

Calgary singer-songwriter honoured as Metis Artist of the Year

Ottawa, Ontario, June 14, 2020 – Calgary singer-song writer Sandra Sutter took home the title of Metis Artist of the Year Award at the Summer Solstice Indigenous Music Awards, which took place virtually on June 12 at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

This was the second time she was recognized at national Indigenous Music Awards. In 2019, Sutter, along with Juno-award winner Chris Burke-Gaffney and Indigenous Music Hall of Famer Vince Fontaine, shared the honour of being named the Best Producers-Engineers for Sandra's debut Album, *Cluster Stars*.

"It's a time in our lives when we get to celebrate being Indigenous and I'm so very honoured to be in this category with these amazing nominees," said Sutter, in acknowledging fellow nominees, singer/songwriter Brandi Vezina, guitarist and singer/songwriter Brandon Baker (Electric Religious), Juno award-winner G.R. Gritt and the group Blue Moon Marquee.

"I want to thank my Elders for always teaching me to walk in a good way and thank the Creator for the gift of music that we all get to share," Sutter said in accepting the award ([See award presentation](#)).

Sutter has so far released two full-length albums, *Cluster Stars* (2018) and *Aurora 12* (2020). Her debut album was created in collaboration with Burke-Gaffney with creative support from Fontaine. Burke-Gaffney also produced and co-wrote some of the songs on *Aurora 12*, while Rob Ing of Airdrie, AB, provided musical contributions, as well the footage for Sandra's first music video, [Standing People](#).

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. Similar to her debut album, *Aurora 12* is meant to deliver positive messages filled with love, hope and gratitude.

"My songs are intended to provide a bridge between world views, an opportunity for people to explore their own thoughts and feelings, and a safe space for expression and healing," she said.

Sutter has received 17 Industry nominations in the last three years. Nominations include three from the YYC (Calgary) Music Awards, a Canadian Folk Music Award nomination, an Indigenous Music Award nomination, three Native American Music Award nominations, four Indian Summer Music Awards nominations and two Blues and Roots Radio nominations. She has also been honoured with an Esquao Award (Arts) from the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women, an Aboriginal Role Model of Alberta (Arts) Award and a WXN Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada Award.

To learn more about the artist, visit sandrasutter.com

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