

**Ron Hynes named recipient of the St. John's Folk Arts Council
Lifetime Achievement Award for 2006.**

The St. John's Folk Arts Council is delighted to recognise Ron Hynes for his continuing contribution to the musical traditions of Newfoundland & Labrador by presenting him with the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award. Long regarded as one of the province's and the country's finest singer-songwriters, Hynes has, more than any other contemporary Newfoundland songwriter, articulated the heart and soul of the province. As well, the mentoring and friendship that Hynes extends to emerging songwriters is invaluable. His encouragement to the next generation has helped insure the future of creative expression within the vibrant musical community of Newfoundland & Labrador and the rest of Canada.

The SJFAC's Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 2002; its past recipients include: Ruth Matthews of Burin (2002); Frank Maher of St. John's (2003); Becky Bennett of St. Paul's, Great Northern Peninsula (2004) and Gerald Campbell of Branch (2005). This year's award will be presented to Ron Hynes on Saturday evening, August 5th, 2006 at the Newfoundland and Labrador Folk Festival in Bannerman Park, St. John's.

Ron Hynes was born in St. John's and raised in Ferryland on the southern shore of Newfoundland, Canada. His first musical influences were the songs of Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, Del Shannon, The Beach Boys, The Beatles, and Bob Dylan. He began his career as a singer/songwriter in the early seventies, playing the coffeehouse circuit through Atlantic Canada and Ontario. While on a theatre tour with the Mummers Troupe in 1976, he composed "Sonny's Dream", now considered a folk classic. Hynes may be best known for "Sonny's Dream", but his numerous other songs--such as the haunting chronicle "Atlantic Blue", heart-wrenching requiem "Godspeed" and country radio hits "Cryer's Paradise", "Man Of A Thousand Songs", "No Kathleen" and "Get Back Change"--show his gift as both a songwriter and a storyteller. His songs have been covered by dozens of artists around the world including Emmy Lou Harris, Denny Doherty, Valdy, Terry Kelly, Shaye, Murray McLaughlin, The Cottars, Christy Moore, and Mary Black.

Hynes launched his long-awaited first songbook, Songs of Ron Hynes-Volume 1, in December 2005. Published by Vinland Music and distributed by Landwash Distribution, this collection of 26 songs includes vocal and guitar arrangements

Hynes has many albums to his credit. Early 2006 saw the release of “Ron Hynes”, a self-titled collection of fourteen deeply personal songs, widely considered his finest work to date.

With a songwriting career spanning over 30 years, Hynes is a five-time East Coast Music Award winner, a Genie Award winner, and past JUNO and CCMA nominee. The Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council has named him Artist of the Year (1992) and presented him with the prestigious Arts Achievement Award (2004). He also holds an Honorary Doctorate from Memorial University (NL), in recognition of his songwriting and contribution to the cultural life of Newfoundland.

The St. John's Folk Arts Council (SJFAC) is a not-for-profit organization that has been active in the music and arts community of Newfoundland and Labrador since 1966. Its mandate is to promote the Folk Arts in Newfoundland and Labrador and throughout Canada; to foster creative expression of those arts; and to further the cause of good inter-group relationships. The SJFAC hosts and organizes an annual folk festival and a folk night every Wednesday in St. John's. Both functions showcase Newfoundland talent and contribute to the development of promising artists. The SJFAC also conducts several workshops annually to highlight and explore the cultural traditions of the Province, and co-produces, with the St. John's Storytelling Circle, an annual storytelling festival. The activities of the SJFAC are directed by a volunteer board and one paid coordinator.

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