

**COUNTRY MUSIC'S
PREMIER AWARDS**



TOYOTA

GOLDEN GUITAR AWARDS

54TH

**54th Country Music Awards of Australia
2026
Awards Handbook**



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54th Country Music Awards of Australia

AWARDS HANDBOOK

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1. ENTRY DATES

Entries open at 9:00am Thursday 28th August 2025 and close at 5:00pm on Wednesday 1st October 2025.

2. GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

2.1. Entries will only be accepted from current financial Professional Members of the CMAA. Membership information is available from www.country.com.au/membership

2.2. Only human creators are eligible to enter, be nominated in, or awarded a Golden Guitar Award. Any work without human authorship is ineligible in all categories.

2.3. All entries must be cleared in writing by the rights holder/s of the chosen recording/s entered.

2.4. Entries will only be accepted from artists or composers who are citizens or permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand.

- 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.

2.5. Album Producers, Songwriters, Video Directors or Vocal Collaborators of entered product (specifically in award categories A, B, C, D, H, N and O) who are not citizens or permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand (as outlined in 2.3) are not eligible to win a trophy and are not required to be current financial CMAA members. This does not preclude the album, video or song they worked on from being eligible for entry.

2.6. One entry per category per artist only.

2.7. If the entity entering is a Duo, both members are required to be current financial professional members of the CMAA.

2.8. If the entity entering is a Group (ie more than two 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 three members of a five-person Group must be current financial professional members).

2.9. Entry Fees: An initial entry fee of \$70.00 for the first category is payable, and thereafter a fee of \$20 for each additional category entered. GST is payable on all amounts for Australian residents. New Zealand residents are exempt from GST.

2.10. Eligibility and acceptance of entries will be solely at the discretion of the Board of the CMAA. All matters relating to the conduct of the entry, adjudication, and scrutineering processes of the 54th 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. It is the responsibility of the entrant to ensure all entry and eligibility requirements are met. The Board will use its best endeavours to ensure all requirements of entries and conduct of the awards are met but cannot be held responsible for any digression, misunderstanding of entry criteria or non-compliance in any matter.

2.11. Additional evidence relating to commercial release dates and media servicing dates for all entries must be provided to the CMAA upon request following entry. Failure to provide this information may result in disqualification.

2.12. The judging system for the 54th Country Music Awards of Australia is explained on the CMAA website.

2.13. All companies or persons entering material for the 54th 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 whatsoever, in part or in full.

2.14. All entrants are required to provide a current biography (250 words max) and high resolution colour headshot (image must a minimum 300 dpi and no larger than 5MB).

2.15. The results of awards will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

2.16. All entrants are bound by and agree to comply with the Rules of the 54th Country Music Awards of Australia as set out herewith.

2.17 . Winners will be announced at the Golden Guitar Awards event in January 2026.

3. CURRENT ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

The current eligibility period for all categories 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025 inclusive.

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1. ALBUM DEFINITION

Unless otherwise stated, 'Album' means a bundle of no less than seven (7) songs.

4.2. SINGLE DEFINITION

Unless otherwise stated, a 'Single' is defined as:

- a) A single is a song or instrumental recording that is released separately from an album. A single will often appear as a track on a subsequent album release and a track from a released album can be issued as a single.
- b) A recording serviced to media as a 'promotional single' within the current eligibility period.
- c) A recording which has additionally been commercially released (see definition 4.5) in any form during the current eligibility period, or prior to it.

4.3. NEW RECORDING

A 'New Recording' is a **new piece of music** that has never been commercially released **in any form at any time** prior to this awards eligibility period.

4.4. NEW WORK

A 'New Work' is defined as being **previously unrecorded and original compositions**.

The following are NOT considered 'New Work' for the purposes of these awards:

- A cover version or new recording of a previously commercially released song in any form and by any artist (including the entrant);
- New arrangements of traditional works.
- Live recordings of previously released songs.
- Acoustic recordings of previously released songs.
- Demo recordings of previously released song.
- A remix of a previously released song.
- A remix of a Vocal Collaboration with the other "featured" artist/s removed from mix; or
- A remix of a song also with other "featured" artists added to the mix.

4.5. COMMERCIALLY RELEASED

'Commercially Released' is defined as being released for sale or consumption to the general public on a recognised DSP (see section 4.6) or professionally manufactured physical product (minimum of 300 CD units or 100 vinyl units).

4.6. INDUSTRY RECOGNISED DSPs

Industry recognised DSPs include but are not limited to iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube, Amazon Music, Tidal and Bandcamp.

