



Mississauga's arts community celebrates artistic excellence at MARTY Awards

WhatsOn May 19, 2017 by [Chris Clay \(/mississauga-on-author/chris-clay/394415f2-1bf-4b20-9109-8bec62992ea0/\)](/mississauga-on-author/chris-clay/394415f2-1bf-4b20-9109-8bec62992ea0/) [✉ \(mailto:cclay@mississauga.net\)](mailto:cclay@mississauga.net) Mississauga News



Robert J. Sawyer was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2017 MARTY Awards at the Mississauga Convention Centre on Thursday, May 18. - Bryon Johnson/Metroland

The best and brightest from Mississauga's arts community got their moment in the spotlight as part of the MARTY Awards.

The 2017 version of the awards program that's presented annually by the Mississauga Arts Council (MAC) took place on Thursday, May 18 at the Mississauga Convention Centre. Almost two-dozen awards and certificates were handed out to deserving city artists.

In what might be a first, there was a tie in the established music – solo vocalist category with both Chuck Jackson and Alx Veliz deemed worthy of the award by the judges.

Jackson's well-known in Mississauga as the founder and artistic director of the popular Southside Shuffle Blues and Barbecue Festival as well as the singer and harmonica player with Downchild Blues Band. Veliz, meanwhile, scored a massive hit with his single *Dancing Kizomba* that has somewhere around 50 million plays on Spotify.

Other winners include:

- Festival of the Year — TD Mosaic
- Literary Arts Established — Larissa Fleurette Ho
- Media Arts Established — Rosa Wang
- Music Solo (Instrumental) Established — Yi-Jia Susanne Hou
- Music Group Established — Billy Talent
- Visual Arts Established — Laura Beaton
- Theatre Established — City Centre Musical Productions
- Dance Established — Frog in Hand Company
- Creative Design — David Dixon
- Literary Arts Emerging — Rebecca Zseder
- Media Arts Emerging — Shazia Javed
- Music Solo (Vocalist) Emerging — Nicholas Cunha
- Music Solo (Instrumental) Emerging — Naoko Sakata
- Music Group Emerging — Keys to Belfast
- Visual Arts Emerging — Angela Chao
- Theatre Emerging — Adriana Serra

Also receiving awards were the winners of the Laurie Pallett Patron of the Arts Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Hazel McCallion Volunteer of the Year Award.

Taking home the prestigious Laurie Pallett award was Jack Prazeres, the longtime chairperson of the popular Mississauga cultural festival Carassauga. Prazeres has a long history of community involvement, but his work with Carassauga is what stood out to the arts council when making its decision, according to MAC executive director Mike Douglas.

Taking home the Lifetime Achievement Award is the popular and prolific science fiction author Robert J. Sawyer. It's just another award to add to his already-impressive list of accolades that includes the Hugo Award, the Nebula Award, the Robert A. Heinlein Award and the John W. Campbell Memorial Award.

Sawyer released his latest novel, *Quantum Night*, on paperback at the start of February and it explores what happens when a far-right psychopath emerges from out of seemingly nowhere to become the next president of the United States.

The Hazel McCallion Award for Volunteer of the Year goes to Jake Dheer. He, like Prazeres, is another extremely active person in the community and he sits on a number of boards including Heritage Mississauga and the Mississauga Sports Council.

For more information, visit www.mississaugaartscouncil.com (www.mississaugaartscouncil.com).

by **Chris Clay** ([/mississauga-on-author/chris-clay/394415f2-1fbf-4b20-9109-8bec62992ea0/](https://mississauga-on-author/chris-clay/394415f2-1fbf-4b20-9109-8bec62992ea0/))

Chris Clay is a staff reporter focusing on arts and entertainment with The

Mississauga. He can be reached at [**cclay@mississauga.net**](mailto:cclay@mississauga.net)
[**\(mailto:cclay@mississauga.net\)**](mailto:cclay@mississauga.net) . Follow him on [**Twitter**](https://twitter.com/ChrisMissiNews)
[**\(https://twitter.com/ChrisMissiNews\)**](https://twitter.com/ChrisMissiNews) and The Mississauga News on
[**Facebook \(https://www.facebook.com/MissiNewsRoom\)**](https://www.facebook.com/MissiNewsRoom)

eMail: [**cclay@mississauga.net**](mailto:cclay@mississauga.net) ([**mailto:cclay@mississauga.net**](mailto:cclay@mississauga.net))
[**Facebook \(https://www.facebook.com/MissiNewsRoom \)**](https://www.facebook.com/MissiNewsRoom)
[**Twitter \(https://twitter.com/ChrisMissiNews\)**](https://twitter.com/ChrisMissiNews)