



# AWMA

AUSTRALIAN  
WOMEN IN  
MUSIC  
AWARDS

2024

23 April 2024

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Australian Women in Music Awards – Nominations Now Open! Opera Australia partnership announced**

Nominations for the fifth prestigious Australian Women in Music Awards (AWMA) open today (23 April) with categories spanning all music genres from rock to opera and the many behind-the-scenes roles vital to the Australian music industry.

AWMA has become one of the most important events on the annual music industry calendar, recognising the vast contributions of women across the sector and shining a light on female First Nations and culturally diverse artists, artists with disability, technicians and music practitioners.

Leaders, industry matriarchs, songwriters, producers, engineers, filmmakers, photographers, music journalists and others will be recognised at this year's Awards Ceremony and Concert in Meanjin/Brisbane on **Wednesday 2 October 2024**.

**Nominations\* for 19 award categories are now open**, with a strict cut-off date of 28 May 2024.

The full 2024 AWMA Ceremony, Concert and Conference Program will be announced in the coming months.

**Founding Executive Producer and Program Director Vicki Gordon** said: *“The inaugural AWMA in 2018 was a watershed moment for the Australian music industry. In a long overdue and much needed expression of solidarity and leadership, AWMA set the foundation for change, igniting collaboration and support nationally for diverse female creatives, non-binary and LGBTQI+ and GNC artists, First Nations and Multicultural female artists, students, techs, female artists living in remote and regional areas, and music practitioners across all genres of music.*

*“In addition to the Awards Ceremony and Concert, our annual Conference and First Nations Women’s Music Showcase amplify positive role models, helping to break down cultural barriers and negative stereotypes which have prevented women from succeeding for decades.”*

**The impact of AWMA is reflected in the 1,544 nominations, 190 finalists and 73 award recipients recognised since 2018 for their extraordinary contributions to music industry.**



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AWMA is made possible with support from the Queensland Government, together with corporate, industry and community partners and is an initiative of the not-for-profit charity, **Australian Women in Music (AWM)**.

**Incoming AWM Board Director and guitarist Sarah McLeod** said: *"Having been in this male dominated industry for so many years, I'm thrilled to be joining the Board of AWM. The community is so strong and getting stronger every year, I'm excited to see where we can take it."*

*"The Awards help lift and recognise the talent and hard work that occurs on stage and behind the scenes. Nominate yourself or your friends. We want you in."*

**Queensland Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women Shannon Fentiman** said AWMA represents an incredible opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while advocating to ensure that gender equality is adopted as a core music industry value.

*"Our government has proudly supported AWMA since the very beginning, celebrating women on stage, back stage and behind the scenes while also promoting gender equality and diversity, including the voices of First Nations women."*

*"The future of our music industry looks bright as our government continues to invest in a 10-year roadmap to promote arts, culture, and creativity."*

*"As Minister for Women, recognising and celebrating the success of women is a vital part of promoting equality in any industry, and AWMA provides that opportunity through Australian music."*

**This year, AWMA welcomes a new Supporting Partnership with Opera Australia.**

**Chief Executive Officer of Opera Australia Fiona Allan** said: *"Opera Australia is delighted to partner with AWMA to make more visible exceptional female talent across the industry."*

*"Through The Opera Australia Impact Award, we are delighted to acknowledge the significant contribution of women working both on and off the stage to make opera that is contemporary and relevant to Australian audiences."*

Creative Australia's *Opera and Gender Equity Summit Issues Paper* reflects on the Major Performing Arts opera companies' 2020 programs, looking at the proportion of women in leading creative team roles i.e. composer, conductor and director. (Mainstage productions, including original directors, concert performances and recitals are excluded). It reported:

- Opera Australia - 10% of a total of 50 leading creative team roles (5 women)
- State Opera of South Australia - 7% of a total 15 leading creative team roles (1 woman)
- Western Australia Opera - 17% of a total 6 of leading creative team roles (1 woman)
- Opera Queensland - 3% of a total of 13 leading creative team roles (3 women)
- Victorian Opera - 44% of a total of 18 leading creative team roles (8 women)

In 2024, AWMA has once again enlisted an impressive panel of Jurors with representation across a diverse range of music disciplines and cultures. **Dr Diana Tolmie**, Senior Lecturer of Professional Practice at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University and a D'Addario International Artist, returns as Chair of the AWMA Juror Council.

