

Students name Grammy choices

By Ming Rodrigues
Emerald Contributor

It's that time of the year again, when the music industry's most prestigious honors are given out.

From a series of network TV taped specials in the 1960s called "The Best on Record," to today's live telecasts now seen in 80 countries, including the first broadcast to this year's 15 newly independent republics in the former Soviet Union, the Grammy Awards continues to break new ground in global appeal.

"This is an important step in our goal to bring the Grammys and the best in recorded music to the world," said Michael Greene, president of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, in a press statement. "As the universal language, music bridges cultures and creates a better understanding among friends and foes alike, and we are extremely excited to now have the entire Eastern Bloc as part of the Grammy network."

Nominations for the 34th Annual Grammy Awards again cover a wide spectrum of recordings, with nearly 400 nominations in 78 different categories.

Among the new Grammy categories this year is Best Rock Song, with nominations going to Jane's Addiction's "Been Caught Stealing," Bryan Adams' "Can't Stop This Thing We Started," Metallica's "Enter Sandman," Tom Petty's "Learning to Fly," Queensryche's "Silent Lucidity," and Sting's "Soul Cages."

Traditional Pop Performance, another new category, debuted with nominations for Harry Connick Jr., Johnny Mathis, Diane Schuur, Natalie Cole, and Barbra Streisand.

Each year, there are some outstanding nominees.

R.E.M. tops the list. The band is in line for seven Grammy nominations including Record, Album and Song of the Year.

Giving the band a run for the awards are Bryan

Adams with six nominations, Bonnie Raitt and Dave Grusin with five each, and Amy Grant and Natalie Cole with four nominations each. Cole's recordings have also earned seven additional nominations in producing, engineering and songwriting categories.

Cole, Grant and Raitt are also contenders for the Record and Album of the Year award.

The 6,000 voting members of the Academy are not the only ones rooting for who they think are the best in the business.

This campus has quite a bit to say about the nominees as well.

R.E.M. got a lot of votes here for what many defined as their "thinking music and provocative videos."

"There's no doubt that R.E.M. would win the Record and Album of the Year," sophomore Jim Finley said. "Their songs make you think, there are no silly or spacey lyrics, and their whole image makes a kind of karmic statement that's really cool."

The era of crooners and romance seem to making a big comeback too. Natalie Cole and Harry Connick Jr. were popular choices in this category.

"They capture the kind of sweeping romance and emotional grandeur that typified the ballads of the '50s and '60s which you don't get in today's music now," senior Tracy Peters said.

Bonnie Raitt was commended for her "middle-America sound" while Amy Grant didn't get too many votes for her new, pop-artist transition from Christian music artist.

"She just sounds too fluffy and generic," sophomore Cindy Lucas said. "I think I preferred her the way she was, though I give her credit for venturing into new ground."

"The Grammy Awards Show," hosted by Whoopi Goldberg, will be telecast live from Radio City Music hall in New York, Tuesday, Feb. 25, from 8 to 11 p.m. EST.

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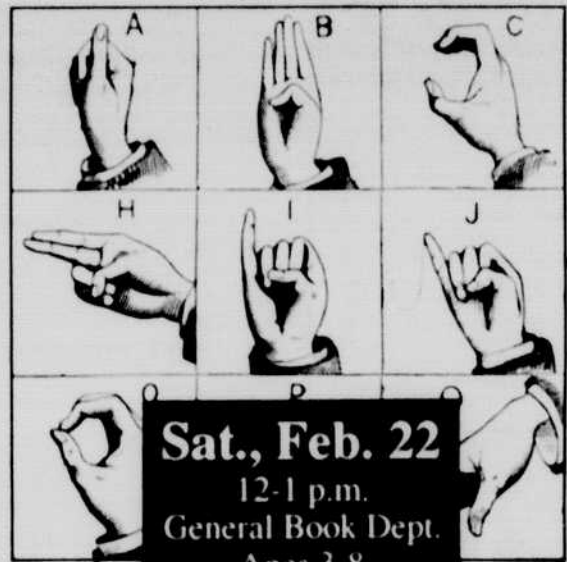
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SINGERS

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Cockburn's most recent release, *Nothing But a Burning Light* is the latest in nearly two decades of writing, recording and touring with his blend of folk, blues-influenced rock and jazz.

Cockburn is also a social activist, working on behalf of American Indian rights for which he has appeared at benefits in Canada and the U.S. In addition, his interest extends to Central American political issues and environmental preservation.

His music reflects these influences, especially in songs like "Radium Rain," based on the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, "If a Tree Falls," a song

about rainforest depletion, and "Kit Carson," a song which addresses injustices against American Indians.

Cockburn's music has earned him 10 Juno Awards, the Canadian equivalent of the Grammy Award, as well as Holland's Edison Award.

Appearing with Cockburn is Virgin Records' new artist, Sam Phillips, who just released her second record, *Cruel Inventions*.

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