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FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR INAUGURAL AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN MUSIC AWARDS

Amy Shark, Katie Noonan, Deborah Cheetham, Gordi, Jen Cloher, Stella Donnelly, Ngaiire, Camp Cope, Sarah Blasko, Tiddas, and the **Mission Songs Project** are amongst the stellar list of finalists in the inaugural ***Australian Women in Music Awards (AWMA)***, which will be presented at a star-studded ceremony and party in Brisbane on Wednesday evening 10th October.

For the first time in Australian music history, **AWMA** will recognise the outstanding contributions of women across a range of categories including: excellence in artistry, song-writing, technical and production skills, cross-cultural development, music education, music photography, music leadership and humanitarian work.

“I welcome the inaugural **AWMA** to Queensland’s thriving arts scene. This initiative perfectly reflects our government’s vision for the future. We want to see the exceptional talents and achievements of our many female artists, and women from all fields, fully recognised, keenly supported and enthusiastically celebrated at every opportunity,” Queensland Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Di Farmer said.

“This will be a very special celebration of women in Australian music, those who have come before and those who continue to light the way. We are overwhelmed with support which we continue to receive from artists, the music community and the broader creative sector all of whom agree that the time for change has come” says **AWMA** Founding Director and Executive Producer, **Vicki Gordon**.

Fourteen **AWMAs** are up for grabs, from a public nomination process that attracted hundreds of individual nominations, each assessed by a specially-convened Jury Council comprised of industry professionals and practitioners of the highest calibre.

“We received nominations from every state and across all areas of diversity, the quality was exceptional with a broad representation from artists and music practitioners who operate outside the mainstream industry. It made the task of our jurors very tough,” says **AWMA** Founding Director and Executive Producer, **Vicki Gordon**.



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Performances at the **AWMA** ceremony will include a dazzling mix of some of Australia's biggest music names and most inspiring emerging artists including; **Kate Ceberano, Katie Noonan, Adalita, Lou Bennett (Tiddas), Sophie Koh, Kween G, Gordi, Ancestress** and **Emily Wurramara**. The AWMA's are also the catalyst for the reformation of legendary Australian band **Do Re Mi**, led by **Deborah Conway** and **Helen Carter**, playing together for the first time in 30 years!

The **AWMAs** will also induct iconic Australian singer/songwriter **Helen Reddy** onto the inaugural **AWMA** Honour Roll. Reddy's song '*I Am Woman*' has been an anthem for the women's movement since its release in 1971. The **AWMA** Honour Roll provides a platform for recognition and appreciation of home-grown music pioneers.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the AWMAs will host a two day program at the Brisbane Powerhouse on October 9 and 10 with a series of free forums and panel discussions, a photographic exhibition, the QLD premiere of the documentary *Her Sound - Her Story* and a keynote address by **Kate Ceberano**.

2018 AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN MUSIC AWARDS

Date: 6.00pm Wednesday 10th October 2018

Venue: Brisbane Powerhouse Theatre, 119 Lamington St, New Farm Brisbane QLD

Registration and tickets: <https://womeninmusicawards.com.au/tickets/>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/user/2dkt3cmfm0g59ea43cou1r7z6/playlist/2R9SruMQV8n7qdcwFF4mZ>

www.womeninmusicawards.com.au

Australian Women in Music Awards has been made possible with support from the Queensland Government as the Principal Partner, Major Partner Canon, Strategic Partner Tourism Events Queensland and others.



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2018 AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN MUSIC AWARDS FINALISTS

Songwriter Award

Recognises a female songwriter or composer who has made extraordinary impact nationally and/or internationally in the past 12 months.

FINALISTS – Sarah Blasko, Gordi (Sophie Payten), Ngaiire

Music Leadership Award

Recognises a female CEO, Managing Director, Label Manager, A&R Director, Artist Manager or Publisher making significant impact in music industry leadership.

FINALISTS - Linda Bosidis, Jen Cloher, Susan Heymann

Diversity in Music Award

Recognises individual artists or female-driven musical collaborations for their contribution to advancing a culturally diverse and inclusive music industry.

FINALISTS - Mission Songs Project, Rachel Maria Cox, Signal Creative

Studio Production Award

Recognises a female sound engineer or producer who has made contributions of outstanding significance in the studio recording environment.

FINALISTS - Anna Laverty, Kath Naunton, Becki Whitton

Music Photographer Award

Recognises a female music photographer currently working in the field and to acknowledge her body of work.

FINALISTS - Lisa Businovski, Tashi Hall, Wendy McDougall

Creative Leadership Award

A curatorial award recognising excellence in creative programming and/or content creation from a woman working in a music festival, live performance/venue or media setting to champion female artists.

FINALISTS - Zoe Hauptmann, Katie Noonan, Roz Pappalardo



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Breakthrough Artist Award

Recognises a female artist who has had a significant breakthrough impact nationally in the past 12 months.

FINALISTS - Camp Cope, Stella Donnelly, Amy Shark

Artistic Excellence Award

Recognises exceptional creative achievement from a female artist/musician across any genre.

FINALISTS - Dallas Frasca, Gordi (Sophie Payten), Ngaiire

Film-maker Award

Recognises a female music videographer, clip-maker or film-maker currently working in the field and to acknowledge her body of work.

FINALISTS - Gemma Lee, Ruth Morris, Claudia Sangiorgi Dalimore

Live Production Award

Recognises a female working in a live production or touring environment making significant impact in her field: Includes Tour Management, Live Sound, Lighting, Backstage and Roadcrew

FINALISTS - Lynette Britten, Kait Hall, Robyn Jelleff

Musical Excellence

Recognises exceptional musicianship from a female musician across any genre.

FINALISTS - Fem Belling, Lydia Davies, Nerida Tyson-Chew

Educator Award

Recognises an individual who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and/or to empowering Indigenous female artists in remote and regional communities.

FINALISTS - Dr Anita Collins, Louise Denson, Elizabeth Sellars

Auriel Andrew Memorial Award

Recognises a true pioneer of Aboriginal women in music.

FINALISTS – Deborah Cheetham AO, Jessie Lloyd, Shellie Morris, TIDDAS, Gina Williams



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Lifetime Achievement Award

Presented to a female artist or musician who has made outstanding artistic contribution to the field of recording and/or live performance during her lifetime.

Winner to be announced

-ENDS-

For further information, images and interview requests:

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