

# AWMA

AUSTRALIAN  
WOMEN IN  
MUSIC  
AWARDS

2023

## MEDIA RELEASE

**\*\*UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 11PM: 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023\*\***

### 2023 AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN MUSIC AWARDS RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Twenty-three AWMA were bestowed upon some of the industry's most accomplished and emerging female artists, musicians and music practitioners at The Tivoli in Brisbane/Meanjin on Wednesday night. After a highly considered deliberation process by a specially convened 37-seat Jury Council comprised of industry professionals and specialists of the highest calibre, the AWMA recipients were finally announced.

The two-day event across 26-27 September began with a conference program, series of forums, an 'In Conversation' with **Vanessa Amorosi** and a First Nations showcase, culminating in last night's Awards Ceremony, Concert and star-studded Black Carpet.

Shining a light on the incredible accomplishments of women across all areas of the music industry, this year's AWMA delivered another spectacular and rousing show, hosted by broadcaster and author **Yumi Styne** and First Nations speaker **Nartarsha Bamblett (Queen Acknowledgements)** who came together to celebrate the achievements of some of Australia's most outstanding and prolific female music artists and practitioners.

The show featured provoking performances rooted in empowerment by **Vanessa Amorosi**, **Sarah McLeod**, **Hot Brown Honey**, **Dami Im**, **Samira El Koussa** and **Candice Bankovacki**, with **Beccy Cole & The Hussy Hicks** performing a tribute to the 2023 AWMA Honour roll recipient and country music legend **Judy Stone** in attendance. Legendary duo **Vika & Linda** performed a special tribute to the late, great **Renée Geyer** (2023 posthumous AWMA Honour roll recipient) and the stunning finale of one of Australia's most iconic and most loved songs- AC/DC's **It's a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock N Roll)** Performed by : Vanessa Amorosi Lead Vocal, Sarah McLeod Lead Guitar, Véronique Serret Violin, Camille Layt Bagpipes supported by the AWMA House Band.

The 2023 AWMA Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to all three celebrated nominees **Kate Ceberano**, **Jeannie Lewis** and **Clare Moore**, with the Songwriter AWMA going to **Toni Watson (Tones & I)** the inaugural **ARIA Executive Leader Game Changer Award** handed to **Emily Collins** and the inaugural Heavy Music award to **Emmy Mack**.

The inaugural AWMA Inspiration Award was presented by Vicki Gordon to Vanessa Amorosi.

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For the first time this year, AWMA commissioned First Nations artist **GLVES** to compose the music for their **ABC TV** broadcast with a track entitled **STAND TALL - SISTER YOU ARE A QUEEN** written by **GLVES** and Maraya Vavasis, produced by **Arrowbird** and mixed and mastered by **Antonia Gauci**, in what was the heartbeat of this year's Award Ceremony and Broadcast.

"This song is about standing up against the status quo and embracing the transformative strength of sisterhood love. My close female friendships are essential to my well-being, and this song is about recognising how they give me immense courage and remind me about what I'm capable of. These relationships help me lead and stand strong in revolutions inside and outside of myself," said **GLVES**.

AWMA has become one of the most important events on the music industry calendar and is a powerful advocacy body and voice gender equality recognising the vast contributions of Australian women in the music industry.

"In 2023, female artists and musicians are still having to prove themselves. Just last month, two well-known music promoters announced new Festival line-ups where women were a glaring minority and in one case were virtually non-existent. Let's call it out for what it is-blattant sexism", said AWMA Executive Producer & Program Director **Vicki Gordon**.

"AWMA is calling on the industry to adopt gender equality as a core music industry value as a matter of priority, significant policy change needs to occur at both State and Federal level to ensure women form an equitable part of the industry. Gender bias can only be addressed by prioritising inclusivity and representation as core music values "said Gordon. She highlighted the growing support for AWMA across the sector and thanked all the 2023 partners, congratulating the finalists, winners, performers and praising the AWMA production, marketing and ticketing teams, student interns and volunteers who have worked tirelessly over the past 10 months to deliver the two-day event. She thanked the 2023 Juror Chair Diana Tolmie and the Juror Council, the regional and remote delegates and all First Nations and culturally diverse artists who travelled to Brisbane to be a part of AWMA.

