

## **“Border Breakers”:** awards for the European debut albums with the highest sales in EU countries in 2003

*On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2004, at MIDEM (International Music Market) in Cannes, France, prizes were awarded to the debut albums which achieved the highest sales in the European Union in 2003, outside their country of origin. These awards were created on the initiative of the European Commission in collaboration with professional European music industry bodies such as EMO (European Music Office), GESAC (European Group of Societies of Authors and Composers), ICMP/CIEM (International Confederation of Music Publishers), IFPI (International Federation of the Phonographic Industry), IMPALA (Independent Music Companies Association) and Billboard Information Group.*

On 25<sup>th</sup> January, for the first time, the European artists or bands, together with their record companies, authors and publishers, who achieved the highest debut album sales in 2003 in the European Union, outside their country of production, received awards at MIDEM. These awards highlight the diversity of European music and the potential of the single market. They unite professionals from the world of music, authors, composers, performers, major or independent producers, in helping to improve the distribution of European music across the European Union.

Winners were selected on the basis of statistics provided by Billboard Information Group, in accordance with the following criteria:

- original debut album by artists or groups from an EU Member State;
- sales figures in the 15 Member States, not including the country of origin;
- sales between 27/11/2002 and 26/11/2003.

The Border Breakers prizes were awarded to:

- **The Darkness** (United Kingdom), for “Permission To Land”, Must Destroy/Atlantic
- **The Thrills** (Ireland), for “So Much For The City”, Virgin/EMI
- **Las Ketchup** (Spain), for “Hijas Del Tomate”, Shaketown/Sony Music
- **Carla Bruni** (France), for “Quelqu'Un M'a Dit”, Naïve
- **Masterplan** (Germany), for “Masterplan”, AFM Records
- **Tiziano Ferro** (Italy), for “Rosso Relativo”, EMI
- **Lasgo** (Belgium), for “Some Things”, Antler Subway/EMI
- **Saybia** (Denmark), for “The Second You Sleep”, EMI
- **Mariza** (Portugal), for “Fado Em Mim”, World Connection/EMI.

MIDEM also provided an opportunity for discussions on the changes in and the outlook for the music industry in Europe, at a meeting organised by EMO (European Music Office) and the European Commission on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

Through its Culture 2000 programme, the European Commission has cofinanced over a hundred exchange and cooperation projects in the field of music: training, support for tours, concerts and festivals. It has also set up pilot projects to promote exports of European music both within the EU and abroad.

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