

Media release: Embargoed until Friday, July 6



Entries now open for SAM Awards

The South Australian Music (SAM) Awards return this November and entries are now open, with the winners to be announced later this year at the annual presentation ceremony.

A stand out fixture on the UNESCO Adelaide City of Music's calendar of events, the awards exist to recognise, promote and celebrate excellence in the South Australian contemporary music industry.

Online entries across a range of categories run from today until August 12, so musicians can nominate now for a chance to be recognised in the elite company of previous winners such as A.B. Original and Tkay Maidza.

Once again, the award categories will include both People's Choice Awards, voted by the public, and SAM Awards, selected by a judging panel of local and national industry peers, awarded on November 8 at the music industry's night of nights – the SAM Awards Gala Ceremony.

An innovation for the 2018 awards is the removal of the Best Male and Best Female categories, to be replaced with Best Group and Best Solo Artist.

General Manager of Music SA Lisa Bishop explained: "We believe it is important not to vote on the basis of gender. SA has a diverse pool of high quality, contemporary musicians at the top of their profession, who collaborate and perform together and are recognised by the industry and audiences as equals."

Also launching today is this year's SAM Awards website:

<https://southaustralianmusicawards.com.au/>, which will be your one stop shop for information about the event, entries, the judging process and details of past winners.



Musicians may enter themselves to be in the running or music fans can enter their favourite act via the website.

The 2018 Awards continue under the stewardship of Music SA, which has organised the SAM Awards since 2015, following the re-branding of the Fowler's Live Music Awards.

Chair of Music SA Anne Wiberg said the 2018 awards are set to pay tribute to the incredible talent we have in our state.

"The music being produced in South Australia right now is outstanding and the opportunity to celebrate this through an event like the SAM Awards is a real privilege," she said.

Alongside Music SA, this year's SAM Awards will be presented in conjunction with major partners **Arts South Australia** (through the Music Development Office), **Moshtix**, **Australian Hotels Association (SA Branch)** and beverage partners **Yalumba Wines**, **The Hills Cider Company** and **Young Henrys**.

The ceremony continues to be an open event, with earlybird tickets going on sale to the general public on August 16 via Moshtix.

Award categories:

further presenters to be announced

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

BLUES & ROOTS Artist
COUNTRY Artist
ELECTRONIC Artist
EXPERIMENTAL Artist
FOLK Artist
HEAVY Artist
HIP HOP Artist
JAZZ Artist
POP Artist
PUNK Artist
ROCK Artist
WORLD MUSIC Artist

Presented by The Gov
Presented by The Grace Emily Hotel
Presented by Fresh 92.7
Presented by Ghostnote Studios
Presented by Wheatsheaf Hotel
Presented by Underground Records
Presented by Northern Sound System
Presented by Elder Con
Presented by Fat Controller
Presented by Three D Radio
Presented by Crown and Anchor Hotel
Presented by WOMADelaide

SAM AWARDS

INDUSTRY AWARDS:

Best Studio
Best Engineer
Best Music Festival / Event
Best Music Venue
Best Manager
Best Cover Art
Best Music Video

Presented by Moshtix
Presented by AHA (SA Branch)

Presented by Channel 9

MAJOR AWARDS:

Best Song
Best New Artist
Best Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander Artist

Presented by APRA AMCOS
Presented by Nexus Arts



Best Group
Best Solo Artist
Best Release

Presented by The Music

JUDGES

Alice Fraser – Laneway Festival
Ben Martin – Golden Era Records
Courtney Duka – Yewth Mag / 5/4 Entertainment
Dan Rankine – Funkoars / A.B. Original
Jade O'Donahue – Three D Radio
Jason North – Truthinc Records / Heavy SA
Kelly Menhennett – Musician
Motez – Musician
Sharni Honor – - Porch Sessions
Spoz – Spoz's Rant
Nick Findlay – Director of Music, Triple J
Grant Gillies – Publisher, GAGA Music
Jess Beston – Director, Tiny Monster
Rebecca Young – Manager, Collective Artists
Richard Moffat – Festival Programmer, Groovin' The Moo



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