



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOMINEE INFORMATION

There are eight nominees on the ballot this year. Please take a minute to read through their information, as it will play an important role on how you vote at our AGM on Tuesday, September 26th. Thank you!

Tony Bao - Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

Vision for Alberta Music:

Alberta Music's vision should ensure that everyone in the Alberta music industry is able to thrive creatively; and professionally, while keeping our province at the forefront of music in Canada. It is Alberta Music's responsibility to provide everyone with the tools to grow their craft. By providing a wide range of services and workshops on areas such as artist self-worth, all the way to coaching artists on how to write a grant, Alberta Music will become an integral part of each artist's success story.

From a business perspective, Alberta Music needs to make networking and advocacy a top priority. As Government and public funding becomes more scrutinized in our economic times, Alberta Music partners need to be reminded of how important their contributions are to our artists. In addition, exploration of new partnerships should be further emphasized in order to grow Alberta Music's contribution within our community.

Professional Biography:

As the Booking Manager for the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, Tony Bao has seen the likes of Beck, Nick Cave, and Twenty One Pilots grace his stage. With a career that has never strayed away from the entertainment industry, Tony has also managed to maintain his true passion, and would identify himself primarily as a musician / recording artist, fronting the band Charcoal Skies.

In addition, he is the head Sound Designer and Composer at Suite One Productions. His most recent credits in both disciplines include the short film Nightwalk for TELUS Storyhive, the feature length documentary Brothers in the Buddha, Beneath the Surface documentary series on TELUS Optik Local, and the short documentary Peace River Rising for the Canadian Broadcast Corporation.

Kathleen (Kat) Danser - Kat Danser Music

Vision for Alberta Music:

Alberta Music must continue to build regional and provincial programs that work to meet active, diverse and thriving music communities. In order to achieve this vision, we will find a way to meet musicians at wherever they are in their career development and offer the support they are seeking or, at the very least, respond to their needs across the spectrum through active research, programming, and planning.

Professional Biography:

Kat Danser's music navigates a paddle steamer from the muddy banks of the Mississippi Delta downriver toward a big ol' full moon over New Orleans. Dubbed "Queen of the Swamp Blues", this Edmonton-based guitar slinger, songsmith, and blazing vocalist channels the spirit of roots, blues and gospel music pioneers.

Her fourth album, *Baptized by the Mud*, is a collaboration between Danser and Juno-award winning producer Steve Dawson. The recording addresses the dichotomy of "church-blues": blues music as devilish and church music as angelic. This sub-genre demonstrates that human truth and the divine are one in the same – "one is preached from behind the pulpit and the other from behind the plow".

This CD (distributed by Outside Music) is the summation of years of study, mentorship, and songwriting with legendary blues icons in Mississippi- birthplace of the blues- and her graduate studies at the U of A, where Danser focused her Masters thesis on the representation of blues music over the past century.

A national touring and award-winning artist, Danser has performed at the 25th Anniversary of Canadian Women in Blues at Massey Hall in Toronto, the Calgary International Blues Festival, Winnipeg Folk Festival, Edmonton Folk Music Festival, Calgary Folk Festival, Vancouver Folk Festival, Folk on the Rocks Festival in Yellowknife, Regina Folk Festival, Saskatoon Blues Festival, Vancouver Island MusicFest, The Winspear Centre's Mayor's Celebration of the Arts, Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival, Mountain view Music Festival, Islands Music Festival and the Winter Roots and Blues Festival.

Media reviews and interviews have occurred on CBC Radio, Global TV, Halifax Chronicle, FYI Music, Vancouver Georgia Straight, Edmonton Journal, CKUA Radio, Winnipeg Free Press, CTV, Edmonton Sun, Toronto Blues Society, Blues Matters!, Penguin Eggs; with highlights being featured by CTV's Alberta Primetime, co-hosting an edition of *Natch'l Blues* on CKUA with Holger Petersen, and completing a short documentary film entitled *Rails & Rivers: Searching for the Heart of the Blues*.

Her accolades of late have been many. Danser recently won the "Best Blues Album" (Alberta-International Blues Foundation) award, the Top 11 of 2013's CBC Radio, garnered her first national Maple Blues Best New Artist nomination, her second Western Canadian Music Award "Blues

Recording of the Year” nomination, and the completion of a Masters in Musicology from the University of Alberta.

Danser is currently working on her PhD in Musicology focusing on music and meaning. She instructs undergraduate students of Popular Music at the University of Alberta, facilitates music and healing at the U-School Program, and instructs her own Music Education Program from elementary schools to adult instructional camps. Danser’s primary goal is to use music as a space for personal exploration and as a method to strengthen communities.

Josh Gwilliam - OCL Studios

Statement Outlining Your Vision for Alberta Music:

My vision for Alberta music is to see a continuing growth of artists, musicians and producers from all parts of Alberta. Finding more ways to showcase and enrich the talents of these artist and make Alberta the place stay.