5. ALBUM CATEGORY REQUIREMENTS

5.1. There are three genre album categories (categories B, C and D).

5.2. Each award is for an Album (please refer to definition 4.1) that is commercially released (see definition 4.4) for the first time in any form in the current eligibility period.

5.3. Albums will be judged on all aspects including but not limited to song selection, production, artist's performance and musical performance.

5.4. When determining which genre album category to enter, the artist should consider which category, on balance, best suits their entry and enter accordingly.

5.5. An Integrity Panel will assess the entries in all three album categories prior to the first round of judging. If an album is deemed by the Integrity Panel to be unsuitable for that category, a representative of the Golden Guitar awards administration will contact the artist to advise.

5.6. Artists can only enter their album in ONE of the three genre album categories (categories B, C & D).

5.7. Entrants in album categories B, C and D will additionally be automatically entered in the Toyota Album of the Year category (category A).

5.8. To qualify for all album categories A, B, C and D, the following criteria must be met:

- The album must contain no fewer than seven (7) songs.
- **A minimum of 70%** of the recordings must be new recordings **and** new works (as per our definitions 4.3 and 4.4)
- **A minimum of 50%** of the recordings included on the album **must have been commercially released for the first time in any form during the current eligibility period** (see definition 3 and 4.5)

5.9. Albums featuring producers who are not citizens or permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand are eligible to be entered. Only winners who are citizens or permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand (see definition 2.3) will receive trophies.

6. CATEGORIES & ELIGIBILITY

A TOYOTA ALBUM OF THE YEAR

The top 5 finalist albums from each in categories B, C and D will be automatically entered in this category.

The voting of this category will be undertaken in the final (VIP & CMAA member) round, with the ultimate winner decided from the 15 albums from across the three categories noted above.

Trophies will be presented to the artist and producer; a maximum of two trophies for each category. In the case that the artist is also the producer, one trophy will be awarded.

There are no upload requirements for this category.

B ALT COUNTRY / AMERICANA ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Alt Country/Americana describes a musical style that blends self-reflective lyrics with traditional country music and other genres including but not limited to rock, alternative rock, folk, indie, roots, and blues. It is often considered an ‘edgier’ genre of country music as it arose as a reaction to mainstream country music. Artists within this genre are often seen as outlaws, truth tellers, rebels and against the grain. Many people think of Alt Country/Americana when they hear names like Lucinda Williams, Steve Earle, Gillian Welch and Jason Isbell.

Albums entered for consideration in this category should represent the best overall achievement by the performer(s), album producer(s), engineer(s), and songwriter(s). Elements to be considered are the performance, production, and engineering; additional elements for consideration are arrangements and musicianship.

Albums entered must be commercially released (see definition 4.5) for the first time in any form in the current eligibility period.



B Alt/Americana Country Album of the Year Cont:

Entries must also comply with the terms and conditions outlined in section 5.

Trophies will be presented to the artist and producer; a maximum of two trophies for each category. In the case that the artist is also the producer, one trophy will be awarded.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Album cover art
- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Producer head shot photo
- Producer biography
- All tracks appearing on your album
- Commercial release date of each track

C CONTEMPORARY COUNTRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Contemporary country primarily incorporates a modern contemporary and/or mainstream country sound drawing influences from but not limited to pop, rock and contemporary R&B music.

Albums entered for consideration in this category should represent the best overall achievement by the performer(s), album producer(s), engineer(s), and songwriter(s). Elements to be considered are the performance, production, and engineering; additional elements for consideration are arrangements and musicianship.

Albums entered must be commercially released (see definition 4.5) for the first time in any form in the current eligibility period.

Entries must also comply with the terms and conditions outlined in section 5.

Trophy presented to the artist and producer; a maximum of two trophies for each category. In the case that the artist is also the producer, one trophy will be awarded.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Album cover art
- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Producer head shot photo
- Producer biography
- All tracks appearing on your album
- Commercial release date of each track



D TRADITIONAL COUNTRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Traditional country 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, 70s outlaw music, bluegrass, bush ballad, or heritage focused songs.

Albums entered for consideration in this category should represent the best overall achievement by the performer(s), album producer(s), engineer(s), and songwriter(s). Elements to be considered are the performance, production, and engineering; additional elements for consideration are arrangements and musicianship.

Albums entered must be commercially released (see definition 4.5) for the first time in any form in the current eligibility period.

Entries must also comply with the terms and conditions outlined in section 5.

Trophy presented to the artist and producer; a maximum of two trophies for each category. In the case that the artist is also the producer, one trophy will be awarded.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Album cover art
- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Producer head shot photo
- Producer biography
- All tracks appearing on your album
- Commercial release date of each track

E MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

This category recognises excellence in performance by a solo male artist.

