

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Grammy awards are big thrill for guitarists Hanson and Smith

Mark Hanson's guitar students can relax: He has no plans to raise his rates, even though he's now a Grammy-winner.



HANSON

Doug Smith will each get a plaque for their contribution to "**Henry Mancini: Pink Guitar**" (solidairrecords.com). They were among a dozen leading fingerstyle guitarists who played on the album, which won a Grammy on Sunday for best pop instrumental album.



SMITH

Both Hanson and Smith were at Sunday's ceremony — which was not the one you may have watched on television. The TV version showed 11 of 107 awards being handed out at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. The pre-broadcast ceremony happened earlier in the day, next door at the Los Angeles Convention Center, where they handed out the other 96 awards in a tightly choreographed event that allowed about two minutes per award.

Record producer and label owner James Jensen gets the actual Grammy statuette, but Hanson and fellow Oregon guitarist

"That was for everything," Hanson said, "including walking to the stage and thanking everyone including your dog. Luckily, about a third of the recipients weren't there, so that sped things up."

Still, when your category is 86th of 97, the waiting is the hardest part. "We started getting a little tired around category No. 50, but as they got closer to best pop instrumental CD, it started getting exciting. . . . All we heard was 'And the winner is . . . Henry . . . ' and we started yelling and headed toward the stage. It was a thrilling moment."

Even if he didn't get to hug presenter Cyndi Lauper, whose body language made it clear, Hanson said, that hugs or air kisses were not on the menu. It may have been that Hanson and Smith, who are each a good bit taller than 6 feet, were a tad intimidating to Lauper, who is apparently not as tall — by a foot or two.

Just as well, because the clock was ticking. Producer Jensen gave an admirably brief thank you, then guitarist Laurence Juber said a few words. A very few words, Hanson said, because a big teleprompter lit up and began flashing: "Wrap it up! Wrap it up!"

Hanson and Smith, along with guitarist Terry Robb, are members of the Portland-based Acoustic Guitar Summit. Their CDs are available at www.accentonmusic.com.

— John Foyston