

Georgina artist earns Grammy nomination

By Heidi Riedner

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A little child's play with a grown-up message has garnered a second Grammy nomination for publisher Ken Cowle of Soul Asylum Poetry and Publishing Inc. The Jackson's Point poet, book and music publisher jumped at the chance to collaborate on a CD about bullying and has received a second Grammy nomination for best children's CD in the process.

Mr. Cowle worked as a consultant on the 37-track disc, *All About Bullies ... Big and Small*.

Working several months with Steve Pullara of Cool Beans Music and other producers on the project, Mr. Cowle helped secure the rights for use of the Blue October song, *Jump Rope*, on the compilation disc.

"When I was asked to help out with this project, I jumped at the opportunity," said Mr. Cowle, adding he had already been talking with Texas-based band Blue October for Soul Asylum's radio show and had written several poems on the subject of bullying before being asked to participate.

"I worked extensively with Paul Nugent, the band's manager, as well as executives at Universal Records to help make it happen," he said.

He also received an artist's credit on the CD for co-writing the track, *Where are Ya*, with Mr. Pullara.

The disc edged out more than 125 other children's album to make the shortlist. Featuring a unique mix of stories and songs, the CD is a fun, informative and inspirational tool kit for children to deal with the playground and cyber jungle we have come to know about all too well in recent months.

Dealing with everything from cyber bullies, kids with humorous courage, to kids viewing their lives through bicycles, each "child" on the CD finds a way to change their perspective or to accept other children for who they are.

It gives advice to those children that are being bullied, but it also speaks to the bully, and tries to address possible reasons why some kids feel compelled to use their strength or power to intimidate or harm others.

"Having suffered bullying in my younger years, I know how difficult it can be on person, both physically, but most of all emotionally," said Mr. Cowle, adding the CD is a wonderful collection of various artists helping to raise awareness and giving helpful tips on ways to help stop bullying. "It is both entertaining and a wonderful teaching tool."

Despite the subject matter, the collection is light-hearted, easy to listen to, groovy and eclectic, with a few tongue in cheek moments thrown in for the adults.

How else would you describe a poem called *Labels* narrated by actress Heidi Swedberg, best known as the ill-fated, wedding-bound, invitation label-licking girlfriend of Seinfeld's George Costanza? The poem, however, discusses labels are best used for cans of pickles and beans, rather than people.

The calibre and scope of the project, as well as the involvement of recognized Philadelphia-area producers Jim Cravero, Pat Robinson, Kevin Mackie and Gloria Domina, made Mr. Cowle's second collaboration on a children's CD an easy decision.

This year's Grammy nod is the second for Mr. Cowle, who worked on last year's Grammy-nominated children's CD *Healthy Food For Thought: Good Enough To Eat*, which lost out to Julie Andrews' *Collection of Poems, Songs And Lullabies*.

The roster of artists on *All About Bullies...Big and Small* includes members of Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band, international recording artists, several Philadelphia radio personalities, Ms Swedberg and the Sugar Free Allstars & Secret Agent 23 Skidoo. All of the profits from the CD will be donated to the PACER National Center for Bullying Prevention based in Minneapolis, MN.

The Grammy nomination is icing on the cake for Mr. Cowle, who was glad to be a part of such a rewarding and worthwhile experience.

He has started the long countdown to the 54th award ceremony set to take place Feb. 12 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, where *All About Bullies* will compete against *Are We There Yet?* by The Papa Hugs Band, *Fitness Rock & Roll* by Miss Amy, *GulfAlive* by The Banana Plant and *I Love: Tom T. Hall's Songs Of Fox Hollow* by Various Artists.

To sample tracks from the CD and to read reviews, visit allaboutbulliesbigandsmall.com

For more information on the centre against bullying, visit pacerkidsagainstbullying.org

Visit soulasylumpoetry.com for upcoming events, industry newsletters and information on its roster of artists.

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