



45th Country Music Awards of Australia

NOMINATION HANDBOOK

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YOUR GUIDE TO SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS

1 DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS

- a. Nominations open at 9:00am **Tuesday 30th August 2016** and close at 5:00pm on **Saturday 1st October 2016**.

2 GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

- a. Nominations will be accepted from independent artists, signed artists, agents, managers, record companies, or publishing companies.
- b. Nominations will be accepted for country music audio and video recordings by artists or composers who are citizens or permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand (“Australian or New Zealanders”).
 - i. A permanent resident is defined as someone who:
 - is not an Australian or New Zealand citizen or unlawful non-citizen, and
 - is usually resident in Australia or New Zealand, and
 - holds a permanent visa, a resident return visa, an authority to return or a return endorsement.
- c. Album Producers, Video Directors or Vocal Collaborators of nominated product who are not citizens or permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand (as outlined above) are not eligible to win a trophy. This does not preclude the album, video or song they worked on from being eligible.
- d. Nominations are restricted to one track per artist/entity releasing the material in all categories except Album of the Year, Alternative Country Album of the Year, Male Artist of the Year, and Female Artist of the Year, where entire albums are required to be submitted.
- e. Artist/s being nominated for these Awards (including all artists in Regional Australia Bank Vocal Collaboration of the Year) must be current financial Professional Members of the CMAA at the time of nomination.
- f. If the entity nominating is a Duo, both members are required to be current financial members of the CMAA.
- g. If the entity nominating is a Group (ie more than 2 members), then a minimum of 50% of the regular members of the Group are required to be current financial professional members of the CMAA.
- h. Nomination fee is payable at the time of submitting your entries.
- i. The total nomination fee is \$88.00 (inc GST) for Australian residents, and AU\$80 (no GST) for New Zealand residents, regardless of how many categories entered under that Artist/entity.
- j. To become a professional member of the CMAA or renew membership please go to www.country.com.au/membership
- k. Nominations (both audio and video) featuring a significant proportion of material recorded at events organised by or on behalf of the CMAA are not eligible.
- l. Eligibility and acceptance of nominations will be solely at the organisers discretion.



General Terms & Conditions Cont:

- m. The judging system for the 45th Country Music Awards of Australia is explained on the CMAA website.
- n. All companies or persons nominating material for the 45th Country Music Awards of Australia hereby allow recording of the presentation of the Awards ceremony by the organisers or their nominee/s for broadcast on radio, television, video and internet or for transmission by any means whatever, in part or in full.
- o. All owners of the audio / video recordings of material nominated in the 45th Country Music Awards of Australia hereby allow all or some of their nominated track/s to be included on the CMAA Winners album should they become Finalists.
- p. All Finalists will be required to provide a current biography (200 words max) and high resolution colour headshot photo (image must be scanned at minimum 600 dpi and saved to JPEG format no larger than 5MB). An authorised representative of the 45th Country Music Awards of Australia will contact you if additional material is required.
- q. Finalists may be required to send a copy of their CD. An authorised representative of the 45th Country Music Awards of Awards will contact you if additional product is required. A Finalist may be asked to provide evidence of promotional activity in the case of a single release.
- r. The advertised results of the judging of the awards will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- s. In submitting a nomination, the nominating company or person agrees to be bound by and comply with the General and Specific Rules of the 45th Country Music Awards of Australia as set out herewith.
- t. All matters relating to the conduct of the 45th Country Music Awards of Australia remain under the total control of the Board of the Country Music Association of Australia or its nominee/s. The Committee will use its best endeavours to ensure all requirements of nominations and conduct of the Awards are met, but cannot be held responsible for any digression or non-compliance in any matter.
- u. Finalists in the judged categories will be announced at an event in Sydney in November 2016. The details of this event will be announced in October 2016.
- v. Winners will be announced at the 45th Country Music Awards of Australia presentation at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre on Saturday 28th January 2017.



ELIGIBILITY & DEFINITIONS

3 CURRENT ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

- a. The current eligibility period for all categories **except** Sanity Top Selling Australian Album is **1st October 2015 to 30th September 2016** inclusive.

