juno Awards cradling armfuls of trophies, just like Norah Jones at the Grammys a few years back.

A major name in the subgenre of jazz singer-songwriting, Shepherd has played a string of sold-out shows in Tokyo and draws large crowds in London. She's a favourite of influential British DJ Gilles Peterson, which gives her street cred among an in-the-know crowd. Yet there she was yesterday, at the announcement of this year's Juno nominees in Toronto, among the contenders for the unassuming category of vocal jazz album of the year.

She's an example of how behind the headline that Nickelback receives five Juno nominations, there are numerous stories of Canadian musicians winning new audiences and leading their subset of music into new directions.

Take, for instance, Chris Donnelly, up for traditional jazz album of the year, whose solo piano playing crosses a subtle musical bridge between Bill Evans and Glenn Gould.

**Print Edition - Section Front**

[Enlarge Image](#)

**More Arts Stories**

- GOING OUT: YOUR GUIDE TO THE WEEK'S ENTERTAINMENT
- The sophisticated dilettante
- They're all lying. Trust me!
- Success (all over the world): How sweet it is for Sugar Sammy
- Starving artists? Study shows that's not far from the mark
- Go to the Arts section



"If you listen to the album, you'll hear a lot of different influences: jazz, classical, minimalist, there are lots of different things in there. I don't sit there and say I'm going to make a jazz album or a classical album, or that I'm going to blend the two. I'm just going to do what I do," Donnelly said.

Like Shepherd's nod, Donnelly's nomination should win the Toronto pianist more acclaim outside the jazz community - as long as not all the Juno attention goes to unabashedly commercial acts such as Nickelback.

There are certainly signs this year that the Junos, which have often felt industry-driven, are catching up to what is truly happening in Canada. It's a trickle-down effect perhaps: This year, only seven of the 39 categories take sales figures into account. This may have helped to create a more egalitarian feel to the nominees' list, while also drawing attention to the diversity of names throughout the categories.

An example of this can be found in new artist of the year. The nominees include country artist Crystal Shawanda, pop singer Kreesha Turner and jazz singer Nikki Yanofsky, who also have multiple nominations in other categories.

"It really shows the depth of talent we have in the multiple genres," said Melanie Berry, president of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, which administers the Junos, airing March 29 on CTV. "Yes, there are specific artists that would skew older. But then there are artists that would skew younger. So I think there's a good balance."

Group of the year is another category that is typically dominated by obvious commercial names, but which this year included an exception - with the indie band Tokyo Police Club vying against Nickelback and other perennial Juno favourites Great Big Sea, the Trews, as well as Simple Plan.

Single of the year is a similar story. Rapper Kardinal Offishall's *Dangerous* and R&B singer Divine Brown's *Laying It On The Line* are competing against such heavyweight commercial contenders as Celine Dion's *Taking Chances*, Michael Bublé's *Lost* and Nickelback's *Gotta Be Somebody*. Not only does this list cross genres and demographics (and some might say common sense, with Kardinal Offishall, Dion and Nickelback vying for the same prize), it nevertheless indicates the growing diversity that seems to be taking hold at the Junos.

But a certain irony also emerges. Just as the Junos draw much-deserved attention to artists such as Shepherd and Donnelly, they also highlight a quandary faced by many acts.

"[It's] this weird industry thing where you have to make yourself scarce," Shepherd said. Her growing accolades are bringing her more international recognition. Yet like many accomplished Canadian musicians, she hasn't yet achieved greater recognition from a wider audience at home.

It's a Catch-22: Perform too much and you don't live up to your billing - people will go see you at a local bar gig and won't go to your big show. But gig too little and you don't get the necessary exposure.

"If you make yourself scarce, people want more of you. It's something I feel very strange about," Shepherd said of this unusual logic the industry prescribes.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **2009 Juno awards nominees**

