



## JOHN LENNON SONGWRITING CONTEST GRAND PRIZE WINNER ANNOUNCED

*Sixteen-Year-Old **Eliza Callahan** surprised with \$20,000 “Song of the Year” Prize  
LIVE on **Good Day New York***



**NEW YORK, NY – August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011** - The **John Lennon Songwriting Contest** has announced the 2011 *“Song of the Year”* winner today LIVE on *Good Day New York*. This year’s winning songwriter is **Eliza Callahan**, who also won the Rock category. Callahan, a native New Yorker, took the stage to perform her winning song “Bridge Song,” after which she was surprised with a \$20,000 check from **Brian Rothschild, Executive Director of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest and Educational Tour Bus**. Click [here](#) to see the Eliza’s performance as well as the surprise announcement.

The 16-year-old, who began playing the guitar at the age of 3 and is the youngest “Song of the Year” winner in the contest’s 15 year history, also won an Avid Prize Pack, a Mackie Mixer, a Pair of Mackie Studio Monitors, and a \$250 Gift certificate to the Digital Media Academy. This



year's prizes distributed throughout the year total at over \$250,000, the largest prize package to date. A full list of winners is below.

The John Lennon Songwriting Contest is an international songwriting contest that began in 1997. Brian Rothschild is the Executive Director and co-founder of the contest as well as the non-profit John Lennon Educational Tour Bus, a mobile recording studio and HD production facility that travels the country year round providing students with hands-on multimedia experiences. The judging panel is made up of accomplished performers and industry veterans including **Fergie of the Black Eyed Peas, The Veronicas, Natasha Bedingfield, Jesse Harris, Lamont Dozier, Matt Pinfield, Bob Weir, Ryan Shaw, The Bacon Brothers, and Ken Komisar**. The contest is open to amateur and professional songwriters who submit entries in any one of 12 categories: Rock, Country, Jazz, Pop, World, Rhythm & Blues, Hip Hop, Gospel/Inspirational, Latin, Electronic, Folk, and Children's.

**2011 John Lennon Songwriting Contest Winners:**

“Song of the Year” Grand Prize: Eliza Callahan, “Bridge Song”

Children's: Gerry Paul, "Hank The Wrestling Shark"

Country: David VonderBurg, "In A Mile"

Electronic: kontaktor, "Bocce Ball"

Folk: Mia Friedman, "Across The Water"

Gospel: Myla Smith, "Christmas Lights"

Hip-Hop: MC Psalmist, "First Love"

Jazz: Tony Lechner, "Mocha Maya"

Latin: Juan Aguirre, "Los Rios"

Pop: dbClifford, "New State Of Mind"

R&B: Brandon K. Knox, "Strange World"

Rock: Eliza Callahan, "Bridge Song"

World: Eric Hester and Lale Labuko, "Drawn From Water"

For more information on the John Lennon Songwriting Contest or Eliza Callahan, reach out!

**Press Here**

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**ABOUT THE JOHN LENNON SONGWRITING CONTEST**

The John Lennon Songwriting Contest is an international songwriting contest that began in 1997. The Contest is open to amateur and professional songwriters who submit entries in any one of 12 categories. The JLSC is open year-round and features two Sessions -- with 72 Finalists, 24 Grand Prize Winners, 12 Lennon Award Winners and 1 "Song of the Year." Entries are judged on originality, melody, composition,



and lyrics (when applicable). Songs may be entered in any of the following categories: Rock, Country, Jazz, Pop, World, Rhythm & Blues, Hip Hop, Gospel/Inspirational, Latin, Electronic, Folk, and Children's. Instrumental compositions are encouraged. Bob Weir, Jesse Harris, Teairra Mari, The Black Eyed Peas, The Bacon Brothers, Ken Komisar and The Veronicas are some of the members on our Executive Committee of Judges. 2011 sees the biggest JLSC prize package to date, totaling over \$275,000 in cash and prizes!! There are a total of 72 Finalists, 24 Grand Prize Winners, 12 Lennon Award Winners and the "Song of the Year." Winners, based on their level of achievement, will receive Studio Equipment from Avid, Roland and Boss, Audio-Technica, Gibson Guitars and Epiphone, 1,000 CDs in full color with premium 6-panel Digipaks courtesy of Disc Makers, Neutrik cables, and gift certificates from MusiciansFriend.com. The writer(s) of the "Song of the Year", the highest honor bestowed in the contest, will receive a \$20,000 check, Avid Prize Pack, a Mackie Mixer, a Pair of Mackie Studio Monitors, and a \$250 Gift certificate, for each band member, to Digital Media Academy. In addition to the songwriting prizes, one band is selected annually to perform on the Warped Tour for one week and will receive Publicity, Radio Marketing and Strategic Consulting services courtesy of Music Allies, and Creative Allies design contests showcasing the winning band, so they can win licensing to exclusive: Posters, T-Shirts and Pocket-size Flyers.

#### **ABOUT THE JOHN LENNON EDUCATIONAL TOUR BUS**

About the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus ([www.lennonbus.org](http://www.lennonbus.org))

The John Lennon Educational Tour Bus is a non-profit state-of-the-art mobile Pro Audio and HD video recording facility that provides hands-on experiences for students of all ages. In its 14th year of touring, the venture is proud of its fully professional bus and its studios, which boast the latest audio and video technology, gear and products. The concept began as an offshoot of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, which is dedicated to providing opportunities for both professional and amateur songwriters around the world. The Bus travels across the U.S. and Canada year-round, providing free tours and workshops at schools, retailers, festivals, on tours with headlining artists, and at major industry conferences.

The Bus, a 501(c)(3) venture, is made possible through the generosity of sponsors including Apple, Avid, Mont Blanc, NAMM, SAE Institute, Gibson, Epiphone, Neutrik, Sony, Audio-Technica, Sonicbids, Musician's Friend, Music Player Network, Sonicbids, Litepanels, Reflecmia, Disc Makers, Mobile Roadie, Ampeg, Roland, Boss, Mackie, Digital Media Academy, Aphex Systems, Apogee, Manfrotto Distribution, iZotope, Glyph Technologies, Harris Corporation, Applied Acoustics Systems, Antares, McDSP, IK Multimedia, Adobe, Native Instruments, Slingerland Drums, Noise Industries, and Mad Mimi.