4 ALBUM DEFINITION

Unless otherwise stated to the contrary in this agreement, "**Album**" means a recording containing no less than seven (7) songs in total at least 70% of which are new works, previously unrecorded and released for the first time in the relative eligibility period.

5 SINGLE DEFINITION

Unless otherwise stated to the contrary in this agreement, "**Single**" means a recording of one song that has been commercially released in the relative eligibility period. The recording may be a cover song and may have originally been part of a previously released album. The recording cannot have been previously nominated in any category.

To qualify as a "single" the recording must be released as a single within the current eligibility period on an industry recognised DSP (see below) **or** have 500 copies manufactured and made available for sale to the public. There may be a requirement to provide some evidence of promotion of the recording eg: service to radio, creation of a film clip or a publicity campaign.

6 COMMERCIALY RELEASED

"**Commercially Released**" is defined as being available on a recognised DSP such as iTunes (see below) or a professionally packaged CD (a minimum of 500 manufactured) that is available for sale to retailers and/or the general public. Product released only as a CD burn will not be eligible.

7 INDUSTRY RECOGNISED DSP'S include:

- i. Deezer
- ii. Google Play
- iii. Guvera
- iv. iTunes
- v. Music Glue
- vi. MyPlay Direct
- vii. Spotify
- viii. Youtube



CATEGORY TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 8 Nominations in **Album of the Year**, **Alternative Country Album of the Year** and **Top Selling Album of the Year** must be **new recordings** commercially released for the first time in the relevant eligibility period, and must comply with the definition of Album (see “Album Definition” on page 2).
- 9 Nominations for **Regional Australia Bank Vocal Collaboration of the Year**, **APRA/AMCOS Song of the Year**, **Bluegrass Recording of the Year**, **Instrumental of the Year**, **Toyota Heritage Song of the Year**, and **Bush Ballad of the Year** must be one track commercially released for the first time in the relevant eligibility period.
- 10 Nominations for **Qantaslink New Talent of the Year** may be from **either** an eligible single **OR** an eligible album. Please check the definitions of eligible single and album.
- 11 Nominations for **CMC Video Clip of the Year** must be first available for broadcast or sale within the relative eligibility period. It need not be tied to the release date of the associated audio track.
- 12 Artists entered in **Male Artist of the Year** or **Female Artist of the Year** cannot also nominate for **Group or Duo of the Year** in the same awards year.
- 13 An individual member of **Country Music Capital News Group or Duo of the Year** nominee cannot nominate for any category in the same awards year other than **APRA AMCOS Song of the Year**, **Instrumental of the Year**, or **Regional Australia Bank Vocal Collaboration of the Year**.
- 14 No track can be entered in both **Toyota Heritage Song of the Year** and **Bush Ballad of the Year** in the same awards year.
- 15 An artist who has not previously been a finalist in any category may nominate for **Qantaslink New Talent of the Year** in three consecutive awards years. An artist who has previously been a finalist in this category but has not won Qantaslink New Talent of the Year, may nominate one more time in that category. An artist who has previously won an award in any category or been a finalist in any category other than Qantaslink New Talent of the Year (one time) will not be eligible.
- 16 Nominations in the categories of **APRA AMCOS Song of the Year**, **Bush Ballad of the Year** and **Toyota Heritage Song of the Year** will only be accepted provided that the artist and composer are Australian or New Zealand citizens.
- 17 A minimum of 50% of the artists who perform in the nominated **Regional Australia Bank Vocal Collaboration of the Year** entry must be Australian or New Zealand artist/s.
- 18 Songwriters may nominate a recording in the **APRA AMCOS Song of the Year** provided that (a) the same track has not been nominated by another Artist, (b) the Songwriter must be a financial member of the CMAA, and (c) recording must comply with the eligibility criteria for this category.
- 19 **Sanity Top Selling Australian Album of the Year** - Sales figures for this category will be compiled and supplied by ARIA.



CATEGORY CRITERIA

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

This Award is for an Album as a whole unit and released in the current eligibility period. The Album will be judged on all aspects including but not limited to song selection, production, artist's performance and musical performance.

An Album of the Year nominee cannot also nominate for Alternative Country Album of the Year in the same awards year.

