



Country Music Association of Australia

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46th Country Music Awards of Australia **Judging Process**

Integrity Round

The Judging schedule is anticipated to commence on 5th October 2018. There are three rounds of judging, the first being the Integrity Round. This round determines whether the entry complies with the criteria of the category. In other words is this recording eligible for this particular category? It's a purely Yes or No vote and we're making sure the recordings are all in the correct category. We have three expert panels to determine Bush Ballad, Alternative Country and Bluegrass awards. If an entry is considered by a majority of our specialist Integrity Panel Judges for that category to not fall within the guidelines and criteria, the artist is contacted and provided with the opportunity to either select another category in which to transfer to, or withdraw that entry.

VIP Judging Round

VIP Judges are carefully selected from the Industry including artists, record companies, media, broadcasters, and other Industry professionals. This round involves the specially selected judges voting for their top 6 in each category. The numbers are carefully calculated and we end up with 5 Finalists in each category.

Auditing Process

This is a stage where the results of the VIP Judging are verified and audited by our appointed auditor, The Law Company, and the top five Finalists are confirmed in each category.

Announcement of the Finalists

The announcement of the top five Finalists in each category will take place on a date to be confirmed in November in Sydney.

Membership Judging Round

The last Judging round involves every financial CMAA professional member, as well as the VIP Judges. At this point the VIP Judge's vote counts for 2 points and the CMAA Member's votes count for 1 point. We are relying on the judgement and expertise of all CMAA Members to help pick the winners for 2018.

Final Audit Process

The results of CMAA Membership Round are handed over to the Audit committee headed up by Tamworth's The Law Company's Michael McHugh. They will be kept secret until the announcement at the 46th Golden Guitars Awards evening on Saturday 27th January 2018 when the eventual winner or winners receive their Awards.



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46th Country Music Awards of Australia Judging Guidelines - Categories

A. ALT COUNTRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR

The CMAA has titled this award 'Alt 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 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. Alt Country recordings by artists generally considered mainstream are also eligible.

B. CONTEMPORARY COUNTRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR

To be awarded to the album judged to be best Contemporary Country Album of the Year. ***Contemporary country music broadly incorporates the styles of pop country, mainstream country, and country rock music released in Australia and other contemporary country music centres around the world.***

C. TRADITIONAL COUNTRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR

To be awarded to the album that is judged the best Traditional Country Album of the Year. ***Traditional country music broadly incorporates traditional styles of country music including influences from singer-songwriter, Australian country, celtic, folk, traditional, western swing, and/or old style/old time country.***

D. 2018 COUNTRY MUSIC ALBUM OF THE YEAR

The overall '2018 Country Music Album of the Year' will be awarded to the album judged to be the best overall of the three winners of Alt Country Album of the Year, Contemporary Country Album of the Year, and Traditional Country Album of the Year as decided by the final round voters. The ultimate winner will be chosen from the three category winners.

E. MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Judged on an Album by the nominee that may be entered in Alt Country Album of the Year, Contemporary Country Album of the Year, or Traditional Country Album of the Year categories and released in the current eligibility period. The Judges for this category may choose to consider an artist's body of work for the period. This could include live work, touring, international work and general stature in the industry.

F. FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Judged on an Album by the nominee that may be entered in Alt Country Album of the Year, Contemporary Country Album of the Year, or Traditional Country Album of the Year categories and released in the current eligibility period. The Judges for this category may choose to consider an artist's body of work for the period. This could include live work, touring, international work and general stature in the industry.

G. COUNTRY MUSIC CAPITAL NEWS GROUP OR DUO OF THE YEAR

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

For the purposes of these awards, a **Group or Duo** will be defined as an act, consisting of two or more people, all of whom have recorded/performed/worked together during the eligibility period, such that it would be deemed that the group/duo was their main project throughout the eligibility period.

An individual member of a Country Music Capital News Group or Duo of the Year entry may not also nominate in either the Male Artist of the Year or Female Artist of the Year, however they may nominate in any other category in these Awards, provided that the Group or Duo is not also nominated in that same category.

The Judges for this category may choose to consider a Group or Duo's body of work for the period. This could include live work, touring, international work and general stature in the industry.

H. REGIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK VOCAL COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR

Judged on one nominated track from an eligible commercially released single or album, and released in the current eligibility period. 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.

I. BUSH BALLAD OF THE YEAR

This category has passed through a Bush Ballad Integrity Panel of experts who have ruled on the eligibility of the entry. 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 must be a new composition first released during the current eligibility period but may combine lyrics previously

Bush Ballad of the Year cont:

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.

Bush Ballad is defined as: “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.”

The CMAA wish like to stress that this category is based on the song submitted and not whether the performer is a recognised “Bush Balladeer”.

J. TOYOTA HERITAGE SONG OF THE YEAR

Judged on one nominated track from an eligible commercially released single or album that is not also nominated for Bush Ballad of the Year in the same year. The nominated track must be a new recording first released during the current eligibility period. The Toyota Heritage Song of the Year must be a new composition first released during the current eligibility period. A heritage song is a new Australian composition that is defined as a being about Australia, its people, history, geography, attitudes and ideals. The content and presentation must be recognisable as being an Australian song about Australia.

K. 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. The track does not need to be an original composition.

L. BLUEGRASS RECORDING OF THE YEAR

This category has passed through a Bluegrass Integrity Panel of experts who have ruled on the eligibility of the entry. A nomination for Bluegrass Recording of the Year must feature both vocal and instrumental elements. 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.

M. QANTASLINK NEW TALENT OF THE YEAR

Judged on one nominated track as described under Eligibility & Definitions, **5. Single Definition**, page 4 of the Nomination Handbook. An artist who has not previously been a finalist in any category may nominate for Qantaslink New Talent of the Year in up to three awards years. An artist who has previously been a finalist in Qantaslink New Talent of the Year, but has not won New Talent of the Year, may nominate one more time in that category.

Judged on the Artist's performance on the nominated recording as well as their achievements throughout the year to establish themselves in the country music industry. The individual or group must have demonstrated significant commitment to their career by releasing recorded work of a high standard, performing live and engaging with the media.

N. APRA AMCOS SONG OF THE YEAR

This Award recognises excellence in songwriting, is awarded to the songwriter(s) and should be judged on the quality of the song. **Other considerations such as the success of the recording or popularity of the artist should not be included.**

The nominated track must be a newly written Australian composition first released during the current eligibility period. 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.

O. CMC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

Video clips must be first released and available for broadcast, sale, or streaming in the current awards year and are treated as releases in their own right, not tied to the recording release date. Video clips must be not more than ten minutes in duration, featuring the performance of not more than one song or medley. Judged on all audio and visual elements including but not limited to the artist/s performance, video concept and production.

P. SINGLE OF THE YEAR

Judged on one nominated track as described in Eligibility & Definitions, **5. Single Definition**, Page 4 of the 2018 Nomination Handbook.

This award recognises everything that makes a hit record - the song, the artist, the production and the intangibles that makes a song stand out on the radio and connect with the listening audience.

Q. SANITY TOP SELLING AUSTRALIAN ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Sales figures for the 5 highest selling Australian country music album of the year will be compiled and supplied by ARIA. Sales results are released by ARIA in early January 2018. Compilation albums of previously recorded material will not be included in this Award.

**Any questions or queries, please refer to the 2018 Golden Guitar Awards Nomination Handbook
Or email goldenguitars@country.com.au**