

KEARNY'S OWN VINCENT JOSEPH MANZO AMONG WINNERS OF THE 7TH ANNUAL INDEPENDENT MUSIC AWARDS

INDIE ARTISTS FROM NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA, EUROPE, AUSTRALIA AND ASIA TO BE PROMOTED TO MORE THAN 15 MILLION PEOPLE & APPEAR IN 2008 EDITION OF THE MUSICIAN'S ATLAS

Kearny based band **Clear Blue** is among a diverse group of independent musicians named as winners of the **6th Annual Independent Music Awards**. **Vincent J. Manzo**, composer of the work "Only By Grace" which was named *Best Contemporary Christian Song*, has scored works for both traditional instruments and electronic musical interfaces. His band Clear Blue is a progressive-alternative rock band known for their fusion of deep lyrics, exciting stage presence, and modern rock harmony. This quartet has been performing together since the late 90's and has done extensive touring on the East Coast and to foreign countries including South Africa and the Philippines. Clear Blue's fan base has grown particularly large among people in the NY/NJ area with performances at the NJPAC, PNC Arts Center and headlining numerous metro area clubs including CBGB's and the Stone Pony.

All **IMA** winners were selected by a panel of celebrity and industry judges and will receive year-long marketing support to enhance the campaigns for their current projects and careers. The winners encompass both established and emerging talent including Koko Taylor (Best Blues Album), the legendary, GRAMMY® Award-winning Blues artist; Joan As Policewoman (Best Pop/Rock Album – Tie), who's debut album is among the critically-acclaimed success stories of 2007; and The Apples In Stereo (Best Pop/Rock Song), a mainstay on Indie & mainstream as well as the touring circuit.

IMA winners will appear in the updated, 10th anniversary edition of **The Musician's Atlas 2008** – the independent musicians' and entrepreneurs' definitive guide to the music business, available on December 26, 2007. Developed and coordinated by Music Resource Group, publisher of The Musician's Atlas, the **Independent Music Award** program delivers a variety of premiums to Winners including:

- Year-long marketing campaigns, partnerships and distribution alliances, that will place the Winners in front of millions of music fans and industry decision makers around the world.
- Music promotion to college & public radio stations by **The Planetary Group**, a leading radio promotions company with access to 700 stations throughout the U.S. and Canada.
- An arrangement with **eMusic** and **Pure Volume** that makes their IMA Winning tracks available for download to several million consumers.
- Winners in the album and song categories will have a song included on the IMA Winners CD compilation *Now Her This* which will be distributed to 5,000 music fans and industry movers and shakers at music conferences and festivals such as **SXSW, The Warped Tour, Popkomm, Folk Alliance, London Calling** and other events throughout the year.

Other notable winners include: Johnny Dowd (Best Alt. Country Album), who's pastiche of rock, country, blues and jazz is earning a much deserved worldwide audience; Miguel Migs, (Best Dance/Electronic Album) who is already among a handful of pioneers in the DJ community; Ernie Watts (Best Jazz Album), the legendary sax player who, in addition to his own recordings, has worked with The Rolling Stones, Quincy Jones, Frank Zappa, Cannonball Adderly, and other luminaries; Ari Gold (Best R&B Song) a luminary in the R&B community; and Girl In A Coma (Best Punk Song) who recently signed with Joan Jett's Blackheart Record label.

The IMA Program awarded more than 50 honors in categories that recognize achievements in Music, Design, Music Video and College-run Record Label releases.

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The IMA Winners were determined by a celebrity and industry judging panel that included: Snoop Dogg, Susan Tedeschi, Ray Davies, Suzanne Vega, Charlie Musselwhite, Frank Iero, Judy Collins and Chad Smith of Red Hot Chili Peppers, among an assortment of other celebrity and industry judges.

Music industry pros that were not part of this year's judging panel and music fans can cast their vote at the IMA site. Winners of this "Vox Populi" poll will be announced in 2008.

See **IMA** winners in the album and song categories below:

For a complete list of winners and categories go to:

<http://www.independentmusicawards.com/pages/jukebox2008.asp>

ALBUM CATEGORIES

ALT. COUNTRY – Johnny Dowd, 'Cruel Words;' **AMERICANA** – Hannah Blaylock & Eden's Edge, 'Lights Of Home;' **BLUES** – Koko Taylor, 'Old School;' **CHILDREN'S** – Kira Willey, 'Dance For The Sun;' **CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN** – Sebastian Demrey, 'Searching;' **COUNTRY** – Chris Gray, 'It's All About Me;' **DANCE & ELECTRONICA** – Miguel Migs, 'Those Things;' **FOLK/ SINGER-SONGWRITER** – Drew Pilgram, 'Magnetic Sideways Pull;' **GOSPEL** – The Minister John Butler, 'The Tribute – Phase II;' **HARD ROCK/ METAL** – Ashes Are Nutritious, 'Frustration +;' **JAM** – Jason Seed Elixer Ensemble, 'Where The Corners Meet;' **JAZZ** – Ernie Watts, 'Analog Man;' **LATIN** – Jose Conde & Ola Fresca, 'Revolucion;' **LIVE PERFORMANCE** – Marco Benevento, 'Live At Tonic;' **NEW AGE** – Priscilla Hernandez, 'Ancient Shadows;' **POP/ROCK (TIE)** – Joan As Policewoman, 'Real Life,' – and - No More Kings, 'No More Kings;' **R&B** – Aja West & Friends, 'Total Recall 2012;' **RAP/HIP-HOP** – Zeph & Azeem, 'Rise Up;' **WORLD FUSION** – Cholo Soy – Jamie Cuadra, 'Peruvian Waltz Chillout;' **WORLD TRADITIONAL** – Alasdair White, 'An Clàr Geal'

SONG CATEGORIES

ALT. COUNTRY – Yarn, "No Future Together;" **AMERICANA** – Boulder Acoustic Society, "Does It Really Matter;" **BLUES** – Little Miss Higgins, "In The Middle Of Nowhere;" **CHILDREN'S** – Kira Willey, "Caterpillar, Caterpillar;" **CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN** – Vincent Joseph Manzo, "Only By Grace;" **COUNTRY** – Miko Marks, "It Feels Good;" **DANCE & ELECTRONICA** – Midville, "Wicked;" **FILM/TV & MULTIMEDIA** – Jennifer Kreisberg, "Have Hope;" **FOLK/ SINGER-SONGWRITER** – Tannis Slimmon, "Ernest, Charlie & Allan;" **GOSPEL** – Robbin Thompson, "Move On Down The Line;" **HARD ROCK/METAL** – Pløk, "I Do Not Live In A Condo;" **JAM** – The Frequency, "Jim Gordon Part II;" **JAZZ** – Stanley Maxwell, "Mousetrap;" **LATIN** – Zoraida Santiago, "Canciones Por Todas Partes;" **NEW AGE** – Jeff Oster, "Saturn Calling;" **POP/ROCK** – The Apples In Stereo, "Same Old Drag;" **PUNK** – Girl In A Coma, "Clumsy Sky;" **RAP/HIP-HOP** – Animate Objects, "El Dorado;" **R&B** – Ari Gold, "Love Wasn't Built In A Day;" **SOCIAL ACTION** – Kenny White, "How Long;" **WORLD FUSION** – Luca Mundaca

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To view the winners of the Independent Music Awards Design Categories for Best Album Packaging, Album Photography, Band & Label Website Design, Poster Art and Merchandising (Swag), visit the 7th Annual IMA Winners Jukebox at: http://musiciansatlas.com/pages/jukebox2008_new.asp

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