



Country Music Association of Australia

2018 Golden Guitar Awards



Nomination Handbook

46th Country Music Awards of Australia



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NOMINATION HANDBOOK

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YOUR GUIDE TO SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS

1 DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS

- a. Nominations open at 9:00am **Tuesday 29th August 2017** and close at 5:00pm on **Sunday 1st October 2017**.

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 Alt Country Album of the Year, Contemporary Album of the Year, Traditional 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 (eg a minimum of 3 members of a 5 person Group must be current financial professional members).
- 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



General Terms & Conditions Cont:

- 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 (see clause t. below).
- m. The judging system for the 46th Country Music Awards of Australia is explained on the CMAA website.
- n. All companies or persons nominating material for the 46th 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 46th 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 300 dpi and saved to JPEG format no larger than 5MB). An authorised representative of the 46th 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 46th 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 46th Country Music Awards of Australia as set out herewith.
- t. All matters relating to the conduct of the nomination, adjudication and scrutineering processes of the 46th Country Music Awards of Australia remain under the total control of the Board of the Country Music Association of Australia Inc or its nominee/s. **The Board 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 2017. The details of this event will be announced in October 2017.
- v. Winners will be announced at the 46th Country Music Awards of Australia presentation at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre on Saturday 27th January 2018.



ELIGIBILITY & DEFINITIONS

3 CURRENT ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

- a. The current eligibility period for all categories **except** Sanity Top Selling Australian Album is **1st October 2016 to 30th September 2017** 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 current eligibility period.

5 SINGLE DEFINITION

NB: Please note this definition only applies to Single of the Year and Qantaslink New Talent of the Year.

For the purposes of these awards, a **'Single'** is defined as the following:

- a. A recording of one song that has been officially released as a 'promotional single' via an industry recognised media servicing service (such as HSF Media Services, CRS, PlayMPE, The Same Tune, Checked Label Services, AirIT, or similar) within the current eligibility period. There may be a requirement to provide some evidence of promotion of the recording eg: release date, service to radio, creation of a film clip or a publicity campaign.

AND

- b. The recording must also be commercially released as a single track on an industry recognised DSP (see 7 Industry Recognised DSP's below) **or** have 500 copies manufactured and made available for sale to the public.

A 'pre-sale' or 'instant gratification' track may be considered a **'single'** release providing both the above requirements are met.

A single **must** be **promoted** during the current eligibility period (see above) but may have been commercially released as a part of an album outside of the current eligibility period.

The recording may be a cover song and may have originally been part of a previously released album.

The single cannot have been a finalist in any category in any previous year.

6 COMMERCIALY RELEASED

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

7 INDUSTRY RECOGNISED DSP'S

Industry recognised DSP's include, but not limited to, the following: iTunes, CD Baby, Google Play, Amazon, YouTube Red, Apple Radio, Deezer, Bandcamp, Spotify.



CATEGORY TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 8** Nominations in **Alt Country Album of the Year**, **Contemporary Country Album of the Year**, **Traditional 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 of the Year** must be first available for broadcast, sale, or streaming within the current 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** 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.
- 14** 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.
- 15** No track can be entered in both **Toyota Heritage Song of the Year** and **Bush Ballad of the Year** in the same awards year.
- 16** In order to be eligible to nominate in the **Qantaslink New Talent of the Year** category, the following applies:
 - a. An artist who has not previously been a finalist in any category may nominate in this category in three consecutive awards years; OR
 - b. An artist who has previously been a finalist in this category but has not won this category in any 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**.

- 17** 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.
- 18** 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.



Category Terms & Conditions Cont:

- 19 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.
- 20 **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. Top Selling Album of The Year must be new recordings however the definition of 'Album' (page 4 of this Handbook) does not apply ie this album may contain cover songs providing they are newly recorded within the current eligibility period.

CATEGORY CRITERIA

ALBUM CATEGORIES

There are **three** 'Album of the Year' categories. Each award is for an album that is commercially available as a whole unit and released in the current eligibility period. In each category, the Album will be judged on all aspects including but not limited to song selection, production, artist's performance and musical performance.

