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48th Country Music Awards of Australia **Judging Process**

Judging is scheduled to commence on 8 October 2019. There are three rounds of judging, the first being the Integrity Round.

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 five expert panels to determine Bush Ballad, Bluegrass, Alternative Country Album, Traditional Country Album, and Contemporary Country Album categories. 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 in November in Sydney (date to be advised).

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 2020.

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 48th Golden Guitars Awards evening on Saturday 25th January 2020 when the eventual winner or winners receive their Awards.



48th Country Music Awards of Australia Judging Guidelines - Categories

TOYOTA ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Albums entered in categories B, C and D will be automatically entered in this category. The album will be judged on all aspects including but not limited to song selection, production, artist's performance and musical performance.

ALT COUNTRY MUSIC ALBUM OF THE YEAR

This category has passed through an Alt Country Integrity Panel of experts who have ruled on the eligibility of the entry.

The term Alt Country refers to the broader 'Americana' genre which is defined by the Americana Music Association (AMA) as 'music that incorporates, but is not limited to, elements of various American roots music styles, including country, roots-rock, folk, bluegrass, R&B and blues, resulting in a distinctive roots-oriented sound.

The album will be judged on all aspects including but not limited to song selection, production, artist's performance and musical performance. There is a requirement that the album contains 70% previously unrecorded and released for the first time in the relative eligibility period. Previously unreleased generally means that the songs are unreleased by any artist.

CONTEMPORARY COUNTRY MUSIC ALBUM OF THE YEAR

This category has passed through a Contemporary Country Integrity Panel of experts who have ruled on the eligibility of the entry.

A Contemporary Country Music album primarily incorporates the styles of country pop and country rock music.

The album will be judged on all aspects including but not limited to song selection, production, artist's performance and musical performance. The album must contain a minimum of 70% previously unrecorded, and released for the first time in the relative eligibility period.

TRADITIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC ALBUM OF THE YEAR

This category has passed through a Traditional Country Integrity Panel of experts who have ruled on the eligibility of the entry.

A Traditional Country Music album primarily draws from styles and influences of previous musical generations. More specifically, to be eligible for this category, the album should be primarily influenced by sub-genres such as, but not limited to: western swing, folk, Celtic, classic country, 70's outlaw music, bush ballad, or heritage focused songs.

The album will be judged on all aspects including but not limited to song selection, production, artist's performance and musical performance. The album must contain a minimum of 70% previously unrecorded, and released for the first time in the relative eligibility period.



MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Judged on an Album that may be entered in either Contemporary Country Album of the Year, Traditional Country Album of the Year, or Alt 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.

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Judged on an Album that may be entered in either Contemporary Country Album of the Year, Traditional Country Album of the Year, or Alternative 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.

COUNTRY MUSIC CAPITAL NEWS GROUP OR DUO OF THE YEAR

Judged on an Album that may be entered in either Contemporary Country Album of the Year, Traditional Country 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 that consists of and identifies as two or more people who have recorded and commercially released an album together during the eligibility period. 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.

VOCAL COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR

Judged on one entered track from an eligible commercially released single or album. The entered track must be a new recording first released during the current eligibility period. A Vocal Collaboration is defined as a recording 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.

Individual artists who identify as a duo or collaboration for a full album concept project (as opposed to a one-off track collaboration) and on that basis enter Group/Duo of the Year in the same awards year are ineligible to also enter the Vocal Collaboration of the Year category, unless an additional collaborator is featured on the entered recording and is not already named as a member of the group or duo.

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 work 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.



Bush Ballad Continued:

Please note: this category is dedicated to **traditional bush ballads** only. Bush Ballad is defined as: *“A bush ballad entry 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 would like to stress that this section is based on the song submitted and not whether the performer is a recognised “Bush Balladeer”.

HERITAGE SONG OF THE YEAR

Judged on one entered track from an eligible commercially released single or album that is not also entered for Bush Ballad of the Year in the same year. The entered track must be a new recording, first released during the current eligibility period. The Toyota Heritage Song of the Year must be a new work first released during the current eligibility period. A heritage song is an 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.

INSTRUMENTAL OF THE YEAR

The entered track must be a new work 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.

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

An entry 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. Entries are not limited to traditional bluegrass but so-called progressive bluegrass styles must exhibit and build on an understanding of the genre.

QANTAS NEW TALENT OF THE YEAR

Judged on the Artist's performance on the entered 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.

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 entered track must be a new work, first released during the current eligibility period. Entries in the category of APRA AMCOS Song of the Year will only be accepted provided that the artist is an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, AND that a minimum of **50% (half)** of the number of songwriters/composers of the song must be current financial professional members of the CMAA. Songwriters may nominate a track in the APRA AMCOS Song of the Year provided that (a) the same track has not been entered by another Artist, (b) the Songwriter must be a financial member of the CMAA, and (c) recording must comply with all eligibility criteria for this category.



CMC VIDEO CLIP OF THE YEAR

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 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.

APPLE MUSIC SINGLE OF THE YEAR

The entered track must have been delivered to radio either digitally or on CD within the eligibility period for the clearly stated purpose as a ‘promotional single’, and be made commercially available to the public via an industry recognised DSP. 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 entry in this category provided that both eligibility qualifications are met. The single cannot have been entered in any individual track related category in any previous year.

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.