The album must contain a minimum of 70% previously unrecorded, and released for the first time in the relative eligibility period.

Trophy goes to the artist and producer.

UPLOADS REQUIRED:

- * All tracks appearing on your album
- * Album cover art
- * Artist head shot photo
- * Artist Biography
- * Producer head shot photo
- * Producer Biography

ALTERNATIVE COUNTRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR

For some years now the 'Americana' label has been in wide international circulation to describe Alternative Country Music. In Australia we have been reluctant to fully embrace the term 'Americana' but 'Australiana' is a completely different genre and style and would not be an appropriate category label.

The CMAA has titled this award 'Alternative Country' but please understand that it refers generally to the definition of the global 'Americana' label and genre. Here's a general description of 'Americana Music' from the AMA. 'Americana', as defined by the Americana Music Association (AMA), is **"contemporary music that incorporates elements of various American roots music styles, including country, roots-rock, folk, bluegrass, R&B and blues, resulting in a distinctive roots-oriented sound that lives in a world apart from the pure forms of the genres upon which it may draw. While acoustic instruments are often present and vital, Americana also often uses a full electric band."**

This award recognises artists who sit stylistically outside the mainstream of country. It serves to recognise fringe artists who operate partially or wholly within the country music community and creates opportunities for artists who may have previously considered themselves too far outside the mainstream to consider nominating.

Alternative country recordings by artists generally considered mainstream are also eligible.

This Award is for an Album as a whole unit released in the current eligibility period. The Album will be judged on all aspects including but not limited to song selection, production, artist's performance and musical performance.



Alternative Country Album of the Year Cont:

There is a requirement that the album contains 70% previously unrecorded and released for the first time in the relative eligibility period.

An Alternative Country Album of the Year nominee cannot also nominate for Album of the Year in the same awards year.

Trophy goes to the artist and producer.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- * All tracks appearing on your album
- * Album cover art
- * Artist head shot photo
- * Artist Biography
- * Producer head shot photo
- * Producer Biography

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Judged on an Album by the nominee that may be entered in either the Album of the Year or Alternative Country Album of the Year categories and released in the current eligibility period.

A Male Artist of the Year nominee cannot also nominate for Group or Duo of the Year in the same awards year.

Trophy goes to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- * All tracks appearing on your album
- * Album cover art
- * Artist head shot photo
- * Artist Biography

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Judged on an Album by the nominee that may be entered in either the Album of the Year or Alternative Country Album of the Year categories and released in the current eligibility period.

A Female Artist of the Year nominee cannot also nominate for Group or Duo of the Year in the same awards year.

Trophy goes to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- * All tracks appearing on your album
- * Album cover art
- * Artist head shot photo
- * Artist Biography



COUNTRY MUSIC CAPITAL NEWS GROUP OR DUO OF THE YEAR

Judged on an Album by the nominee that may be entered in either the Album of the Year or Alternative Country Album of the Year categories and released in the current eligibility period.

A Group or Duo is defined as an act, consisting of two or more people, all of whom normally perform together and none of whom is known primarily as an individual performing artist.

No member of the group or duo may have any featured or solo vocal performance in their own right nominated in any category in the current awards year except APRA Song of the Year, Instrumental of the Year or Regional Australia Bank Vocal Collaboration of the Year.

If a group or duo has entered the Country Music Capital News Group or Duo of the Year category then they may not enter Regional Australia Bank Vocal Collaboration of the Year with the same members of that group.

If the entity nominating is a Group (ie more than 2 members), then a minimum of 50% of the regular members of the Group need to be current financial professional members of the CMAA.

One Trophy goes to the group or duo.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- * All tracks appearing on your album
- * Album cover art
- * Artist head shot photo
- * Artist Biography

REGIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK VOCAL COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR

The nominated track must be a new recording first commercially released in the current eligibility period.

Under this category, if the nominated track is taken from an album, the album must contain no less than seven (7) songs however the requirement that the album contains 70% previously unreleased songs does **not** apply.

A minimum of 50% of the artists who perform in the nominated **Regional Australia Bank Vocal Collaboration of the Year** must be Australian or New Zealand artist/s, and all participants are required to be financial professional members of the CMAA.

