

and the winner of Pacific Break 2009 is.....?

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MELBOURNE – Solomon Islands band, Devande, with their optimistic song about remaining positive in the face of unrequited love, “Everything”, has emerged triumphant from a pool of more than 70 entries in Pacific Break 2009.

Like last year’s winner, “26 Roots” (pronounced two-six roots), ‘Devande’ will be provided with an exclusive opportunity to perform in front of thousands at Fest’napuan, Vanuatu’s annual music festival in November this year, broadcast live by Radio Australia across the Pacific.

Spanning 5 time zones and more than 20 countries, the search for the best original unsigned musicians in the Pacific has again established a strong case for the Pacific region as a contender for the greatest untapped resource in the musical world.

Using strong cultural, social, political and historical lyricism, this year’s Pacific Break entrants articulated the creativity of Pacific people and the identities of local communities through an incredible range of exciting music from various genres. The final result was an amazing mix of hip-hop, pop, traditional, contemporary, instrumental, metal, rock, gospel and of course – sweet island reggae!

After intense debate, the judging panel, comprising; Samoan performer, Grace Vanilau; Alain Lecante from Mangrove Productions; and reggae producer Jake Savona, settled on Devande’s entry “Everything” as the best entry for this year narrowly beating Angela Afeaki’s exceptional sounding “Happy Happy Tonga” and Vanuatu act Huarere with their entry “To be Loved”.

Radio Australia Executive Producer Brendon Telfer says, “I don’t think there is a competition of this kind anywhere else. It’s probably the largest and most diverse music competition in the world and the only one that operates over such a vast distance spanning so many countries and indigenous cultures.”

Radio Australia’s Pacific Break competition has embarked on a journey of discovery, managing to uncover some incredible unsigned Pacific musicians. A selection of the top 12 entries for Pacific Break 2009 will be assembled into a compilation CD and available for free distribution to select distributors across the Pacific.

Pacific Break materials both past and present can be viewed at: www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacificbreak

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