

Reibach snares four NAMMY nominations

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

"The Looking Wolf Project" is still howling.

Grand Ronde Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach's combination of alternative rock and singing with Native American flute garnered three nominations on Sept. 3 when the 11th annual Native American Music Awards nominees were announced.

Reibach, last year's NAMMY Flutist of the Year, received nominations for Artist of the Year, Record of the Year and Best Instrumental Recording for "The Looking Wolf Project."

In addition, Reibach's appearance in "The Legend of Tillamook's Gold," a family movie filmed in Oregon in 2005, was nominated in the Best Music Video category.

Reibach appears in the video with Floyd Red Crow Westerman ("Dances With Wolves"), who walked on in 2007, and plays flute.

"The Looking Wolf Project," released in 2008, was produced by Keith Sommers with contributions from Grammy Award-winning songwriter George Noriega. It features a combination of rock with Native flute, as well as Reibach singing on several tracks, including a cover of Bob Dylan's "Knockin' On Heaven's Door."

"Looking Wolf Project" was joined



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach

in the Record of the Year category by "Bitter Tears" by Sacred Ground (Oneida/Cherokee), "Earth Gift" by Kevin Locke (Lakota/Hunkpapa and Anishinaabe), "Na Unu Nahai (Shape Shifter)" by Apryl Allen (Comanche), "Songs From the Black Hills" by Bryan Akipa (Dakota Sioux) and "Songs of the Navajo" by James Peshlaka (Navajo).

In the Best Instrumental Re-

cording category, "Looking Wolf Project" was joined by "Dusk to Dawn" by Gvwi (Cherokee), "Something About" by The Awakening (Dine), "Tango!" by Gabriel Ayala (Yaqui), "Warriors Last Breath" by Mike Serna (Apache/Gabrileno) and "Works by Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate" by Jerod Tate (Chickasaw) & the San Francisco Symphony & Chorus.

In the Artist of the Year category, Reibach is joined by Arvel Bird (Southern Paiute), Jana Mashonee (Lumbee), Jim Boyd (Colville), Kevin Locke (Lakota/Hunkpapa Sioux and Anishinaabe) and Tony Redhouse (Dine).

"What an honor to be part of this amazing recording," Sommers said. "Jan Michael's flute playing is amazing and his vocals really knock it out of the park."

"I can't thank everyone enough," Reibach said. "It is just a gift to be able to share music and healing. 'The Looking Wolf Project' CD took over a year to record. We really put our hearts into it."

Reibach, the Tribe's Lands Manager, is a Kalapuya Native. He has released 14 recordings and garnered more than 30 music award nominations since 2004.

The 11th annual Native American Music Awards will be announced during the awards show at Seneca Casino in Niagara Falls, N.Y., on Saturday, Oct. 3.

Reibach will attend and perform, and Grand Ronde Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. will attend to present an award. Bobb said he is paying for his own trip to the event.

Public voting to help determine the winner of each category has started at the Web site www.nativeamericanmusicawards.com. ■

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