To qualify for this category, an entrant must submit three (3) new recordings (see definition 4.3), all of which must have been released commercially (see definition 4.5) for the first time in any form in the current eligibility period.

The three tracks may have been released as part of an album or EP, as single tracks, or as a combination of both.

A minimum of two of the three tracks must be a 'new work' as defined in 4.4.

All three of the submitted recordings must feature the entrant only as the lead vocalist and cannot be considered as one of the following:

- A vocal collaboration, in any form, with one or more other artists including any commercial release including a "featured" artist; or

E Male Artist of the Year Cont:

- A re-mix of a song also entered in Vocal Collaboration with the other ‘featured’ artists removed from mix; or
- A live recording; or
- A re-recording of any previously released song by the entrant in any form, including for example, a new acoustic version, a re-mix release, a new radio edit, a new version with other artists, or a full studio recording; or
- Previously recorded song with new or altered lyrics, arrangement, or melodies; or
- Releases on social media platforms such as TikTok, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Parlor, Snapchat, Soundcloud or any other platform of a similar nature that are not part of a full commercial release across recognised digital service providers.

One trophy presented to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Three tracks as per the above
- Commercial release date of each track

F FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

This category recognises excellence in performance by a solo female artist.

To qualify for this category, an entrant must submit three (3) new recordings (see definition 4.3), all of which must have been released commercially (see definition 4.5) for the first time in any form in the current eligibility period.

The three tracks may have been released as part of an album or EP, as single tracks, or as a combination of both.

A minimum of two of the three tracks must be a ‘new work’ as defined in 4.4.

All three of the submitted recordings must feature the entrant only as the lead vocalist and cannot be considered as one of the following:

- A vocal collaboration, in any form, with one or more other artists including any commercial release including a “featured” artist; or
- A re-mix of a song also entered in Vocal Collaboration with the other ‘featured’ artists removed from mix; or
- A live recording; or
- A re-recording of any previously released song by the entrant in any form, including for example, a new acoustic version, a re-mix release, a new radio edit, a new version with other artists, or a full studio recording; or
- Previously recorded song with new or altered lyrics, arrangement, or melodies; or

F Female Artist of the Year Cont:

- Releases on social media platforms such as TikTok, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Parlor, Snapchat, Soundcloud or any other platform of a similar nature that are not part of a full commercial release across recognised digital service providers.

One trophy presented to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Three tracks as per the above
- Commercial release date of each track

G COUNTRY MUSIC CAPITAL NEWS GROUP OR DUO OF THE YEAR

This category recognises excellence in performance by a Group or Duo as defined below.

A Group or Duo is defined as an act, consisting of two or more people, all of whom have recorded, performed, and worked together during the eligibility period such that it would be deemed that the group or duo was their primary project throughout the eligibility period.

To qualify for this category, an entrant must submit three (3) new recordings (see definition 4.3), all of which must have been released commercially (see definition 4.5) for the first time in any form in the current eligibility period.

The three tracks may have been released as part of an album or EP, as single tracks, or as a combination of both.

A minimum of two of the three tracks must be a 'new work' as defined in 4.4.

All three of the submitted recordings must feature the Group or Duo only as the featured artists and cannot be considered as one of the following:

- A vocal collaboration, in any form, with one or more other artists including any commercial release including a "featured" artist; or
- A re-mix of a song also entered in Vocal Collaboration with the other "featured" artists removed from mix; or
- A live recording; or
- A re-recording of any previously released song by the entrant in any form, including for example, a new acoustic version, a re-mix release, a new radio edit, a new version with other artists or a full studio recording; or
- Previously recorded song with new or altered lyrics, arrangement, or melodies; or
- Releases on social media platforms such as TikTok, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Parlor, Snapchat, Soundcloud or any other platform of a similar nature that are not part of a full commercial release across recognised digital service providers.



G Country Music Capital News Group or Duo of the Year Cont:

Please refer to conditions 2.6 and 2.7 for entrant membership requirements.

One trophy presented to the Group or Duo.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Three tracks as per the above
- Commercial release date of each track

H VOCAL COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR

A vocal collaboration is defined as a recording event by two or more people, working together on a 'one off' or occasional vocal collaboration.

Each entrant 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.

Judged on one entered track and recognises artistic excellence in a collaborative vocal performance.

The entry must be a new recording (see definition 4.3) and new work (see definition 4.4) which is commercially released (see definition 4.5) the first time in any form (either as an individual track or as part an album) during the current eligibility period.

