

For Immediate Release
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International Folk Music Awards Nominees And Recipients Announced

Megan Mullally to Present Awards for 2016 Album, Song, And Artist of The Year

Kris Kristofferson to Present The Inaugural People's Voice to Bruce Cockburn

The Clearwater Festival To Receive Eponymous Award for Environmental Stewardship Presented by Eliza Gilkyson

Awards Show On Opening Night Of The 29th Annual Folk Alliance International Conference February 15-19, 2017

Acclaimed Singer/Songwriter Paula Cole To Host

Kansas City, MO – [Folk Alliance International](#) is pleased to announce nominees and recipients for the 2016 International Folk Music Awards. The awards will be presented at the annual Awards Show held at Westin Crown Center Hotel on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, opening night of the 29th Annual Folk Alliance International conference. Event emcee is Grammy-Award winning artist and feminist, **Paula Cole**, the first woman in history to individually receive a Grammy nomination for Producer of the Year.

Awards will be presented for the [Best of 2016 Album, Song, and Artist of the Year](#). Compiled from 'Best of 2016' radio and print media lists in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Europe, and Australia, in addition to the year-end Folk DJ chart. Actress, singer, Emmy and Golden Globe Awards winner, **Megan Mullally** will present the membership-voted awards.

Nominees for Album of the Year are *All These Years* by Solas, *Auprès du Poêle* by Ten Strings And A Goat Skin, *Nine Pin* by Kaia Kater, *Undercurrent* by Sarah Jarosz, and *Upland Stories* by Robbie Fulks. Nominees for Song of the Year are "Ain't Nobody" by Dori Freeman, "Black Man in a White World" by Michael Kiwanuka and Inflo, "Move Me" by Sara Watkins, "Play By Your Own Rules" by Sam Bush, and "We are Love" by The Once Band. Nominees for Artist of the Year are John McCutcheon, Irish Mythen Music, Moddi, Parker Millsap, and Tanya Tagaq.

In a permanent commitment to honor the socially conscious roots of folk music, Folk Alliance International launches two new awards this year—[The People's Voice Award](#) and [The Clearwater Award](#).

To be presented annually to an individual who has committed to social and political commentary in their creative work and folk music career, the inaugural **People's Voice**

Award will be presented to multi-platinum selling recording artist **Bruce Cockburn**. Over his 40-year career, Cockburn has consistently highlighted environmental, social, and indigenous issues globally. Critically acclaimed artist-activist, **Kris Kristofferson** will present Cockburn with the award.

The second new award will be presented annually to a festival that prioritizes environmental stewardship and demonstrates public leadership in sustainable event production. Presented to its namesake organization, the inaugural **Clearwater Award** will be bestowed to the **Clearwater Festival**. Now in its 50th year, the festival is recognized as one of the world's largest and most proactive environmentally focused cultural events. Grammy-nominated musician and career activist, **Eliza Gilkyson** will present the award.

Additional Awards presented that evening are Lifetime Achievement, Spirit of Folk, and first-time inductions into the Folk DJ Hall of Fame.

A platform for emerging talent, FAI's conference is the world's largest gathering of the folk music industry. Official showcases offer artists from around the globe the opportunity to perform for hundreds of presenters (bookers for festivals, venues, and concert series) agents, managers, media, and music industry representatives from 20 different countries.

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About Folk Alliance International

Since 1989, and with more than 3,000 members worldwide, Folk Alliance International (FAI) is a 501(c)3 non-profit with a mission "to nurture, engage and empower the international folk music community - traditional and contemporary, amateur and professional – through education, advocacy, and performance." Members include artists, record companies, publishers, presenters, agents, managers, and more.

FAI produces the world's largest conference for the folk music industry, an annual public Music Camp, the International Folk Music Awards Show, and the Kansas City Folk Festival. Advocacy, education, outreach, and networking are key aspects of the year-round activity of the organization.

The annual conference is one of the five largest music conferences in North America and draws 2500 registrants from 20 countries. The 29th edition will be held February 15-19, 2017, at the Westin Hotel Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri and features special presentations by Billy Bragg and Ani DiFranco. www.folk.org.

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