

This year's Indie Music Awards affords artists like Lua Hadar a wider audience



April 17, 2013

“As a difficult-to-pigeonhole performing artist, I am thrilled that the IMAs exist. I sing an eclectic sort of world jazz that draws from pop, folk, and even international cabaret, in seven different languages. ‘Independent Artist’ is the best label for me, I guess, and I’m grateful that the IMAs recognize that, much as we might try, not all of us fit neatly into a category.” —Lua Hadar, **Independent Music Awards**

This year's Independent Music Awards affords artists like Lua Hadar a wider audience (Kingmond Young and Jack Schow)



Carol Banks Weber
Jazz Music Examiner

The judges are as eclectic as the over 300 **Independent Music Award** nominees this year. Among the artist and industry judges deciding the fate of self-released, indie label, and former major label artists (as deemed by the Music Resource Group [MRG]): Tom

Waits, Ziggy Marley, Suzanne Vega, Judy Collins, “Weird Al” Yankovic, Toots Hibbert, Arturo Sandoval, and Anthony DeCurtis (*Rolling Stone*).

The nominees come from far and wide, in and outside North and South America. They vie for wins in over 80 categories, from album and song, to music video and design. One of them is from the San Francisco area, specializing in a hard-to-label genre coined, cosmopolitan jazz.

Lua Hadar with Twist submitted material for several categories, but it was her 70-minute, 13-song, seven-language ***Like A Bridge*** DVD that received the nomination for long form video. “The *Bridge* is a symbol of the connections we can all make to each other to promote world harmony,” **she said**. “The concert was recorded in a two-day, five-camera shoot at Fantasy Studios in Berkeley, California, directed by Emmy award-winner Lawrence Jordan, who has directed for Tony Bennett, Sting, Mariah Carey, Eddie Izzard and so many more. The instrumentation is vocals, piano, bass, drums, percussion, reeds, jazz accordion, cello, koto, and Zulu Choir.”

The seasoned jazz/world music vocalist and her band of top international musicians try to do more than just play the notes inventively. They try, through their international music, to reach and bring the audience closer. Done on a tight budget and tighter schedule, Hadar said she was lucky it all worked out the first run.

As much as the music was about world love, the technical aspects to bring out such broad-reaching, multi-cultural feelings were quite impressive — and probably earned them a justifiable nomination. “In our re-imagining of the Japanese pop hit ‘*Sukiyaki*’ (the song’s real title is ‘*Ue O Muite Aruko*’), we used a traditional Japanese koto. In our recording of the Jobim/Buarque song ‘*Imagina*,’ we used a classical cello, and we brought in members of a Zulu Choir for our French pop song about immigration, ‘*Né Quelque Part*.’”

The winners of the 12th Independent Music Awards will get their due next month when the results are announced. The IMA gives other artists outside the established, entrenched Grammys a chance to receive the kind of publicity only dreamed of.

Fans from all over the world also weigh in with their own votes for the **IMA Vox Pop Jukebox** — by July 19, 2013.