

Deborah Cheetham AO wins \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Music 2019

- An exceptional year for female Victorian musicians who took top honours in 2019
- Winners of the Development Award 2019, Beleura Emerging Composers Award 2019 and Distinguished Musicians Fellowship 2019 have also been announced
- More than \$110,000 in prize money awarded

The winners of the esteemed **Melbourne Prize for Music 2019 and Awards** were announced tonight at a special awards ceremony.

Acclaimed Indigenous soprano, composer and Artistic Director of Short Black Opera **Deborah Cheetham AO** was awarded the \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Music 2019 for being an outstanding Victorian musician whose work demonstrates exceptional musicianship, skill and creativity. The 2019 Melbourne Prize is supported by major patron **The Vera Moore Foundation**.

Vocalist and songwriter **Mojo Juju** is the recipient of the **\$18,500 Development Award 2019** for her outstanding musical talent and the potential to develop her professional career. The Development Award 2019 includes \$10,000 cash, a \$6,000 Yamaha Music voucher and a \$2,500 Qantas airfare voucher. This award is supported by **Dr Alastair Jackson AM, Yamaha Music Australia** and **Qantas**.

Jazz pianist **Andrea Keller** is the recipient of the **\$12,500 Beleura Emerging Composers Award 2019** to commission work to further develop her career. This award is made possible by **The Tallis Foundation** in memory of **John Tallis (1911-1996)**.

Composer, improviser and performer Erkki Veltheim was awarded the **\$20,000 Distinguished Musicians Fellowship 2019**, which includes a commercial engagement with the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, made possible by the **Melbourne Conservatorium of Music** and **The University of Melbourne**.

The announcement of this year's winners was made at Federation Square, the exhibition and event partner of the annual Melbourne Prize, to coincide with the opening of a free exhibition of all 2019 finalists' work, which will run until 25 November 2019.

The winners of the **Melbourne Prize for Music 2019 and Awards** were selected by a judging panel, consisting of some of Australia's most respected music identities, including **Kate Miller-Heidke**, singer/songwriter; **Kutch Edwards**, singer/songwriter; **Professor Paul Grabowsky AO**, Pianist, Composer, Conductor, Director Monash Academy of Performing Arts; **Professor Liza Lim**, Composer, Professor of Composition, Sydney Conservatorium of Music; **Melissa King**, Director of Artistic Planning, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra; and **Helen Marcou AM**, Co-founder of Bakehouse Studios and SLAM.

Winners Biographies:

MELBOURNE PRIZE FOR MUSIC 2019 - WINNER

Deborah Cheetham AO - Composer, soprano, artistic director

The life that music has afforded Deborah has brought her closer to understanding the world and her place within it. As a singer, composer and member of countless audiences Deborah has found that a truth conveyed by music is the most powerful force for enlightenment. Deborah set out to create opportunities for Indigenous singers and audiences to engage with the world of classical music. Just as important has been the chance to open the hearts and minds of non-Indigenous audiences. Through her works including *Pecan Summer*, *Choral Connection Song Book* and *Eumeralla, a war requiem for peace*, these goals have been achieved many times over.

DEVELOPMENT AWARD 2019 - WINNER

Mojo Juju - Vocalist, songwriter

When Mojo Ruiz de Luzuriaga, known professionally Mojo Juju, dropped her album *Native Tongue* in 2018, it was an unforgettable statement. Where her previous output had steered away from being overtly intimate and raw, *Native Tongue* burst out like a diary on record, a deep exploration of Mojo Juju's Indigenous and Filipino identity and how this has shaped her. Mojo Juju has bagged some of her greatest achievements to date off the back of *Native Tongue* including collecting over 20 award nominations, including three at the ARIAs.

