

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, 7 September 2022

Finalists announced in the Melbourne Prize for Music

- Four renowned Victorian musicians announced as finalists in the \$60,000 prize
- Judge's overwhelmed with this year's response
- Total prize pool of over \$90,000 provides valuable career development for Victorian musicians
- Voting opens in the Civic Choice Award 2022

The finalists in one of Australia's most valuable and sought-after music awards have been announced today. Valued at \$60,000, the Melbourne Prize for Music 2022 recognises an outstanding contribution to Australian music and our cultural life and provides the recipient with career development opportunities.

As the sector emerges from the last two years, the response to this year's Prize and Awards has been unprecedented.

Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director, Mr Simon Warrender said, "we are thrilled with the response this year from the music sector and are delighted to be able to offer opportunities to Victorian musicians across all genres."

"The continued community investment of our many partners and patrons has enabled us to offer this year's program and I would like to thank the local music sector for its support," Mr Warrender said.

"Congratulations to the four finalists and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all entrants this year – don't forget to cast a vote for one to win the Civic Choice Award," Mr Warrender added.

The **\$60,000 MELBOURNE PRIZE FOR MUSIC 2022** will be awarded to an outstanding Victorian musician or group, including performers and composers, whose body of work has made an outstanding contribution to Australian music and to cultural life. All music genres are eligible for this Prize. **Supported by Principal Patron, The Vera Moore Foundation and The Tallis Foundation.**

Finalists in the Melbourne Prize 2022 receive \$1,000 each, **supported by Fed Square**. The finalists are:

Missy Higgins Liza Lim Mindy Meng-Wang Jim White

Judge's Statement: "We were overwhelmed with the response this year. With an increased artistic and cultural diversity evident across all entrants, the Victorian music sector is alive and well and a vibrant and creative contributor to Australian music. The four finalists in the Melbourne Prize for Music 2022 demonstrate remarkable and sustained achievement across all areas of music. Music touches us all and is the fabric of our cultural life and community well-being and we would like to thank all entrants this year and the local music sector for their interest and support."

The 2022 judges include three esteemed music professionals – **Professor Deborah Cheetham AO**, soprano and composer, **Helen Marcou AM**, co-founder of Bakehouse Studios and SLAM, and **Benjamin Northey**, conductor.

The winner of the Melbourne Prize for Music 2022 will be announced on 9 November, together with the winners in the following two categories:

The **\$20,000 BELEURA EMERGING COMPOSERS AWARD 2022** will be awarded to an emerging Victorian composer to develop their career. All genres of composer are eligible for this Award. **Supported by The Tallis Foundation, in memory of John Tallis (1911-1996).**

The **\$10,000 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD 2022 (+ \$1,000 Qantas voucher)** will be awarded to a Victorian musician or group, including performers and composers, to fund project/s, travel or other proposals to assist with their music career. **Supported by Dr Alastair Jackson AM.**

Voting is now open for the **\$2,000 CIVIC CHOICE AWARD 2022**, which will be awarded to a finalist in the Melbourne Prize for Music 2022 with the highest number of public votes. Voters have a chance to win an overnight stay at the Sofitel Melbourne On Collins, *Melbourne's hotel for the Arts*, and a \$100 Readings Gift Voucher.

KEY DATES:

Finalists announced: Wednesday 7 September 2022 at melbourneprize.org / Civic Choice Award 2022 voting opens

Winners announced: Wednesday 9 November 2022 at melbourneprize.org / Civic Choice Award 2022 voting closes at 5pm

Winner of the Civic Choice Award 2022 announced: Friday 11 November 2022

For information visit www.melbourneprize.org.

For more information or for interview opportunities contact Adi Stevens at Royce on 0407411088.

- ENDS -

Progress of the Prize can be followed via our social media platforms:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Melbourne-Prize/165519083499496>

https://twitter.com/Melbourne_Prize

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Melbourne Prize Trust operates, the People of the Kulin Nation, and pay our respects to the elders, past, present and future.

The Melbourne Prize for Music 2022 & Awards are made possible through the generous support of the partners and patrons, many of whom have supported the Prize since its inception in 2005. Please see the full 2022 Partner list below.

The Vera Moore Foundation is acknowledged and thanked for their most generous support as Major Patron.

Thank you to our Prize and Awards partners **The Vera Moore Foundation**, **The Tallis Foundation** and **Dr Alastair Jackson AM**.

Thank you to patrons **Diana Gibson AO**, **The Yulgilbar Foundation**, **The MRB Foundation**, **The Scanlon Foundation** and **30 Ten Art Studio**.

Thank you to Corporate Partners **Sofitel Melbourne On Collins**, *the Hotel for the Arts*.