Professional Biography:

Known for taking the best of traditional techniques and integrating them seamlessly with modern technology, Josh began his career as a producer and engineer in 2001. Gwilliam has held his place behind the glass for the last 16 years working with a wide array of artists. His work as an engineer with The Road Hammers & George Canyon resulted in Platinum Records and Juno Awards for both artists.

Josh Rob Gwilliam has pursued his passion of sound capturing in searching for unique environments and unusual settings. Whether it’s in the forest, an old church, or a traditional studio his goal is always to capture music in its purest form.

Gwilliam’s distinctive approach to music has led him to work with artists such as Michael Bernard Fitzgerald, Sass Jordan, Ghosts of Modern Man, and Transit 22. Gwilliam has also worked as a respected freelance producer in various studios across Canada and the USA and has now made his home at OCL Studios in Calgary.

Mitch Lee - Redemption Audio / Beat Drop

Vision for Alberta Music:

My vision for Alberta Music? To help continue its impact on professional and up and coming professional musicians and artists. To help them diversify their focus and expand their reach into the Electronic Music scene here in Alberta. To learn from the other board members and network with like minded individuals who have a passion for music and for its future here in our province and country.

Professional Biography:

An award winning producer and composer, Mitch is also the founder of Beat Drop music production and DJ school, and Redemption Audio a music and sound house for the Film, TV, Advertising and Interactive industries. He has produced music for SyFy, Netflix, Lifetime, Warner Brothers, ESPN, Oakley, Nissan, Lamborghini, Activision, Nintendo, Adidas and many more. Mitch loves to pull the curtains back on the secrets of modern day production and enjoys mentoring the next gen of laptop producers and further his mission of music curriculum reform in Canadian Schools.

Graham Lessard - Wembley Zoo

Statement Outlining Your Vision for Alberta Music:

As the population of Alberta continues to grow, so does its music community. Whether aspiring professional or enthusiastic amateur, musicians benefit from a strong industry association. Alberta Music provides high quality programming and development opportunities for its members, facilitating networking and creating space for collaboration. In addition to the musicians it serves, Alberta Music is also dedicated to helping music managers, promoters, venues, studios and other infrastructure businesses grow and succeed. Through advocacy efforts and guiding policy initiatives, Alberta Music will establish the province as a destination for world class music, promote and retain local talent, and help members build sustainable, rewarding careers in the music industry.

Professional Biography:

Graham Lessard has been active in the Canadian music industry since 2003. As a producer and engineer, he has made recordings that have earned multiple Juno nominations and been shortlisted for the Polaris Prize. He has also worked extensively as an educator, mentoring emerging production talent from Canada and abroad at the Banff Centre and the University of Lethbridge. Graham is a trustee with the Scotlyn Foundation, one of the founding partners of the Alberta Music Cities initiative.

Brent Oliver - BOP MGMT

Vision for Alberta Music:

I have served on the Alberta Music Board of Directors for 4 years, and the past 2 as its Vice Chair. I believe Alberta Music's direction and new leadership will benefit with my last term on the board. The organization is more solid than ever before, and we must continue to push on with strategic planning and direction to benefit our community.

Professional Biography:

Brent Oliver is one of the most earnestly dedicated champions and patrons of the Arts in Alberta and Canada. For over 25 years Brent has devoted himself to developing and promoting Alberta arts initiatives, events and artists.

This life-long calling grew from Brent's passion for music & culture. As a young musician looking for opportunities to perform in Edmonton, he took the initiative to organize and promote local concerts and encouraged other provincial and national acts to play Edmonton. In 1990, he founded Green Pepper Records, an independent label which produced local compilation albums, giving dozens of artists a platform for their original music to be promoted and broadcast on campus radio.

After earning a Music Degree from the University of Alberta, Brent worked as a talent buyer, booking local and touring acts at the Rev Cabaret, New City Likwid Lounge and the Sidetrack Cafe some of Edmonton's most iconic live music venues. Guided by his confidence in the strength of Alberta's music community, and his desire to help it grow, Brent established Foundation Concerts, an Edmonton based concert and arts event promotion company which brought some of the most prominent touring acts to Western Canada. Through these experiences Brent established a vast network of industry contacts across North America. This led to a unique opportunity for Brent where in 2010 he accepted a position as an Agent with Winnipeg based Paquin Artist Agency, one of Canada's largest international talent agencies.

In 2012 Brent's heart brought him back to Alberta. He began a role with the Province as the Alberta Legislature's Events Coordinator for two years. In his first role in public service, he helped break the Canada Day attendance records in 2013 with 52,000 visitors, then again in 2014 with over 75,000 enjoying the national event. In 2014, Brent brought his wealth of arts and event expertise to the City of Spruce Grove as Director of Cultural Services. The burgeoning community outside of Edmonton is home to nearly 35,000 residents, and is the cultural hub for the Tri-Municipal region that includes the Town of Stony Plain, and County of Parkland. His responsibilities include management and operation of the Horizon Stage Performing Arts centre, city liaison to the Allied Arts Council and Spruce Grove Library, Public Art, City Cultural Events, as well as development and execution of the City's Cultural Master Plan, delivered to council in June 2016.

