

2nd International Square Dance Music Awards

“Ozzies”

March 23, 2013

By Wade Driver

Plan now to attend the 2nd International Square Dance Music Awards Banquet just prior to the 40th Annual CALLERLAB Convention on Saturday, March 23, 2013. The Convention and the “Ozzie” Music Awards Banquet will be held at the Embassy Suites in Cary, North Carolina located near the Raleigh/Durham Airport. The Embassy Suites is a super venue. Each guest room is a suite with free wireless internet, a free hot breakfast every morning, free parking, free shuttle to and from the airport, a free Manager’s Reception each evening (including free snacks and drinks), and a beautiful atrium area for relaxing and visiting.

All dancers and callers are invited to attend the “Ozzie” Awards Banquet. There will also be a dance in the afternoon prior to the banquet that will be called by a mixture of music producers and “Ozzie” nominees. All proceeds from the banquet and the dance will go to the Music Producers Scholarship Fund as administered by the CALLERLAB Foundation and will be earmarked for the education of new callers.

Please vote now for your favorite “Ozzie” stars. CALLERLAB’s Music Producers Committee completed the process of selecting the nominations for the 2nd Annual “Ozzie” Square Dance Music Awards Banquet in October 2012 and voting will end on March 1, 2013. There will be 16 categories with 5 nominations for each category. These nominations have been selected from callers and music producers worldwide.

The nominations are displayed for voting at www.musicforcallers.com. You will only need to select “Ozzie” to proceed. Only one vote per computer is permitted, and all callers and dancers are encouraged to vote. In 2011 there were more than 35,000 votes received, and we are looking for even more this time. The selection process included only music produced since January 2010, and all callers from around the world were eligible to be nominated in the caller categories. Once the votes are tabulated, the winners will remain a secret until the 2nd International Square Dance Music Awards Banquet.

The 16 categories include: Best Gospel Song; Overall Best Recorded Singing Call Instrumental; Best Overall Male Caller; Most Uplifting Song; Best Love Song; Best Duet, Trio, or Quartet on a Singing Call; Best Choreo; Best Male Patter Caller; Best Male Vocal on a Recorded Singing Call; Best Female Patter Caller; Best Female Vocal on a Recorded Singing Call; Most Entertaining Caller; Best Overall Female Caller; Best Sing-along; Best Overall Record Label, and Caller of the Year.

The term "Ozzie" originated in honor of the late Bob Osgood, the Founding Father of CALLERLAB. Bob was not only a caller and contra prompter; he was the editor of *Sets In Order Square Dance Magazine* from 1948 to 1985. He was one of the most prolific caller and dance leader educators and dance activity promoters in the history of our activity.

Bob was also one of the early producers of music and his "Sets In Order" record label singing calls, mixers, rounds, patter music, and long playing albums, featured callers and cuers from all over the world. These recordings became incredibly valuable to many as a resource for calling style, choreography and delivery. The long playing albums and long playing patter records were sent free with each subscription to his magazine.

Bob is the only CALLERLAB Millennium Award recipient, and "Ozzie" is a term of endearment for a true statesman of our activity. We are certain that both Bob and his late wife, Becky, will be there in spirit again at this 2nd Square Dance Music Awards Banquet.

You will be able to cast your votes and register for the banquet as well on the website at: www.musicforcallers.com. Space will be limited, so get your tickets early. If you wish to pre-register, please send an e-mail to ozziegail@musicforcallers.com. Mrs. Gail Swindle, the Executive Administrator for the "Ozzie" Awards, is handling all reservations.

This is going to be a wonderful evening of fun and laughter like the 1st "Ozzie" Music Awards Banquet in Las Vegas in 2010. There will also be entertainment and some surprises. Put this March 23, 2013 date on your calendar now, and don't forget to cast your vote before the March 1, 2013 deadline. Hope to see you there!