Artists can only nominate their album in **ONE** Album of the Year category.

All albums nominated in any of these three categories must:

- Contain no less than seven (7) songs
- Contain a minimum of 70% previously unrecorded material
- Be released for the first time in the current eligibility period
- Be nominated in only ONE Album of the Year category

Trophy presented to the artist and producer; a maximum of two trophies for each category.

UPLOADS REQUIRED:

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

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.'*



Alt Country Album of the Year Cont:

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.

Trophy presented to the artist and producer; a maximum of two trophies presented.

E. MALE ARTIST 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.

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

One trophy presented to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

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



F. FEMALE ARTIST 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.

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

One trophy presented to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

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

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.

If the entity nominating is a Duo, both members are required to be current financial members of the CMAA. 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 will be presented to the Group or Duo. Additional trophies may be purchased separately.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

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

H. REGIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK VOCAL COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR

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

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



Regional Australia Bank Vocal Collaboration of the Year Cont:

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.

A maximum of 3 trophies will be presented in this category. Additional trophies may be purchased separately.

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)

I. BUSH BALLAD OF THE YEAR

The nominated track must be a new Australian composition commercially released for the first time as a single or from an album during the current eligibility period and **not** also nominated for Heritage Song of the Year in the same year.

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 presented to the artist and songwriter; a maximum of two trophies. Additional trophies are available for purchase separately.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

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



J. TOYOTA HERITAGE SONG OF THE YEAR

The nominated track must be a new Australian composition commercially released for the first time as a single or from an album during the current eligibility period and **not** also nominated for Bush Ballad of the Year in the same year.

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.

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 presented to the artist and songwriter; a maximum of two trophies. Additional trophies are available for purchase separately.

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)

K. INSTRUMENTAL OF THE YEAR

The nominated track must be a new composition commercially released for the first time as a single or from an album during the current eligibility period, and cannot include any featured vocal performance.

One trophy presented to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

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

L. BLUEGRASS RECORDING OF THE YEAR

The nominated track must be a new composition commercially released for the first time as a single or from an album during the current eligibility period.

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.

One trophy presented to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

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



M. QANTASLINK NEW TALENT OF THE YEAR

Judged on one nominated track as described under Eligibility & Definitions, **5. Single Definition**, page 4 of this 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.

One trophy presented to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

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

N. APRA AMCOS SONG OF THE YEAR

The nominated track must be a newly written 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.

One trophy presented to the Songwriter.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

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

O. CMC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

Judged on the nominated video clip.

Video clips must be commercially 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 release date of the associated audio track.

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

Trophy presented to the artist and video director; a maximum of two trophies.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

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



P. SINGLE OF THE YEAR

Judged on one nominated track as described below (also see Eligibility & Definitions, **5. Single Definition**, Page 4 of this Handbook):

- A recording of one song that has been officially released as a 'promotional single' via the artist or an industry recognised media servicing service (such as HSF Media Services, CRS, PlayMPE, The Same Tune, Checked Label Services, Airt, or similar) within the current eligibility period. There may be a requirement to provide some evidence of promotion of the recording eg: release date, service to radio, creation of a film clip or a publicity campaign.

AND

- The recording must also be commercially released as a single track on an industry recognised DSP (see 7 Industry Recognised DSP's below) **or** have 500 copies manufactured and made available for sale to the public.

A 'pre-sale' or 'instant gratification' track may be considered a '**single**' release providing both the above requirements are met.

A single **must be promoted** during the current eligibility period (see above) but may have been commercially released as a part of an album outside of the current eligibility period.

A recording that is a cover song which has originally been part of a previously released album (outside the current eligibility period) may be eligible for nomination in this category provided that both the above requirements are met.

The single cannot have been a finalist in any category in any previous year.

One trophy presented to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

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

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.

One trophy presented to the artist.



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. Incomplete nominations may be rejected, so please check carefully.

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 – Minimum 300 dpi 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** for assistance.