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**Pittsburgh's Own Ernie Hawkins Joins Company Of Thieves,
Girl In A Coma, Birdy Nam Nam, The Soul Of John Black As Winners of
The 11th Independent Music Awards**

**"People's Voice" Online Voting Component Will Determine
The IMA Vox Pop Winners**

For Immediate Release

May 02, 2012 Pittsburgh based **Ernie Hawkins** joins a diverse roster of self-released and independent label talent culled from 6 continents named today by Music Resource Group (MRG) as the Judge-determined Winners of **The 11th Annual Independent Music Awards** (The IMAs), the influential international awards program for independent bands and fans.

The Winners in more than 70 Song, Album, Music Video and Design categories winnowed from thousands of submissions from around the globe, were determined by a panel of influential artists and music industry pros including Keith Richards, Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan, Del McCoury, Ozzy Osbourne, Bettye LaVette, Jim Lauderdale, Joshua Redman, Shelby Lynne, Kevin Lyman (Warped Tour), Jason Olaine (Jazz At Lincoln Center), Alan Light (Live From The Artists Den), and Evan Schlansky (American Songwriter).

Ernie Hawkins' version of Big Bill Broonzy's "Shuffle Rag" was named the winner of the **best cover song** for this 11th edition of The IMAs. **A student of Rev. Gary Davis, Ernie Hawkins is a master of roots ragtime-blues acoustic finger picking guitar. A recognized expert in the diverse guitar styles of such artists as Gary Davis, Big Bill Broonzy, Lightnin' Hopkins, Blind Willie McTell, Mance Lipscomb, Blind Blake and Mississippi John Hurt, Ernie has played and taught all over the globe. Including his latest, the twice Indie-nominated homage to New Orleans jazz, "Whinin' Boy", Ernie has recorded five acclaimed solo CDs and recorded with many others in the field. His driving guitar and original take on American roots music (blues, ragtime and traditional jazz) have earned him a glowing underground reputation.**

Details and complete list of 11th annual IMA Winners, Nominees and Judges available at: www.TheIndependentMusicAwards.com

Fans To Determine Winners Of The 11th IMA Vox Pop Poll

Music fans have until July (XXX) to champion their favorite Nominees and determine The 11th IMA Vox Pop Winners by voting online at www.IndependentMusicAwards.com/imanominee/11th

Since this year's 339 IMA Nominees were announced on March 8, more than 20,000 music fans have cast their votes.

The fan-selected Winners will benefit from additional marketing support from

The Independent Music Awards.

Artistry Has Its Awards

For more than a decade, artists and labels from around the world have found new fans and prominence through The Independent Music Awards.

Produced by Music Resource Group, publisher of the popular industry contact database The Musician's Atlas, The IMAs uses its unrivaled access to performance, promotion and distribution to connect Winners and Nominees to new audiences and revenue opportunities.

The program receives submissions from artists previously on major labels as well as self-released and indie label talent from more than 70 countries on six continents.

Submissions for The 12th Annual Independent Music Awards are currently being accepted at www.TheIndependentMusicAwards.com/submit