A Vocal Collaboration is defined as a recording event by two or more people, each known primarily as a performer in their own right, working together on a 'one off' or occasional vocal collaboration.

Each nominee must feature prominently as a lead vocalist, not as a harmony or background singer and must be clearly identified as a featured vocalist on any packaging and label copy.

Trophy goes to each artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- * Upload your chosen track (one)
- * Artist head shot photo/s - all collaborators
- * Artist Biographies - all collaborators (may be one biography to cover all artists)



BUSH BALLAD OF THE YEAR

The nominated track must be a new Australian composition first released during the current eligibility period and **not** also nominated for Heritage Song of the Year in the same year. Under this category, if the nominated track is taken from an album, the album must contain no less than seven (7) songs however the requirement that the album contains 70% previously unreleased songs does not apply.

A Bush Ballad is a lyrical narrative in song concerned with places, people, events and or attitudes clearly identifiable with Australia.

It must be presented in a traditional manner which exhibits an understanding of the genre's musical and cultural values in the style established by Australia's pioneer performers.

The Bush Ballad of the Year shall be judged on the submitted recording, not whether or not the performer is a recognised balladeer.

The Bush Ballad of the Year must be a new composition first released during the current eligibility period but may combine lyrics previously published as poems or ballads with new music or vice versa, creating a substantially new song.

Please note: this category is dedicated to **traditional bush ballads** only. Please ensure that before nominating a song in this category you carefully read and understand the criteria above and the following explanation:

"A bush ballad nomination must be clearly related in lyrics, form, content, musical arrangement, instrumentation and presentation to the traditional roots of Australian country music as exemplified by pioneers and other early performers."

Nominations in the category of Bush Ballad of the Year will only be accepted provided that the artist **and** songwriter are Australian or New Zealand citizens.

Trophy goes to the artist/s and songwriter/s.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- * Upload your chosen track (one)
- * Artist head shot photo
- * Artist Biography
- * Songwriter head shot photo (if different to Artist)
- * Songwriter Biography (if different to Artist)

TOYOTA HERITAGE SONG OF THE YEAR

The nominated track must be a new composition first released during the current eligibility period and that is **not** also nominated for Bush Ballad of the Year in the same year.

Under this category, if the nominated track is taken from an album, the album must contain no less than seven (7) songs however the requirement that the album contains 70% previously unreleased songs does not apply.

A Heritage Song is an Australian composition that is defined as being about Australia, its people, history, geography, attitudes and ideals. The content and presentation must be recognisable as being an Australian song about Australia.



Toyota Heritage Song of the Year Cont:

Nominations in the category of Toyota Heritage Song of the Year will only be accepted provided that the artist **and** composer are Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents.

Trophy goes to the artist/s and, the songwriter/s.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- * Upload your chosen track (one)
- * Artist head shot photo
- * Artist Biography
- * Songwriter head shot photo (if different to Artist)
- * Songwriter Biography (if different to Artist)

INSTRUMENTAL OF THE YEAR

The nominated track must be a new recording first released during the current eligibility period and cannot include any featured vocal performance. Under this category, if the nominated track is taken from an album, the album must contain no less than seven (7) songs however the requirement that the album contains 70% previously unreleased songs does not apply.

Trophy goes to the artist/s.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- * Upload your chosen track (one)
- * Artist head shot photo
- * Artist Biography

BLUEGRASS RECORDING OF THE YEAR

The nominated track must be a new recording first commercially released in the current eligibility period.

Under this category, if the nominated track is taken from an album, the album must contain no less than seven (7) songs however the requirement that the album contains 70% previously unreleased songs does **not** apply.

A nomination for best bluegrass recording can be a vocal or an instrumental track. It must be clearly related in form, musical arrangement, instrumentation, and presentation to the traditional roots of bluegrass music as exemplified by pioneers such as Bill Monroe and Flatt and Scruggs. Nominations are not limited to traditional bluegrass but so called progressive bluegrass styles must exhibit and build on an understanding of the genre.

If the nominated Bluegrass Recording is an instrumental only, then it cannot also be nominated in the Instrumental of the Year Category.

