

DOUBLE WHAMMY WIN!
SULTANS OF STRING
2009 CFMA WINNER FOR
BEST INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM!



BANDLEADER CHRIS MCKHOO
2009 CFMA WINNER FOR
BEST CHILDREN'S ALBUM!

Raucous roots and genre bending ensemble Sultans of String hit the CFMA ground running with the most nominations, garnering the coveted award for Best Instrumental Album! Bandleader/fiddler and 2009 JUNO nominee Chris McKhool also took home the Award for Best Children's Album for "FiddleFire!" (SOS make sizzlin' appearances throughout the disc!).

"The band is deeply honoured and thrilled to be this year's CFMA winners and proud to be in the company of the outstanding nominees in our category", says McKhool. Holding the Sultans award in one hand, and an award for his solo children's effort in the other, McKhool adds that "young people are not just 'our audiences of tomorrow', but avid appreciators of music right now! They need art, just as we do, to help make sense of the world around them, and make sense of their lives".

Sultans of String are riding a seasonal wave of success from their sold out "Yalla Yalla" CD release concert in the Spring, to their Summer national feature on CTV's "CanadaAM", and now word this Fall of the CFMA Awards and U.S. representation with acclaimed promoter, David Wilkes (Emmylou Harris, Barry Manilow, Jerry Jeff Walker, Jesse Cook, Bela Fleck).

Sultans of String take you on a riveting musical adventure featuring a spicy stew of Spanish Flamenco, Arabic folk, French Manouche gypsy jazz, and Cuban rhythms. Seamlessly traversing diverse themes of heart, place and tradition, fiery violin dances with kinetic guitar while a funk bass lays down unstoppable grooves. Throughout, acoustic strings meet electronic wizardry to create layers and depth of sound.

"Canada's ambassadors of musical diversity" include 6-string violinist McKhool who has guest starred with Jesse Cook and Pavlo, duelling guitar wizards Kevin Laliberté (The Chieftains) and Eddie Paton (Robert Michaels), bass master Drew Birston (Chantal Kreviazuk), and the jaw dropping talent of Cuban percussionist, Chendy Leon!

"Canada is a real meeting places of styles and musical influences from around the world" says McKhool. "At the same time, as a band we try to tell uniquely Canadian stories, putting forth our vision of the world as one family." Chris' paternal *Makhoul* grandparents immigrated to Canada from Lebanon in the early 1900s, and his Egyptian-born mother, an accomplished pianist, also has paternal Lebanese ancestry. "Growing up, I was surrounded by Arabic and global sounds and the teachings of respect for all peoples and celebration of culture." This has fueled McKhool's unbridled passion for exploring world rhythms and melodies, and has led him to the far corners of the globe, incorporating instruments and styles along the way.

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- 2009 Canadian Folk Music Awards winner - Instrumental Group of the Year
 - 2009 Canadian Folk Music Awards winner (Chris McKhool) - Children's Album of the Year
 - 2008 International Songwriting Competition winner - Instrumental
 - 2008 International Independent Music Awards nomination - Best World Fusion
 - 2008 Festivals and Events Ontario- Best Variety Act
 - 2008 Canadian Independent Music Awards Finalists- Favourite World Music Band
 - 2007 Canadian Folk Music Award nomination - Instrumental Group of the Year
 - 2007 Ontario Independent Music Awards - Best Song, Best Instrumental
 - 2007 Toronto Independent Music Award nominees - World Music Category
 - 2007 Toronto Exclusive Magazine Award Winner- Best Latin Jazz Group

- #1 on national radio charts - "International"/"World"
- National and regional airplay across the CBC
- CTV "Canada AM" feature
- international airplay, including Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Belarus, Colombia, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Spain, The Netherlands, U.S. and the U.K.

LISTEN:

Sultans of String / "Yalla Yalla!" www.cdbaby.com/cd/sultansofstring3

Chris McKhool / "FiddleFire!" www.cdbaby.com/cd/mckhool4