In addition to his full-time work, Brent continues to consult and volunteer on countless cultural initiatives. In September 2013, Brent was elected Director of the Alberta Music Industry Association and currently sits as Vice-Chair of the board. Brent is a founding committee member of the Edmonton Live Music Initiative, a project geared on saving local venues in Edmonton from extinction. In 2016, Brent assisted in raising over \$15,000 for the Red Cross to benefit the displaced residents of Fort McMurray following the wildfires in May. He was a committee member and ambassador for the 25th-anniversary music showcases for Edmonton and Nashville's Sister Cities Celebration in 2015 and currently sits on the board for the Creative Cities Network of Canada, the 2017 Breakout West Host Committee and is the 2017 Chair for the Rogers Hometown Hockey event in Spruce Grove. Brent has been nominated for a Community Excellence Award by the Western Canadian Music

Alliance at Breakout West in 2016 & 2017, the John Poole award for promotions of the arts at the Mayor's Celebration of the Arts in 2015 & 2017 and was named a Top 40 under 40 by Avenue Magazine.

Brent's management company, BOP MGMT, had a very successful management relationship with Edmonton act Wool on Wolves, and currently is representing Indigenous indie-rock act nehiyawak, pop outfit The Hearts, roots rockers Ayla Brook & The Sound Men and legendary Winnipeg two-piece Duotang. In addition, Brent & BOP MGMT acts as Artistic Director of the UP+DT Music and Arts Festival in Edmonton, and talent buyer for The Black Dog Freehouse, Cask & Barrel & Rocky Mountain Ice House in Edmonton.

Finally, Brent continues to give his knowledge on music juries, and cultural industries consultations with the Alberta Government and Western Industry Associations as well as career consultation to a number of Western Canadian artists. Brent has spoken at a number of industry events and panels regarding community engagement through arts & culture, best practice for Canadian touring and career development for musicians, along with cultural strategic planning, policy and placemaking.

Mike Schwartz - SchwartzFit

Vision for Alberta Music:

My dream is to bring to light the importance of personal wellness amongst our membership. To provide education, products and services as well as funding opportunities that are focused around the personal wellness of our membership is absolutely critical for career longevity in this industry. Because of my commitment to establishing long-lasting relationships, we have the opportunity to influence a professional attitude and commitment to things like health, wellness, and fitness and nutrition services for our members. These components of personal development are keys to success in any career. My dream is to support our membership from the heart of the issue; the development of our people.

Professional Biography:

With a proven track record in leadership, service and education for over a dozen years in both the fitness industry and music community, Mike Schwartz is best known as the guy that wrote the book on how to not only survive the music industry, but how to thrive as a professional in the music industry.

Literally. He's the author of "The Musician's Guide To Surviving The Rock Star Lifestyle", a self-help guide that presents readers with effective strategies to overcoming the demands of the lifestyle in areas of movement, nutrition and mindset. A lifestyle that Schwartz, a drummer himself has balanced effectively with his alter-ego as a C.H.E.K Certified Holistic Lifestyle & Nutrition Coach and CFP Certified Personal Training Specialist.

Because of his commitment to connecting others with solutions, Schwartz turns dreams into reality. You can support the health and wellness initiative and hear more each week as Mike hosts "The SchwartzCast: How To Own The Rock Star Lifestyle", the only podcast geared towards bridging the gap between health and wellness and the music industry. He also writes a weekly blog on topics covering health, wellness and music. For more on Mike, and to subscribe to weekly news that you can actually use, please visit: www.mikeschwartz.ca

Andrew Charles Wilcox - Harvard Broadcasting

Vision for Alberta Music:

It is my hope that I can use my experience living and working in six Alberta towns to bring a unique perspective to the board. Each town is different and interesting but they all share two things, they are filled with talented musicians and they have a public that wants great live entertainment. I want to help make it easier for musicians and bands to play all over Alberta at unique events and venues. I want to help facilitate performances that highlight the culture of a community but also help shows that allow for new acts, new sounds, and new experiences. I want to help local bands put their music in front of new audiences within their province. I believe that this aligns with the focus of Alberta Music.

Professional Biography:

I'm a Rural Alberta born failed cowboy and music nerd with over 12 years of commercial radio experience in several different music based formats. I began my career on the music retail side; doing my work placement at a music store in high school, then working for AV Entertainment, CD Plus, Music World, and HMV before entering radio. In radio, I have been heavily involved in the programming and promotions side along with on-air and music scheduling. The Radio industry has taken me all over the province with years spent in Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie and now Fort McMurray. Along the way I also did promo and posters for Frontside for a while, and have helped here and there doing everything from working the merch table to load in/load out, transport, etc. I have also been on several social profit boards including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Toys for Tots, and currently the Fort McMurray SPCA.