Individual members of a Group, Band or Duo who are entered in category G (Country Music Capital News Group or Duo of the Year) may be eligible to enter in Vocal Collaboration of the Year provided that the entered track is a 'one-off' track collaboration.

A minimum of 50% of the artists who perform in the Vocal Collaboration of the Year entry must be citizens or permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand. All entries must meet the membership requirements outlined in 2.3 and 2.4.

Only winners who are citizens or permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand (as outlined in 2.3 and 2.4) will receive trophies.

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

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

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

I BUSH BALLAD OF THE 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.

It may combine lyrics previously published as poems or ballads with new music or vice versa, creating a substantially new song.

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

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

'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.'

Judged on one entered track. This category recognises excellence in performance and songwriting.

Entries 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.

The entered track must be a new recording and original Australian new work (see definition 4.3 and 4.4) and commercially released (see definition 4.5) for the first time in any form (either as an individual track or as part of an album) during the current eligibility period.

The entry cannot also be entered in Heritage Song of the Year in the same year (category J).

Trophies will be presented to the artist and songwriter; a maximum of two trophies. In the case that the artist is also the songwriter, one trophy will be awarded. Additional trophies are available for purchase separately.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Songwriter head shot photo (if different to Artist)
- Songwriter biography (if different to Artist)
- Upload your chosen track (one)
- Commercial release date

J HERITAGE SONG OF THE YEAR

A Heritage Song is an Australian composition that is defined as being about Australia, its people, history, geography, attitudes and ideals and the song and its content must clearly recognise those attributes.

This category recognises excellence in performance and songwriting. Judged on one entered track.

The track cannot also be entered in Bush Ballad of the Year (category I).

The entry must be a new recording and new work (see definition 4.3 and 4.4) which is commercially released (see definition 4.5) for the first time in any form (either as an individual track or as part an album) during the current eligibility period.

Entries in this category will only be accepted provided that the artist and composer are Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents (see definition 2.3).

Trophies will be presented to the artist and songwriter; a maximum of two trophies. In the case that the artist is also the songwriter, one trophy will be awarded. Additional trophies are available for purchase separately.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Songwriter head shot photo (if different to Artist)
- Songwriter biography (if different to Artist)
- Upload your chosen track (one)
- Commercial release date

K INSTRUMENTAL OF THE YEAR

This category recognises artistic excellence in an instrumental performance by a solo artist, collaborating artists, duo, or group. Judged on one entered track.

The entry must be a new recording (see definition 4.3) and new work (see definition 4.4) which is commercially released (see definition 4.5) for the first time in any form (either as an individual track or as part of an album) during the current eligibility period.

It cannot include any featured vocal performance.

Entrants in this category must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents. International collaborators are not eligible.

One trophy will be presented to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Upload your chosen track (one)
- Commercial release date



L BLUEGRASS RECORDING OF THE YEAR

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. The intent is to recognise bluegrass music that remains reminiscent of its culture's legacy while also engaging contemporary forms that might "push the boundaries" but still are relevant in the collective bluegrass music culture.

This category recognises artistic excellence in a bluegrass performance by a solo artist, collaborating artists, established duo, or established group. Judged on one entered track.

The entry must be a new recording (see definition 4.3) and new work (see definition 4.4) which is commercially released (see definition 4.5) for the first time in any form (either as an individual track or as part of an album) during the current eligibility period.

Entrants in this category must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents. International collaborators are not eligible.

One trophy will be presented to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Upload your chosen track (one)
- Commercial release date

M TOYOTA NEW TALENT OF THE YEAR

This category recognises artistic excellence by a solo artist, duo, or group whose eligibility year release(s) achieved a breakthrough into the public consciousness and notably impacted the musical landscape. Judged on one entered track.

Entries in this category may be:

A new recording (see definition 4.3), commercially released (see definition 4.5)

- a) for the first time in any form (either as a single or a track from an album) during the current eligibility period.

OR

- b) a recording officially serviced to media as a 'promotional single' during the current eligibility period, which has been released commercially in any form during the current eligibility period or prior to it. Please refer to definition 4.2 for additional clarification.



M Toyota New Talent of the Year Cont:

An artist may enter in Toyota New Talent of the Year up to five times over a period of five years commencing from and including their first entry year (in any category) in these awards either as an individual or as a member of a duo or group, provided they have not been:

- A finalist in this category more than two times in the past; or
- A previous winner of this category; or
- A finalist in any other category in these awards at any other time.

For example, if an artist enters these awards for the first time in 2022, they are then able to enter this category every year up to and including 2026, provided that the above criteria is met.

