

The Centre in Vancouver for Performing Arts is just one of several local venues presenting Canadian musicians on Juno weekend

And the Juno Goes to...

Vancouver hosts this year's music awards **BY SHERI RADFORD**

Melanie Berry can't wait for the Juno Awards to touch down in Vancouver. The president of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences enthuses: "It's going to be a lot of fun. It's going to be a chance for Vancouver to shine a spotlight on itself" and on the West Coast's "vibrant music community."

That community has certainly delivered its share of talent to the world: Michael Bublé, Bryan Adams, Diana Krall, Nelly Furtado, Nickelback, David Foster. Sarah McLachlan, who was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, but calls Vancouver home, will receive the Allan Waters Humanitarian Award at this year's ceremony. Loverboy, another transplant to Vancouver, is being inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

But the Juno Awards are more than just one lavish evening for the industry elite. Open to the public are a whole weekend of events showcasing Canadian talent. In JunoFest, Mar. 27 and 28, concerts in venues around town feature local artists, Juno nominees and a few national superstars. At Juno Fan Fare on Mar. 28, fans can meet Juno nominees and get autographs—for free. The intimate Songwriters' Circle, at The Centre for Performing Arts on Mar. 29, includes Juno nominees both performing and talking about their creative process. And thousands of tickets are available for the awards ceremony itself on Mar. 29, being hosted by Canadian funnyman Russell Peters and held in GM Place—an appropriate spot given all the giant concerts that rock the venue each year.

PHOTOS: (OPPOSITE) BY KK LAW. (THIS PAGE) BY JENNIFER TZAR

International superstar Sarah McLachlan, winner of eight Juno Awards over the past two decades, is best known for soulful ballads such as "Building a Mystery" and "I Will Remember You." But the Vancouver resident also dedicates herself to causes that help women, children and animals. Her Sarah McLachlan Foundation brings music to disadvantaged youth in Canada. She is receiving this year's Allan Waters Humanitarian Award.



Berry sums it up as "a fabulous celebration of Canadian music." It's especially fitting for Vancouver to host all this pomp and circumstance, given the upcoming 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. "We can celebrate the Olympics of music and the Olympics of sports," Berry says. But at the 2009 Juno Awards, Canadians are guaranteed to get all the glory and take home all the hardware.

This year's Juno Award nominees will be announced Feb. 3. For more information, visit www.junoawards.ca. 