June 12, 2014

Juno Award winners honoured as Distinguished Alumni

Edmonton—MacEwan University is proud to announce that Juno Award winners Solon and Jeremiah McDade, both graduates of the music program, have been named as Distinguished Alumni. As members of the McDade Family band, the two became veterans of the Canadian folk festival circuit before the age of 16, and performed at the Canadian National Exhibition, Vancouver Expo’86 and the Commonwealth Games.

Solon has performed with a long list of blues greats during his time at MacEwan and while studying in McGill University’s jazz performance program. Solon has recorded a number of albums, which have received a total of four Juno Award nominations and nine Aria Award nominations.

Jeremiah, who went on from MacEwan to graduate with high distinction from McGill’s jazz performance program, has been a featured player on numerous soundtracks, including the Biography Entertainment Channel, the Banff Film Festival and the National Film Board of Canada.

In 2000, the siblings began working together on their new group, the McDades. Their album Bloom won the 2007 Juno Award for best roots/traditional album by a group. The group has performed all over Europe and North America, and recorded with a variety of musicians from around the world. In 2012, the McDades collaborated with Allan Gilliland, chair of MacEwan University’s Music program, to create arrangements that they performed at three sold-out shows with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra.

About the award

The Distinguished Alumni award is granted to individuals who exhibit outstanding achievements or make significant contributions in one or more of the following areas: service to the community, business, the arts, human development, the environment, lifelong learning, post-secondary education, and/or government

Solon and Jeremiah will each receive their Distinguished Alumni award at the Spring Convocation ceremonies.

When: Wednesday, June 18
Where: Francis Winspear Centre for Music
Time: 3:00 p.m.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

For further information, please contact:
David Behary, Media Relations Advisor
780-497-5586
Cell: 780-231-5954
email: beharyd@macewan.ca