Trophy goes to the artist/s.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- * Upload your chosen track (one)
- * Artist head shot photo
- * Artist Biography



QANTASLINK NEW TALENT OF THE YEAR

Judged on one nominated track from an eligible commercially released single OR album. Under this category, if the nominated track is taken from an album, the album must contain no less than seven (7) songs however the requirement that the album contains 70% previously unreleased songs does **not** apply.

An artist who has not previously been a finalist in any category may nominate for New Talent of the Year in up to three awards years.

An artist who has previously been a finalist in New Talent of the Year, but has not won New Talent of the Year, may nominate one more time in that category.

An artist who has previously won an award in any category or been a finalist in any category other than New Talent of the Year (one time) will not be eligible.

Trophy goes to artist/s.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- * Upload your chosen track (one)
- * Artist head shot photo
- * Artist Biography

APRA AMCOS SONG OF THE YEAR

The nominated track must be a newly written Australian composition first released during the current eligibility period. Under this category, if the nominated track is taken from an album, the album must contain no less than seven (7) songs however the requirement that the album contains 70% previously unreleased songs does not apply.

Nominations in the category of APRA Song of the Year will only be accepted provided that the artist **and** composer are Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents.

Songwriters may nominate a track in the **APRA AMCOS Song of the Year** provided that (a) the same track has not been nominated by another Artist, (b) the Songwriter must be a financial member of the CMAA, and (c) recording must comply with the eligibility criteria for this category.

Trophy goes to songwriter/s.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- * Upload your chosen track (one)
- * Songwriter/s head shot photo
- * Songwriter/s Biography

CMC VIDEO CLIP OF THE YEAR

Judged on the nominated video clip.

Video clips must be first released and available for broadcast or sale in the current awards year and are treated as releases in their own right, not tied to the release date of the associated audio track.



CMC Video Clip of the Year Cont:

Video clips must be not more than ten minutes in duration, featuring the performance of not more than one song or medley.

Trophy goes to the artist/s and director.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- * Upload your file or Youtube URL/Link (one)
- * Artist head shot photo
- * Artist Biography
- * Director head shot photo
- * Director Biography

SINGLE OF THE YEAR

Judged on one nominated track from an eligible commercially released single or Album or solely as a commercially available digital download from Industry recognised DSP's (see definitions page 2) during the eligibility period.

The recording may be a cover song and may have originally been part of a previously released album. The recording cannot have been previously nominated in any category.

There may be a requirement to provide some evidence of promotion of the recording eg: service to radio, creation of a film clip or a publicity campaign.

A copy of the track must have been delivered to radio either digitally or on CD within the eligibility period for the clearly stated purpose of gaining radio play as a single.

The eligibility period for Single of the Year is for a track released between 1st October 2015 to 30th September 2016

Trophy goes to the artist/s.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- * Upload your chosen track (one)
- * Artist head shot photo
- * Artist Biography

SANITY TOP SELLING AUSTRALIAN ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Sales figures for this category will be compiled and supplied by ARIA. Nominations not required.



HOW TO ENTER

All categories are to be submitted online as follows:

- Go to <https://cmaa.awardsplatform.com>
- Create your unique Login and Password. If you have entered in the past, you may use your previous login details (If you cannot recall your password, simply click "Have you forgotten your password" and follow the prompts).
- Enter and upload your Nomination/s plus supporting information as required
- Submit your entry
- Pay your Nomination Fee

All required fields must be completed.

Entries will only be accepted in the following formats:

- Audio - mp3, m4a, wav, or wma
- Video - m4v, mov, mp4, mpeg, mpeg4, mpg, or wmv (you may upload your video and be hosted by our Awards site, or you can provide a YouTube link)
- Head Shot Photo - High resolution JPEG (maximum 5MB) or PDF
- Album Art (**cover only**) - JPEG or PDF
- Biographies - Word DOC or PDF

Entry is via online only and no physical entry form will be required.

If you are experiencing difficulties or do not have access to the internet, please email the GG Awards Panel Help Line (goldenguitars@country.com.au) or phone (during business hours) **0491 108 657**, who will be able to assist.