

NEWS RELEASE

SANDRA SUTTER

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Cluster Stars wins “Best Producers/Engineers” - Indigenous Music Awards

Winnipeg, Manitoba, May 17, 2019 – Calgary singer-song writer Sandra Sutter, along with Chris Burke-Gaffney and Vince Fontaine, were honoured at the 2019 Indigenous Music Awards as the Best Producers-Engineers for Sandra's debut Album *Cluster Stars*, which was also nominated for Best Pop Album.

The awards ceremony took place on May 17 in Winnipeg at the Club Regent Events Centre. Last year, Sutter's album won Best Americana Recording at the Native American Music Awards and was nominated in three other categories.



Chris Burke-Gaffney, Sandra Sutter & Vince Fontaine

“It was a labour of love and I want to thank all of you who listen to *Cluster Stars*, as well as Chris and Vince, who were such a big part of this project,” said Sutter in accepting the award. “The album was started in ceremony, so we thank the creator and the process we engaged in to make this possible.”

Lyrical and musically, the album was both inspired and endorsed by prominent Piikani First Nation Elders (Chief) Dr. Reg and Rose Crow Shoe. *Cluster Stars* is named for their family teepee, capturing moments when the moon shines through the teepee, creating a star cluster image on the ground.

“We had a lot of fun and I learned a lot. It was an educational experience for me,” said Juno Award winner Chris Burke-Gaffney, adding it was an honour to work on the album with Sutter, who he described as a humble, gifted and intelligent singer-song writer.

Cluster Stars was previously nominated in four categories at the Indian Summer Music Festival in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where Sandra performed with Fontaine from Eagle and Hawk.

Released in February, 2018, *Cluster Stars* is a unique blend of songs aimed at creating a spiritual and emotional bond between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. The folk-pop album explores themes of Indigenous and non-Indigenous dialogue, reconciliation and Indigenous women's empowerment.

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