



AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN MUSIC AWARDS UNVEILS 2019 CONCERT PERFORMERS, PROGRAM & KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*OCTOBER EVENT TO SHOWCASE DIVERSITY AND TALENT, FEATURING RENÉE GEYER,
KATIE NOONAN, CLARE BOWDITCH, MELINDA SCHNEIDER, NGAIIRE, KAYLAH TRUTH,
CHERYL BARKER AND MORE*



With the countdown well and truly on for the **2019 Australian Women in Music Awards**, the event has begun its rollout of exciting program details ahead of the October Awards Ceremony and Concert at the **Brisbane Powerhouse!**

Leading today's announcement, the reveal of the **2019 AWMA Program** speakers include **Amy Sheppard, Yumi Syntes, Deborah Cheetham, Kween G,** and **Kim 'Busty Beatz' Bowers**, along with an Awards Concert that traverses Opera, Roots, Hip-Hop, Pop, Rock and even a "Guitarmagedon".

The two-day program is an integral part of AWMA's long-term goal in continuing to nurture a strong and dynamic hub of conversation for women, First Nations, Multicultural artists and members of the LGBTQIA community to share knowledge, inspire and thrive!

This year, four forums featuring industry leaders from across the sector and diverse opinion makers will be held in conjunction with the Awards Ceremony, Concert and Party at the Brisbane Powerhouse on **October 8 & 9.**

Building on the wave of support for change embraced by the inaugural AWMA's in 2018, this year's event welcomes noted broadcaster, musician, writer, teacher, philanthropist and trans man **Eddie Ayres** as the **2019 Keynote Speaker**. *"Our 2019 keynote speaker, Eddie Ayres, is part of a hopeful vision for the future of women and diverse people in positions of power and creative control. Because we are at a crossroads of dynamic possibilities for inclusivity, AWMA's vision is to lead with generosity, to insist that our society benefits when musicians and those who work with them are empowered from a diversity of places, cultures and identities."* — **Vicki Gordon AWMA Founding Executive Director**

[2018 Promo Reel Here](#) [2018 Photo Gallery Here](#) [Artist Images](#)

2019 AWMA FORUM PROGRAM

VISIBILITY IN HIP HOP - Women On The Front Line

Facilitator: Kween G (Hip-Hop Artist)

Panelists: Kaylah Truth, Dizzy Doolan & Philly (First Nations Hip-Hop Artists)

Hip-Hop has given clarion voice to poverty, police brutality, violence and racism but has had a vexed relationship to women, their stories and their voices. How can female voices more consistently be given their rightful place in the Australian Hip-Hop music scene?

THE ART OF REBELLION - The Intersection of Music & Politics

Facilitator: Merenia Marin (Artist/Specialist Ignite Ability Facilitator SSI)

Panelists: Yumi Stynes (Television/Radio Presenter, Author), Kara Hinesley (Head of Public Policy Australia & NZ - Twitter) & Alethea Beetson (Digi Youth Arts)

Art is political because it always presents a world view. Voices of difference have to fight to be heard. But once accepted, voices of rebellion can be co-opted and appropriated by the usual suspects. We take a deep look at the voices that are appropriated and the voices that are completely and fundamentally silenced. How can the music industry change to support the integrity and survival of genuine voices of rebellion?

IMAGE MAKING - The Changing Face of Music

Facilitator: Rhianna Patrick (First Nations Broadcaster)

Panelists: Angela Samut (CEO, QMusic), Amy Sheppard (Artist), Billie McCarthy (Artist) & Kim 'Busty Beatz' Bowers (Artist)

We are living in a time when assumptions, stereotypes and images of gender, race, sex and cultural diversity are being interrogated, revisited and liberated. How can we keep working to reduce the double standards around unrealistic and objectifying representations of women's body image to promote realistic messages of confidence?

HOW OPERA FORUM - Identity, Representation and Privilege

Facilitator: Dr Eve Klein (music scholar, mezzo-soprano, composer)

Panelists: Deborah Cheetham, AO (First Nations Soprano, actor, artistic director), Dr Jordin Steele (Producer, director, performer), Heather Fairbairn, (Theatre and opera director) Cheryl Barker, AO (Internationally-renowned Soprano), Lissa Twomey (Executive Director Major Performing Arts for the Australia Council)

*In response to the **New Opera Workshop (NOW)** held in Brisbane earlier this year, highly respected music scholar, mezzo-soprano and composer Dr Eve Klein will facilitate discussions around the sidelining of female opera creatives and artists, the under-representation of female-led narratives; fears around re-inventing works from the existing canon; support for new Australian works; the ever-growing number of opera professionals being imported and the lack of gender parity on boards.*

Further details on the forums is available at womeninmusicawards.com.au

Along with these epic forum discussions held over the two-day AWMA event, ticket holders will have access to an incredible line-up of talent at a **Career Development Speed Networking** session presented by AWMA & APRA AMCOS. Participants will have the opportunity to meet music practitioners from across the music industry including acclaimed producer **Anna Laverty**, ABC Brisbane's **Rhianna Patrick**, broadcaster **Yumi Stynes** and musicians such as **L-FRESH The Lion**, **Kween G**, **Jhindu Lawrie**, **Sue Ray**, **Jeremy Neale**, **Regurgitator's Ben Ely** and more.

2019 AWMA KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The **2019 AWMA Keynote Address** will be delivered by broadcaster, musician, writer, teacher and philanthropist trans man **Eddie Ayres**.

Ayres' journey in classical music has taken him from his home country of England to Berlin, to cultural hubs as varied as Berlin and Hong Kong before settling in Australia where he has enjoyed extensive success on the airwaves as host of **ABC Classic**, *Classic Breakfast* and *Weekend Breakfast* programs as well as years in the music education field. Having released two books (*Cadence: Travels With Music - A Memoir*, *Danger Music*) charting his personal journey through gender transitioning, Ayres' story is a unique one and one that will be shared during his special AWMA Keynote Speech.

Awards in 15 categories including Lifetime Achievement, Emerging Artist as well as new categories celebrating achievements in Music Journalism, Image Making and Excellence in Classical Music, along with a special inductee to the AWMA Honour Roll will be announced on **October 9** at the **2019 AWMA Ceremony and Concert**.

This year's AWMA's will be emceed by **Yumi Stynes** and **Alethea Beetson** and will feature the incredible talents of **Cheryl Barker**, **Tamara-Anna Cislowska**, **Clare Bowditch**, **Katie Noonan**, **Melinda Schneider**, **NGAIIRE** and more. Capped off with an unmissable finale performance that will see **Katie Noonan**, **Zoe Hauptmann** and **Jess Green** joining the legendary **Renée Geyer** on stage, the 2019 Australian Women in Music Awards is not to be missed.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Tickets to the 2019 AWMA's, to be held in Queensland at the Brisbane Powerhouse, are on sale now. Tickets for individual events, including music industry forums and keynote speaker, as well as the Awards Ceremony & Concert, are available separately or as part of discount packages. Concessions are also available.

[Tickets Here](#)

The Australian Women in Music Awards are made possible with the proud support of the Queensland Government and Canon.

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The Canon logo, consisting of the word "Canon" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.