Vicki congratulated all finalists, winners and performers and praised the extraordinary musicianship of the 2023 AWMA House band led by Music Director and Bassist Zoe Hauptmann with Sarah Belkner on Keys, and Kat Ayala on Guitar and Lozz Benson on Drums.

**Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch** said Queensland is proud to host the exceptionally talented women celebrated for their impressive contributions to Australia's music industry through the 2023 Australian Women in Music Awards. "The Queensland Government, through the *Creative Together* 10-year roadmap is committed to building a strong and sustainable arts sector, which includes supporting creativity, diversity and inclusivity within the contemporary music industry.

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"The 2023 AWMA Showcase is funded through the Queensland Government's Queensland Arts Showcase Program (QASP) to elevate the voices and stories of First Nations women, culturally diverse and LGBTQIA+ female artists and musicians at this year's awards.

"Congratulations to the winners and finalists of the 2023 AWMA's, whose inspiring arts and cultural work helps strengthen our music industry and the international reputation of our vibrant music scene."

Minister for Health Shannon Fentiman said, "The AWMA have once again demonstrated the power of shining the spotlight on women's talent and achievements from across Queensland. "Recognising and celebrating the success of women is a vital part of promoting equality in any industry and the AWMA's provide that opportunity through Australian music. "As Minister for Women, I am thrilled to congratulate this year's winners, performers, and presenters."

The 2023 AWMA will be streamed on **ABC iview** on the evening of 29 September and broadcast on the **ABC TV** main channel on **30 September at 4pm** with a repeat following the next day.

The 2023 Australian Women in Music Awards and Conference Program is proudly supported by the Queensland Government, with extensive support from industry and community partners.

#### Full List of 2023 AWMA Recipients: (not in order of received)

#### 2023 AWMA WINNERS

Studio Production  
**Robyn Lee Payne**

Artistic Excellence  
**Vika & Linda**

Diversity in Music  
**Cerisa Benjamin**

Music Journalist  
**Jane Gazzo**

Excellence in Classical Music

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**Celia Craig**

Emerging Artist  
**Ashli**

Creative Leadership  
**Claire Edwardes**

Inaugural ARIA Executive Leader Game Changer  
**Emily Collins**

Inaugural Women in Heavy Music  
**Emmy Mack**

Lifetime Achievement **Kate Ceberano**  
Lifetime Achievement **Clare Moore**  
Lifetime Achievement **Jeannie Lewis**

Tina Arena Special Impact  
**Oana Gilbert** (posthumous)

Honour Roll  
**Judy Stone**  
**Renée Geyer** (posthumous)

Music Leadership  
**Marianna Annas**

Filmmaker  
**Triana Hernandez**

Live Production Touring  
**Jenny Moon**

Live Creative Production  
**Naomi Price**

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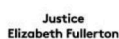
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Music Photographer  
**Mia Mala McDonald**

Humanitarian  
**Alison Hams**

Songwriter  
**Toni Watson**

Inspiration Award  
**Vanessa Amorosi**

**AWMA Official Website:**

<https://womeninmusicawards.com.au/>

**AWMA 2023 AWARD CATEGORIES**

<https://womeninmusicawards.com.au/award-categories/>

For a full list of all finalists: <https://womeninmusicawards.com.au/2023-recipients-finalists/>

**MEDIA ASSETS FOLDER:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1QBzT0bWPwHt2BiGniSDOonB7RkxK7osM?ths=true>

AWMA is an initiative of the non-profit Charity Cicada International Ltd

#AWMA2023 #embracing equality #womeninmusicaus #AWMA #AustralianWomeninMusic #AWMARegional

**For requests and media enquiries please contact:**

Simone Smith | Director of Publicity | [simone@digital-collective.co](mailto:simone@digital-collective.co) | +61 422 046 342

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