### **SINGLE OF THE YEAR**

*Taking Chances*, Celine Dion

*Lay It On The Line*, Divine Brown

*Dangerous*, Kardinal Offishall

*Lost*, Michael Bublé

*Gotta Be Somebody*, Nickelback

### **ALBUM OF THE YEAR**

*Famous Last Words*, Hedley

*Dark Horse*, Nickelback

*Simple Plan*, Simple Plan

*70s Volume 2*, Sylvain Cossette

*Lost in the 80s*, The Lost Fingers

ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Bryan Adams

City and Colour

k.d. lang

Sam Roberts

Serena Ryder

GROUP OF THE YEAR

Great Big Sea

Nickelback

Simple Plan

The Trews

Tokyo Police Club

POP ALBUM OF THE YEAR

*Flavors of Entanglement*, Alanis Morissette

*No Sleep at All*, Creature

*Wake Up and Say Goodbye*, David Usher

*Passion*, Kreesha Turner

*Holes*, The Midway State

\*\*\*\*\*

**ROCK ALBUM OF THE YEAR**

*Terminal Romance*, Matt Mays

& El Torpedo

*Fortress*, Protest the Hero

*Love at the End of the World*, Sam Roberts

*Parallel Play*, Sloan

*No Time for Later*, The Trews

NEW ARTIST

Crystal Shawanda

Jessie Farrell

Kreesha Turner

Lights

Nikki Yanofsky

NEW GROUP

Beast

Cancer Bats

Crystal Castles

Plants and Animals

The Stills

INTERNATIONAL ALBUM

*Black Ice*, AC/DC

*Viva La Vida*, Coldplay

*Chinese Democracy*, Guns N' Roses

*Sleep Through the Static*, Jack Johnson

*Death Magnetic*, Metallica

SONGWRITER

Alanis Morissette

Dallas Green

Gordie Sampson

Hedley

Nathan Ferraro

COUNTRY RECORDING

*Thankful*, Aaron Pritchett

*Dawn of a New Day*, Crystal Shawanda

*Beautiful Life*, Doc Walker

*What I Do*, George Canyon

*Chasing the Sun*, Tara Oram

ADULT ALTERNATIVE ALBUM

*Between the Beautifuls*, Hawksley Workman

*Asking for Flowers*, Kathleen Edwards

*Exit Strategy of the Soul*, Ron Sexsmith

*The Baroness*, Sarah Slean

*is it o.k.*, Serena Ryder

ALTERNATIVE ALBUM

*In the Future*, Black Mountain

*Soft Airplane*, Chad VanGaalen

*The Chemistry of Common Life*, Fucked Up

*Parc Avenue*, Plants and Animals

*Oceans Will Rise*, the Stills

VOCAL JAZZ ALBUM

*If the Moon Turns Green ...*,

Diana Panton

*Parkdale*, Elizabeth Shepherd

*Lucky*, Molly Johnson

*Ella ... of Thee I Swing*,

Nikki Yanofsky

*Ima*, Yvette Tollar

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ ALBUM

*Existential Detective*, Barry Romberg's Random Access Large Ensemble

*Rasstones*, François Bourassa Quartet

*Embracing Voices*, Jane Bunnett

*The Sicilian Jazz Project*, Michael Occhipinti

*A Bend in the River*, Roberto Occhipinti

TRADITIONAL JAZZ ALBUM

*Small Wonder*, Brad Turner Quartet

*Solo*, Chris Donnelly

*For Kenny Wheeler*, Don Thompson Quartet

*TV Trio*, John Stetch

*Second Time Around*, Oliver Jones

CHILDREN'S ALBUM

*Snacktime!*, Barenaked Ladies

*FiddleFire!*, Chris McKhool

*Oui!*, Gregg LeRock

*Catchy Tune*, Jack Grunsky

*The Kerplunks*, the Kerplunks

CLASSICAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR: VOCAL OR CHORAL PERFORMANCE

*The Voice of Bach*, Daniel Taylor

*Gloria! Vivaldi's Angels*, Ensemble Caprice

*Schumann: Dichterliebe & Other Heine Settings*, Gerald Finley

*Handel: Arias*, Karina Gauvin

*Bach and the Liturgical Year*, Shannon Mercer/Luc Beauséjour

CLASSICAL COMPOSITION

*Manhattan Music*, Bramwell Tovey

*Flanders Fields Reflections*, John Burge

*Song of Songs*, Sid Robinovitch

*From the Dark Reaches*, T. Patrick Carrabré

*Notes Towards a Poem That Can Never Be Written*, Timothy Corlis

RAP RECORDING

*A Captured Moment in Time*, DL Incognito

*The Book*, D-Sisive

*I Rap Now*, Famous

*Not 4 Sale*, Kardinal Offishall

*Point Blank*, Point Blank

R&B/SOUL RECORDING

*The Love Chronicles*, Divine Brown

*The Promise*, Deborah Cox

*Elise Estrada*, Elise Estrada

*Tony*, Ivana Santilli

*Money*, Zaki Ibrahim

BLUES ALBUM

*Get Way Back - A Tribute to Percy Mayfield*, Amos Garrett

*Acoustic Blues - Got 'Em from the Bottom*, Big Dave McLean

*Love & Sound*, Garrett Mason

*Mess of Blues*, Jeff Healey

*Ramblin' Son*, Julian Fauth

*For a complete list*

*of the nominees visit*

[globeandmail.com/arts](http://globeandmail.com/arts)

© Copyright 2009 CTVglobemedia Publishing Inc. All Rights Reserved.

**CTVglobemedia**

globeandmail.com and The Globe and Mail are divisions of CTVglobemedia Publishing Inc., 444 Front St. W., Toronto, ON Canada M5V 2S9  
Phillip Crawley, Publisher