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### Music faculty strikes right notes with Juno nods School of Performing and Creative Arts staff members up for contemporary jazz album and traditional jazz album of the year

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Five School of Performing and Creative Arts faculty members and the first student to graduate from Humber's Community Music School have been nominated for this year's Juno Awards.

Roberto Occhipinti, who teaches in the recording self-directed program, is nominated for contemporary jazz album for his album, *A Bend in the River*.

Occhipinti is already a three-time Juno winner for work he's done on other artists' albums, but this is the first time he's been nominated for his own work.



courtesy photo

Humber School of Creative and Performing Arts faculty member Barry Romberg (drums) and hisband, Random Access Large Ensemble are nominated for contemporary jazz album of year.

"Anytime someone puts your name forward in the newspaper and spells it right is always a good thing," Occhipinti said. "And attending the awards is a lot more fun than watching it on TV."

His brother Michael, a former faculty member of the continuing education program who now fills in for the ensemble classes, has been nominated for his album *A Sicilian Jazz Project*.

David Occhipinti, cousin of Robert and Michael, is nominated for his work on colleague Barry Romberg's album *Existential Detective*.

Romberg, who teaches percussion at Humber, said it's a good feeling to have his work noticed.

"I recorded it at my studio at home. There were 16 guys in the band," he said. "I could only fit eight guys into my studio at one time."

Don Thompson, currently on teaching leave, is nominated for traditional jazz album with his album, *For Kenny Wheeler*.

In the same category, Chris Donnelly, an alumni and past faculty member of the Humber Community Music School, is nominated for his debut *Solo*.

Donnelly started in Humber's youth music program when he was barely three-years-old and was the first student to graduate from the program at 17.

He said it is an honour to be nominated alongside his fellow musicians. "As I read the nominations I realized I own at least one of their albums and have spent time studying their work."

The 2009 Juno Awards take place on March 29 in Vancouver, B.C. with Brampton native Russel Peters hosting the ceremony for the second straight year.

Albert rockers Nickelback lead all nominees with five nominations, while the Sam Roberts Band are up for

four Juno Awards.

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