

2005 OUTMUSIC AWARD RECIPIENTS - SUMMARY

Chicago-based queer-rock singer/songwriter **Scott Free** took top honors at the 2005 OUTMUSIC AWARDS (OMAs) by snagging two of the top awards - OUTMUSICIAN OF THE YEAR and OUTSONG OF THE YEAR. The OUTMUSICIAN award was for his album *They Call Me Mr. Free* plus his cultural activism which includes producing Chicago's annual Queer IS Folk Festival and the weekly Homolatte queer performance series - and for leading effective protests against anti-gay performers at Chicago music venues. His rap song *Another Day of Cruelty* was named OUTSONG OF THE YEAR.

Another Chicago rocker - **Dylan Rice** - received the OUTSTANDING DEBUT RECORDING – MALE award for his album *Wandering Eyes*.

California musicians also scored big at the OMAs with five awards going to California-based artists. LA-based award-winning singer/songwriter **Adrienne** received the award for OUTSTANDING NEW RECORDING – FEMALE for her *10,000 Stones* CD.

The four San Francisco-based recipients include **Kitty Rose** - the country reincarnation of singer/songwriter Katharine Chase - who took home an OUTSTANDING DEBUT RECORDING - FEMALE OMA for her *Kitty Rose Greatest Hits!* CD. **The Bobbleheads** won the OUTSTANDING NEW RECORDING – BAND OMA for their pop CD *Automatic Fun*. **The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus** received the OUTSTANDING CHORAL RECORDING award for *Closer Than Ever – The 25th Anniversary Concert*. And rounding out the San Francisco-based recipients was hip-hopper, gender-bender **Rocco Kaiyatos** who took home the OUTSTANDING PRODUCER OMA for Katastrophe's *Let's F*ck, The Talk About My Problems*.

Two New York City based triple-nominees also scored at the awards. Pop vocalist **Ari Gold** received the OUTSTANDING NEW RECORDING – MALE OMA for his *Space Under Sun* CD. Award-winning singer-songwriter **Rachael Sage** received the OMA for OUTSTANDING SONGWRITER for songs from her 6th album - *Ballads & Burlesque* - a set of ten story-songs reflecting on different aspects of seduction.

The OUTSTANDING NEW RECORDING – INSTRUMENTAL OMA went to classical composer and multi-Grammy nominee **Jennifer Higdon** for her *City Scape & Concerto for Orchestra* recorded by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Robert Spano.

And making the 2005 recipients an international group - the Irish jazz/celtic/pop duo **Zrazy** took home the OMA for OUTSTANDING NEW RECORDING – DUO or GROUP for their *Dream On* CD.

Special OMAs were also presented to four honorees. Legendary guitarist/producer **June Millington** received the OUTMUSIC HERITAGE AWARD. **Pamela Smith** of Amazon Radio in Connecticut received the OUTSTANDING SUPPORT OMA. **Randy Jones** – the original cowboy of Village People - received a Special Recognition OMA, as did Chicago musician **Tim Cain**.