The visual identity and design for this year's Prize is the creation of leading Melbourne design studio and Foundation Partner, **PLAYGROUND**. Thank you to CEO Sally Dobell, Creative Director Adit Wardhana, Kim Hankin and designer, Ezekiel Crawford.

The Melbourne Prize Trust is proud to have the **Victorian Government**, through **Creative Victoria** and the **City of Melbourne Awards - Arts Excellence Program**, as Government Partners.

Fed Square is the Finalist Fee and Foundation Events Partner and 'home' of the annual Melbourne Prize. Their generous support from inception is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to **Committee for Melbourne** for providing the office for the **Melbourne Prize Trust** and to our founding and operations partner listed below.

The Melbourne Prize Trust is proud to have **Kutcha Edwards** as its Cultural Advisor.

Thank you to **The Mighty Wonton** for our IT support and website development.

Notes to the editor:

Launched in 2004, the [Melbourne Prize Trust](#) was established to recognise and reward talent, excellence and inspire creative development. The Trust achieves this aim by running the annual Melbourne Prize, which is funded by a collaboration of private and public sector partnerships and patrons. The Melbourne Prize Trust and annual Melbourne Prize were founded by Executive Director, Simon Warrender. [Committee for Melbourne](#) is a founding supporter.

In its 17th year and being one of the most valuable arts prizes of its kind in Australia, the annual Melbourne Prize operates in a three-year cycle, including the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture (2020), the Melbourne Prize for Literature (2021) and the Melbourne Prize for Music (2022).

Since inception, the annual Melbourne Prize has made available more than \$1.8 million in prizes and awards, artist residencies, equipment grants and an annual public exhibition at Federation Square to Victorian writers, sculptors and musicians.

The origins of the Melbourne Prize Trust date back to *The Magic Pudding* sculpture commission, as part of a children's garden concept, at the [Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne](#) – an initiative of Simon Warrender implemented in 1998 through Committee for Melbourne's Future Focus Group. Miniatures of this sculpture are available for purchase through the Melbourne Prize Trust; a Deductible Gift Recipient and Income Tax Exempt Charity.

All announcements and further information will be available at www.melbourneprize.org

Past recipients - Melbourne Prize for Music & Awards

Melbourne Prize for Music

2019 Professor Deborah Cheetham AO
2016 Kutcha Edwards
2013 Brett Dean
2010 David Jones
2007 Professor Paul Grabowsky AO

Outstanding Musicians Award

2016 Scott Tinkler
2013 Stephen Magnusson
2010 Ben Northey
2007 Genevieve Lacey

Development Award

2019 Mojo Juju
2016 Matthias Schack-Arnott
2013 Kate Kelsey-Sugg
2010 Natalie Bartsch
2007 Julian Langdon

Beleura Emerging Composers Award

2019 Andrea Keller
2016 Kate Neal

Distinguished Musicians Fellowship

2019 - Erkki Veltheim

Thank you to our 2022 Partners and Patrons.

Design by **PLAYGROUND**

Major Patron	Government Partners	Melbourne Prize for Music 2022 Partners	Beleura Emerging Composer Award 2022 Patron	Professional Development Award 2022 Patron	
 <p>vera moore FOUNDATION</p>	<p>CREATIVE VICTORIA</p> <p>M CITY OF MELBOURNE</p> <p>Event Partner and Finalist/Judges Fees</p> <p>FED SQ.</p>	 <p>vera moore FOUNDATION</p>  <p>BELEURA HOUSE & GARDEN MORNINGTON</p>	 <p>BELEURA HOUSE & GARDEN MORNINGTON</p>	<p>Dr Alastair Jackson AM</p>	
Patrons	Founding Partners	Creative Partner	Corporate Partner	Professional Services	
<p>Diana Gibson AO</p> <p> YULGILBAR The Yulgilbar Foundation</p> <p> scanlon foundation</p> <p>MRB Foundation</p> <p>30TEN ART STUDIO <small>www.gutillaumbelltee.com</small></p>	<p> COMMITTEE FOR MELBOURNE</p> <p> EY Building a better working world</p> <p>MinterEllison</p>	<p>PLAYGROUND</p>	<p> S O F I T E L MELBOURNE ON COLLINS</p>	<p> Grant Thornton</p>	
Website Design and Management	Signage & AV	Media Communications	Print Partners	Banners	Trophies
<p>PLAYGROUND</p> <p>The Mighty Wonton</p>	<p> premiergraphics architectural & environmental signage</p> <p> CREATIVE VISION AUDIO</p>	<p>ROYCECOMM.</p>	<p> ELLIKON FINE PRINTERS</p> <p> Spicers</p> <p> Rothfield</p>	<p> Evan Evans</p>	<p> FUNDERE FOUNDRY</p>