

THE ECMA TEAM

ABOUT ECMA

As one of the biggest music events in Canada, the East Coast Music Awards & Conference attracts delegates from around the world. ECMA provides East Coast musicians with an opportunity to showcase their talent to an audience of music industry business leaders and music enthusiasts.

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ECMA 2004 TEAM

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GERARD KENNY—72-Hour Jam
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DR. HELEN CREIGHTON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Dr. Helen Creighton Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual or group who has had a profound and lasting effect on the Atlantic Canadian Music Industry. The award was renamed after Dr. Helen Creighton when she received the award in 1991. The Board of Directors of the ECMA determines the recipient(s) of this award annually.

RYAN'S FANCY 2004 RECIPIENT

Born in Ireland, Fergus O'Byrne, Dermot O'Reilly and Denis Ryan arrived in Canada in the late 1960s. They first settled in Toronto, where they played in a variety of folk groups, but through a process of osmosis, they got together to form Ryan's Fancy in December, 1970. In the spring of 1971 they moved to Newfoundland. At first, the band provided additional income for its members' academic pursuits, but it soon became their primary interest as they shuttled between southern Ontario and Newfoundland to present their unique brand of folk music.

"The Boys" developed an interest in the Newfoundland folk tradition, and began including this material in their sets. The group also appealed to younger audiences because of their "hip, long-hair" look. At a time when young people from the region were "going down the road," Ryan's Fancy made a musical and personal commitment to the East Coast. These elements would help to take them on a musical journey around the world.

In 1972 the group appeared as regulars on CHCH-TV in Hamilton. By 1976, Ryan's Fancy was contracted to host a national CBC television series, which eventually won an international audience. That show took the group into every corner of Canada's East Coast from Charlotte County, New Brunswick to Branch on the Cape Shore. They featured both the up-and-coming musicians like Stan Rogers and the Barra MacNeils and the old tradition-bearers, in postcard-beautiful settings. Performers like Minnie White, Emile Benoit, Rufus Guinchar, Mac Masters and Pius Power, Mike MacDougall from Cape Breton, Tommy Banks from P.E.I., and Marie Hare from the Miramichi, made their first appearances on the Ryan's Fancy Show.



Ryan's Fancy was also featured in any number of specials and regular series like "The Tommy Hunter Show," "Sing-along Jubilee" and the "Denny Doherty Show." In total, Ryan's Fancy appeared in over 200 television shows in 12 years. It has been said that in this way, Ryan's Fancy took East Coast music out of the kitchens and onto the stages and television screens of the nation. The group also released 14 albums, the most recent being 15 tracks from the TV series, 13 of which had never been commercially available.

The East Coast music industry has built on the foundation that Ryan's Fancy and other performers have put down. They took music that was deemed "uncool" and relegated to kitchens and parlors, and showed Canadians it could be popular. Today, bands like Great Big Sea and The Fables count Ryan's Fancy as their musical influence.

ROOTS/TRADITIONAL GROUP RECORDING OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY ROGERS TELEVISION

Banshee



Ennis Sisters



The Punters



The Navigators



The Fables



ROOTS/TRADITIONAL SOLO RECORDING OF THE YEAR

Chris Andrews



Jimmy Rankin



John Wesley Chisholm



Susan Crowe



Wendy Madsaac