Please note that you cannot re-start your years of eligibility if you:

- Are a previously entered solo artist who becomes a member of a new duo or group; or
- Leave a previously entered duo or group and become a solo artist; or
- Leave a previously entered duo or group and become a member of a new duo or group.

All individual members of any entity entered in this category must meet the criteria stated above.

This entry is not required to be a new work (see definition 4.4).

One trophy will be presented to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Upload your chosen track (one)
- Commercial release date
- Media service date

N SONG OF THE YEAR

This category honours the craft, professionalism, and artistic achievement of songwriting. Entries will be judged solely on the songwriting and its presentation, representing outstanding accomplishment in the field. Only the merits of the song will be evaluated - factors such as recording success or artist popularity will not be considered. Judging is based on a single submitted track.

The entry must be a new recording (see definition 4.3) and new work (see definition 4.4) which is commercially released (see definition 4.5) for the first time, in any form (either as an individual track or part of an album) during the current eligibility period.

N Song of the Year Cont:

Entries in the category of Song of the Year will only be accepted provided:

- The recording artist is an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.
- A minimum of 50% (one half) of the number of songwriters/composers of the song must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents and current financial members of the CMAA. Please refer to sections 2.3 and 2.4 for additional clarification.

Songwriters may enter a track in the Song of the Year provided that:

- They have prior written consent from the rights holder/s of the recording (where the artist is someone other than the songwriter)
- They have notified co-writers of the entry in writing
- The same work has not been entered by another artist
- The recording must comply with the eligibility criteria for this category.

Trophies will be presented to the artist and songwriter/s who are citizens or permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand citizens only; a maximum of two trophies is presented. In the case that the artist is also the songwriter, one trophy will be awarded. Additional trophies may be purchased separately.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Songwriter/s head shot photo
- Songwriter/s biography
- Upload your chosen track (one)
- Commercial release date

O MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

This category recognises excellence, creativity and innovation in music videos. Judged on the entered video clip.

Music video clips must be broadcast for the first time in any form via traditional media broadcast (ie free to air or pay TV) or via industry recognised DSPs (See definition 4.6) in the current eligibility period.

Music videos released during the current eligibility year that are synchronised to a commercially released recording are eligible provided that they are recognised by the artist and/or the record label as the official music video for the individual track. Entries are treated as releases in their own right and are 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 no more than one song or medley.

O Music Video of the Year Cont:

Trophies are presented to the artist and video director; a maximum of two trophies will be presented. In the case that the artist is also the video director, one trophy will be awarded.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Video Director head shot photo
- Video Director biography
- Upload your file or YouTube URL/Link (one)
- Release date

P SINGLE OF THE YEAR

This category recognises artistic excellence in performance by a solo artist, collaborating artists, Group or Duo. Considerations such as the success of the recording and artist may be included in the judge's assessments. Judged on one entered track.

The entered track must have been officially serviced to media as a '**single**' during the current eligibility period (refer definition 4.2). The entry must also have been commercially released (see definition 4.5), in any form as a single during the current eligibility period. It may have been released prior to this eligibility period (Section 3) provided that it has never been released as a **single** (see definition 4.2) and it must have been taken from a commercially released album or EP.

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

The single cannot have been entered in any individual track related category in any previous year.

All entrants in this category must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents. Vocal collaborations with international artists are not eligible.

One trophy presented to the artist.

UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

- Upload your chosen track (one)
- Artist head shot photo
- Artist biography
- Commercial release date

HOW TO ENTER

PLEASE DO NOT USE ALL CAPS WHEN TYPING YOUR ENTRY - use Title Case Only. Entries found to have been completed using all caps will NOT be accepted!

All categories are to be submitted online as follows:

- To access the awards online entry portal, 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 entry/entries plus supporting information as required
- Submit your entry/entries
- Pay your entry fee

Please check your entry/entries very carefully to ensure there are no errors or omissions. An entry may be rejected if information supplied cannot be verified.

Entries will only be accepted in the following formats:

- Audio - mp3, m4a, or wma
- Video – URL of your clip (eg YouTube)
- Head Shot Photo – Minimum 300 dpi JPEG or PDF (maximum 5MB)
- Album Art (**cover only**) - JPEG or PDF
- Biographies – Max 250 words, TEXT ONLY!

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

PLEASE DO NOT USE ALL CAPS WHEN TYPING YOUR ENTRY - use Title Case Only. Entries found to have been completed using all caps will NOT be accepted!

If you are experiencing difficulties, do not have access to the internet, or require clarification on a condition of entry, please email the GG Awards Panel Help Line (goldenguitars@country.com.au)

or phone (during business hours) 0491 108 657 for assistance.