

# Sounds of the Season

## THE ARTISTS



### Dione Taylor

*O Holy Night*  
(featuring the Nathaniel Dett Chorale)

A pastor's daughter from Regina Saskatchewan, Dione Taylor burst onto the music scene in 2004 with her debut album *Open Your Eyes*, and performed that same year for both the President of the United States and the Queen of England. *Open Your Eyes*, featuring her soulful, unique blend of jazz, gospel and R&B, earned nominations at the 2005 Juno Awards, the Canadian Urban Music Awards and the Canadian National Jazz Awards (including 2005 Jazz Vocalist of the Year). [www.dionetaylor.com](http://www.dionetaylor.com)



### jacksoul

*I Miss You (Come Christmas Day)*  
&  
*Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*

This Juno Award winning band, led by frontman Haydain Neale, has garnered critical acclaim from fans, the media and their peers for more than a decade by creating truly remarkable songs that tell of love, hope and endurance. With hits like "Can't Stop (2000) and "Still Believe in Love" (2004), jacksoul's music is heralded "soul stirring" and "powerfully intoxicating."  
[www.jacksoul.com](http://www.jacksoul.com)



## In Essence

*Little Drummer Boy*

Complicated syncopated rhythms; Smooth vocals and harmonies dripping with emotion; Enrapturing lyrics that tell a story. Along with the marriage of R&B, soul, hip-hop and tribal rhythms, this is what makes up the signature In Essence sound. Together since 1993, the band experienced great success with their debut album *The Master Plan* and their hot single "You'll Never Find." They have opened for such acts as Usher, Lost Boyz, and took home the Juno Award for best R&B/Soul Recording of the Year in 2004. [www.inessence.ca](http://www.inessence.ca)



## Jully Black

*The Christmas Song*  
&  
*A Time for Christmas*

Jully Black doesn't believe in holding back. And she never wants to. Whether it's singing her heart out on her astounding debut album *This Is Me*, broadening her talents in the theatre production of *Da Kink In My Hair*, adding Destiny's Child and Nas to her songwriting credits, expanding her social consciousness in Bangladesh or overcoming the heartache of professional setbacks, there's an apparent fearlessness to Jully that's both admired and awarded. She's received four Juno Award nominations, and *Fashion Magazine* recently named her one of the most alluring Canadians. [www.jullyblack.com](http://www.jullyblack.com)



## Amanda Martinez

*Dicimbre*

Amanda captures the heart with her sensuous, soulful voice accompanied by soothing guitar under a gentle pulse of percussion. Her debut album *Sola* is a collection of original and traditional songs beautifully sung in Spanish, English and Portuguese. Since entering Toronto's jazz and Latin music scene Amanda Martinez has performed in duo to octet formations at festivals such as TD Canada Trust Jazz Festival, The Distillery Jazz Festival, and Harbourfront's Ritmo y Color Festival, and is a regular at jazz clubs in the downtown core. [www.amandamartinez.ca](http://www.amandamartinez.ca)



## African Guitar Summit

*Afe Hyia Pa*

The African Guitar Summit is a star-studded collaborative project uniting the talents of Canada's best guitarists of African origin. Kofi Ackah, Theo Boakye, Naby Camara, Pa Joe, Mighty Popo, Donné Roberts, Madagascar Slim, Adam Solomon and Alpha Ya Ya Diallo are each talented artists, and together they have created real musical magic. The African Guitar Summit's self-titled debut album was released in 2004, and they won the Juno Award for World Music Album of the Year in 2005. Their follow-up album, *African Guitar Summit Two*, is now in stores. [www.africanguitarsummit.com](http://www.africanguitarsummit.com)



## Divine Brown

*This Christmas*

Most urban-pop music aficionados have already known for the last few years that when you need a vocalist to shut the house down, you call Divine Brown. When the Toronto-raised Brown fuses soul, pop and jazz to create a sound you're not soon to forget. With her self-titled debut, Brown has made a successful leap from slightly-below-the-radar local vocal phenom to full-on, ready-for-the world soul chanteuse. [www.universalurban.com/divinebrown](http://www.universalurban.com/divinebrown)



## Ray Robinson

*I Wish*

Inspired by the church, and honing his craft through gospel music, Ray Robinson has quickly become a captivating artist in the Canadian urban music scene. Since his debut album, *What It Is*, released in 2004 Ray has crisscrossed Canada with appearances that have taken his signature soul filled, rich voice to the stage from Montreal, Ottawa, Edmonton and Vancouver, not to mention show after show at home in Toronto. Ray was nominated for three awards at the 2004 Canadian Urban Music Awards, winning R&B Single Of The Year for "Missed Your Chance." Ray Robinson has recently returned from a tour and CD release schedule in the U.K. [www.rayrobinsonmusic.com](http://www.rayrobinsonmusic.com)



## Eliana Cuevas

*Me Deseo Para Navidad*

A student of music in Venezuela, Eliana came to Canada to study history at the University of Toronto. She continued her musical studies here and sang with a variety of pop, Latin-jazz, reggae, salsa, Brazilian and flamenco ensembles before the 2004 release of her solo album, *Ventura* - a collection of original songs about love and life. Eliana performs at some of Toronto's finest Latin and jazz clubs, and at festivals across Canada and Europe. [www.elianacuevas.com](http://www.elianacuevas.com)



## Pocket Dwellers

*Have a Merry Christmas  
&  
Ain't No Christmas*

The Pocket Dwellers is a multi-talented, multi-influenced collective. Musicians, ranging from classically or jazz trained, to street-smart and self-taught, the Pocket Dwellers bring their diverse talents together to create a line-up that includes guitar, bass, drums, keyboards, a cadre of horns, a couple of turntables, a hip-hop M.C. and a wallop of energy. They regularly perform at a wide range of music festivals across Canada. [www.pocketdwellers.com](http://www.pocketdwellers.com)



## Catarina Cardeal and Mike Siracusa

*Noite Feliz*

Catarina Cardeal has wrapped her Portuguese heritage around her singing career from an early age. Singing professionally in festivals and nightclubs with several bands, she mostly collaborates with guitarist Mike Siracusa. Together they are known as 15. Mike brings his blues guitar and percussion training to this fusion with European tradition. He has travelled and toured with many acts and performed in theatrical work, for jingles and television scores, concerts and festivals. Mike has spent more than 25 years developing, enjoying and teaching his craft.