*\*AWMA welcomes nominations from non-binary, LGBTQI+, GNC and anyone who identifies as a woman.*



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## MEDIA ASSETS:

[Link to authorised images for media use](#)

[Download](#) the AWMA Legacy 2018-2023

[YouTube link](#) to AWMA 2023 finale performance “*It’s a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock ‘n’ Roll)*”

#AWMA2024 #genderequality #womeninmusicaus #AWMA #AustralianWomeninMusic  
#AWMARegional

## AWMA 2024 AWARD CATEGORIES

(with 2023 recipients where available):

1. **Lifetime Achievement Award** - Presented to a female artist or musician who has made an outstanding artistic contribution to the field of recording and/or live performance during her lifetime. *2023 Recipients: Kate Ceberano, Jeannie Lewis and Clare Moore.*
2. **Tina Arena Special Impact Award** - Honours an unsung champion of the Australian music industry. *2023 Recipient: Oana Gilbert (Posthumous).*
3. **Humanitarian Award** - Recognises an individual (female, male and GNC) who has made a significant and lasting contribution in assisting female artists working in remote and/or regional communities. *2023 Recipient: Alison Hams.*
4. **Diversity in Music Award** - Recognises individual artists or female-driven musical collaborations for their contribution to advancing a culturally diverse and inclusive music industry. *2023 Recipient: Cerisa Benjamin.*
5. **Excellence in Classical Music Award** - Recognises a mid-to-late career female classical music artist who has demonstrated musical excellence throughout her career. *Recipient: Celia Craig.*
6. **Heavy Music Award** - Recognises a female who has made contributions of outstanding significance as an artist, musician, music practitioner, agent, artist or label manager, supporter and/or advocator of Heavy Music. *2023 Recipient: Emmy Mack.*
7. **Creative Leadership Award** - A curatorial award recognising excellence in creative programming from women working in broadcast media (radio, tv, online, streaming services), a music festival or live performance/venue to champion female artists. *2023 Recipient: Claire Edwardes.*
8. **Artistic Excellence Award** - Recognises exceptional creative achievement from a female artist/musician across any genre. *2023 Recipients: Vika & Linda.*
9. **Studio Production Award** - Recognises a female sound engineer or producer who has made contributions of outstanding significance in the studio recording environment. *2023 Recipient: Robyn Lee Payne.*
10. **Live Creative Production Award** - Recognises a female working in a live production environment making significant impact in her field; includes but is not limited to roles such as Live Sound, Lighting & Visual Design, Set Design, Show Producer etc. *2023 Recipient: Naomi Price.*

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11. **Live Production Touring Award** - Recognises a female working in a live production or touring environment making significant impact in her field: Includes Tour/Operations/Promotions Management, Tour Assistant, Backstage, Roadcrew, and other related support roles.  
*2023 Recipient: Jenny Moon.*
12. **Music Leadership Award** - Recognises a female Managing Director, Label Manager, A&R Director, Artist Manager or Publisher making significant impact in music industry leadership.  
*2023 Recipient: Marianna Annas.*
13. **Songwriter Award** - Recognises an outstanding female songwriter or composer.  
*2023 Recipient: Toni Watson (Tones and I).*
14. **Emerging Artist Award** - Acknowledges an outstanding emerging female artist between the ages of 18-25 years inclusive. *2023 Recipient: ASHLI.*
15. **Music Photographer Award** - Recognises a female music photographer currently working in the field and to acknowledge her body of work. *2023 Recipient: Mia Mala McDonald.*
16. **Filmmaker Award** - Recognises a female music videographer, clip-maker, filmmaker, or music animator currently working in the field and to acknowledge her body of work.  
*2023 Recipient: Triana Hernandez.*
17. **ARIA Executive Leader Game Changer Award** - Recognises the exceptional leadership of an Executive Leader who creates significant and positive change to generate equality for women in the Australian music industry. This award category is open to a CEO, CFO, COO, CMO, MD and GM.  
*2023 Recipient: Emily Collins.*
18. **Music Journalist Award** - Recognises a female music journalist, blogger or editor who has made a creative contribution and courageous impact in truth telling and innovative reporting in the Australian music industry. *2023 Recipient: Jane Gazzo.*
19. **The Opera Australia Impact Award** - Acknowledges a woman working in the field of opera as an artist, creative producer or manager, through which her vision and agency has made a significant impact on the ongoing development of the artform.

The 2024 AWMA Honour Roll and Inspiration Award recipients will be announced separately.

**Australian Women in Music Awards is proudly supported by the Queensland Government.**

