



ASCAP Pop Award Winners Diverse Group This Year

by Karen Sidlow



The group All-4-One (above) and country artist John Michael Montgomery both performed the Baker/Myer ASCAP Song of the Year, "I Swear."

GARY BAKER AND FRANK J. MYERS got Song of the Year, John "Mutt" Lange was named Songwriter of the Year and Warner/Chappell Music, Inc. took away Publisher of the Year honors during the ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) 12th Annual Pop Music Awards, held May 15 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, CA.

Several hundred leading songwriters, publishers, recording artists and other influential members of the music industry, gathered to celebrate their creative accomplishments. Some of those who attended the 7,000-member association's soiree included Jimmy Jam (half of the dynamic producing duo of Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis), Peter Frampton and country crooners Little Texas.

Frampton opened the show with a solo acoustic performance of his song "Baby, I Love Your Way," which was one of the titles honored as one of the most played songs of the year. The track was recently featured on the movie soundtrack for *Reality Bites* and covered by artists Big Mountain.

A new honor was bowed in this year's show: the ASCAP/Sammy Cahn Award that went to Felicia Needleman and Laurence Holzman. Cahn, who passed away recently, wrote lyrics that were sung by such greats as Frank Sinatra and Marilyn Monroe. His career accomplishments were highlighted with a video montage of his work prior to the award being given out. Needleman and Holzman won for their song "I Married A Witch."

A diverse offering of songs such as Soul Asylum's "Runaway Train," Phil Collin's "Everyday," "American Honky Tonk Bar Association" by Bryan Kennedy and Jim Rushing, "I Can See Clearly Now" by Johnny Nash, "The Most Beautiful Girl In The World" by the Artist Formerly Known as Prince, "Streets of Philadelphia" by Bruce Springsteen "Unchained Melody" by Alex North and Hy Zaret and Billy Joel's "River of Dreams," were a few select titles who were honored as the most performed songs last year.

Baker and Myer won Song of the Year for writing "I Swear," which was recorded by All-4-One and John Michael Montgomery. Coincidentally, Baker and Myers won the Grammy for Best Country Song for Montgomery's performance of the tune. And All-4-One brought home the Best Pop Performance By A Duo or Group Grammy for their version of "I Swear." In addition, Montgomery took home awards for Song of the Year and Single of the Year at the recent 30th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards. The ACM Song of the Year award went to Baker and Myers, as well.

Lange was honored as Songwriter of the Year for his work that included the co-writing of Michael Bolton's hit, "Said I Loved You But I Lied," and Bryan Adams' "Please Forgive Me."

Warner/Chappell Music earned the Publisher of the Year honor under the guidance of company chairman/CEO Les Bider. The Soul Asylum, Grammy award winning, song "Runaway Train," the energetic John Mellencamp and Me'Shell Ndegocello duet, "Wild Night," and several Mariah Carey tunes, such as "Hero" and "Dreamlover" were all associated with Warner/Chappell.

Babyface & Warner-Tamerlane Lead BMI Award Winners

By John Goff



Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds gets BMI Song and Songwriter of the Year honors.

KENNETH "BABYFACE" EDMONDS, his ballad "Breathe Again," and publishing company Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. and Associated Companies took the highest honors at BMI's 43rd annual Pop Awards.

President/CEO Frances W. Preston and v.p. Rick Riccobono presented Citations of Achievement to the writers and publishers of the past year's most performed songs, culminating in the announcement of Song, Songwriter and Publisher of the Year winners in the Grand Ballroom of the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, CA, May 17.

Edmonds took both Song and Songwriter award categories. His "Breathe Again," published by ECAF Music and Sony Songs Inc. and recorded by LaFace/Arista's Toni Braxton, was named Most Performed Song of the

Year and has already attained BMI Million-Air status. Babyface also outnumbered all writers with seven award-winning songs to take Songwriter of the Year crown for the fourth time. His hits, in addition to "Breathe Again," include "And Our Feelings" and "Never Keeping Secrets" from his *Tender Lover* album; "Can We Talk" and "I'm Ready," recorded by Tevin Campbell, and two more Braxton hits, "Another Sad Love Song" and "You Mean The World To Me." This year's wins bring Edmonds' total BMI awards to 30.

With 13 Citations, Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., and Associated Companies, which includes Pronto Music and Unichappell Music Inc., earned Publisher of the Year accolades for the third in a row. The award is given to the publishing concern which has the highest percentage of copyright ownership in award-winning songs.

"All Apologies," written by the late Kurt Cobain and recorded by Nirvana, was named BMI College Song of the Year for receiving the greatest number of American college radio performances during the eligibility period. Awards were also presented to EMI-Virgin Songs and The End of Music.

"You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'," written by Barry Mann, Phil Spector and Cynthia Weil and published by ABKCO Music Inc., Mother Bertha Music Inc. and Screen Gems-EMI Music Inc., was honored twice, earning its ninth BMI Pop Award and being recognized for reaching the six million performance plateau. It is now the third song behind "Yesterday" and "Never My Love" in BMI's repertoire of more than three million songs and compositions to reach that level, equal to approximately 33.5 years of continuous airplay.

Other songwriters who received multiple awards were Janet Jackson and Daryl Simmons, each with four songs, and Mariah Carey with three. Double winners were Joshua Kadison, Curtis Mayfield, Miguel A. Morejon, Van Morrison, Sting, and Ace of Base members Jenny Berggren, Jonas Berggren, Malin Berggren and Ulf Ekberg.

Other publishers receiving multiple Citations were Sony Songs Inc. (13), EMI Music Publishing (10), ECAF Music (7), Black Ice Publishing (4), Careers-BMG Music Publishing Inc. (4), Songs of PolyGram International Inc. (4), ABKCO Music Inc. (3), Boobie-Loo Music Inc. (3), Rye Songs (3), Chrysalis Songs (2), Ensign Music Corp. (2), Foreign Imported Productions and Publishing Inc. (2), Irving Music Inc. (2), JoshuaSongs (2), Reggatta Music Ltd. (2), Seymour Glass Songs (2), Stone Agate Music (2), and Wonderland Music Company Inc. (2).