MEDIA RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN MUSIC ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL COURTNEY MILLS DJ AWARD

Australian Women in Music, in partnership with the **Courtney Mills Foundation**, has today announced the inaugural Courtney Mills DJ Award, a new addition to the Australian Women in Music Award categories honouring the artistry, individuality and legacy of Australian electronic artist Courtney Mills, who passed away in 2025.

The Courtney Mills DJ Award will recognise an established female or gender-diverse DJ who has demonstrated outstanding artistic achievement, developed a distinctive musical identity, made a meaningful contribution to Australian electronic music culture and positively influenced the community around them. **Dr Diana Tolmie**, AWMA Juror Chair, will lead an industry panel of experts spanning labels, A&R, touring, programming and artist development to select the finalists and determine the recipient of the 2027 Award.

“AWMA is deeply committed to building safe, visible and sustainable pathways for female and gender-diverse artists in sectors where they have historically been underrepresented. Aligning this award with Courtney’s legacy is profoundly meaningful and creates a celebrated pathway for national recognition on the AWMA stage,” said **Vicki Gordon AWMA Founding Executive Producer and Program Director.**

"Courtney was the kind of DJ who made you feel something. Not just in the room, but about what was possible. She had a musical identity that was entirely her own, and she built it in an industry that rarely made space for women like her to be seen at that level. This award exists because that has to change. Not as a gesture, but as a permanent statement, on one of the most significant stages in Australian music. The recipient of this award will know their craft, culture and community on the highest terms. Courtney deserved that recognition. So do those who come after her,” said **Kiani Mills of the Courtney Mills Foundation.**

The Courtney Mills DJ Award also responds to the ongoing underrepresentation of women and gender-diverse artists across electronic music and DJ culture. It reflects the shared commitment of AWMA and the Courtney Mills Foundation to creating greater visibility, opportunity and pathways for women, including at a grassroots level where careers and communities begin. It recognises DJing as an artistic practice in its own right celebrating not only performance, but musical identity, creativity, cultural influence, leadership and contribution to the wider electronic music community.

“From a DJ perspective, what was important to me in helping shape this award was recognising what actually makes an artist stand out at this level. Technical ability is part of the craft, but a great DJ is also defined by their musical identity, judgement, body of work and the contribution they make to the culture around them. There isn’t one prescribed pathway to becoming an influential DJ, and I think this award will celebrate that,” said **Tom Evans, sponsorship partner, Director and A&R Valiant Records Australia.**

Nominations for the inaugural Courtney Mills DJ Award open at 7am on 27 October 2026, and close on 24 November 2026. Finalists will be announced in February 2027 with the winner presented at the Australian Women in Music Awards ceremony to be held at Fortitude Music Hall in Brisbane on Thursday evening 27 May 2027.

The link to nominate is **HERE**.

- ENDS -

For interview opportunities, please contact publicist Josie Gagliano at info@rojoconsulting.com.au or 0411 234 022

Australian Women in Music Awards & Conference Program is made possible with support from the Queensland Government and Sound NSW, and is assisted by the Australian Government through Music Australia. AWMA is proudly sponsored by Brisbane City Council and supported by corporate, industry and community partners.

About AWMA
AWMA is an initiative of Australian Women in Music established to dismantle systemic barriers across the music industry through targeted programs, visibility campaigns, industry lobbying and action.

Founded in 2018 and led by highly respected music producer Vicki Gordon, the AWMA team is made up of experts with vast experience in the production of large-scale event management, digital media, strategic planning and development. AWMA is overseen by a Board of Directors with extensive experience in the music industry and the arts, accountancy, community engagement, not-for-profit governance, stakeholder engagement and law.

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Download the AWMA Legacy 2018-2025 HERE

Notes and links for Editors:

Photo link with pics of Courtney Mills, Kiani Mills, and Tom Evans for authorised media use HERE.

AWMA 2026 Finalists HERE
AWMA Website: www.womeninmusicawards.com.au

MEDIA ASSETS:
Link to authorised images for media use HERE
Vicki Gordon profile photo link HERE

AWMA Board: womeninmusicawards.com.au/awm-board/
Instagram: instagram.com/womeninmusicaus
Facebook: facebook.com/AWMAAwards/
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@australianwomeninmusicawar4945
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