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BELEURA AWARD FOR EMERGING COMPOSERS 2019 - WINNER

Andrea Keller - Pianist, composer

Andrea is an Australian pianist & composer, dedicated to the performance and creation of contemporary jazz and improvised music. She has devised and produced a multitude of projects ranging from solo to large ensembles that fit under a broad jazz umbrella. Andrea has received multiple awards including three ARIAs, seven Australian Jazz Bell Awards, and two Art Music Awards, as well as an APRA Professional Development Award, the Merlyn Myer Composing Women's Commission, and fellowships from the MCA/Freedman Foundation and the Australia Council.

DISTINGUISHED MUSICIANS FELLOWSHIP 2019 - WINNER

Erkki Veltheim - Composer, improviser, performer

Erkki's practice spans composition, improvisation, audiovisual installation, electroacoustic music, pop and multidisciplinary performance. His work has been commissioned by Adelaide Festival, Vivid, Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Musica nova Helsinki. He also composed the orchestral works for Gurrumul's posthumous album *Djarimirri*. Erkki plays in the improvising trio 'North of North' with Anthony Pateras and Scott Tinkler, and has also performed with the Australian Art Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Black Arm Band, Elision and Ensemble Modern, and artists such as Chris Abrahams, Mark Atkins, William Barton, Han Bennink, Brett Dean, Robin Fox, Paul Grabowsky, Shane Howard, Stephen Pigram, Jon Rose and Wadada Leo Smith.

Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley said the Melbourne Prize for Music reflects Victoria's reputation as a music leader.

"Victoria stands proud as a hub for music and this year's finalists represent the talent of our local industry. Congratulations to Deborah Cheetham AO and all of this year's nominated artists on this well-deserved recognition - and thank you for helping to make Victoria the live music capital of Australia," Mr Foley said.

Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp congratulated the winners of the 2019 Melbourne Prize for Music and Awards.

"Melbourne has once again shown why it's the cultural capital of Australia, with our 2019 winners sure to make important contributions to the city's creative community," the Lord Mayor said.

"This award recognises their exceptional skills and creativity and we look forward to seeing what they achieve in the future," The Lord Mayor added.

Celebrating 15 years of supporting Victorian artists, **Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director**, Simon Warrender said that he is delighted with the strong response to this year's Melbourne Prize for Music 2019 & Awards.

"The response to this year's prize I am sure made choosing a winner a challenging task for the judges," Mr Warrender said.

"On behalf of the Melbourne Prize Trust, I would like to commend our winners, finalists and applicants all of whom strengthen and enrich Melbourne's local music scene, as well as our global reputation for creativity.

"I would like to acknowledge the generous support and community investment of our 2019 partners and patrons who have made it possible to offer the Melbourne Prize 2019 program and exhibition, and for recognising the importance of supporting and developing our arts and culture," Mr Warrender said.

Each of the finalists across all 2019 award categories are still in the running for the publically-voted **\$3,000 Civic Choice Award 2019**. Supported by Readings, voting for the Civic Choice Award is now open at www.melbourneprize.org. Voters will have a chance to win an overnight stay at Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, Melbourne's Hotel for the Arts.

For more information or for interview opportunities contact Nicolette Roberts at Royce Communications on 8628 9320 or 0438 143 342 or visit www.melbourneprize.org

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

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

https://twitter.com/Melbourne_Prize

KEY DATES:

- **Public Exhibition at Federation Square:** Monday 11 November 2019 - Monday 25 November 2019
- **Winners announced:** Wednesday 13 November 2019
- **Winner of the Civic Choice Award 2019 announced:** Friday 29 November 2019

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 partners and patrons. The Melbourne Prize Trust and annual Melbourne Prize was founded by Executive Director, Simon Warrender. **Committee for Melbourne** is a founding supporter.

The Melbourne Prize for Music 2019 and Awards is made possible through the generous support of our 2019 partners and patrons of the Melbourne Prize Trust.

The Trust is proud to have the **Victorian Government**, through **Creative Victoria**, and the **City of Melbourne** as Government Partners. The generous support of our major patron and prize partner, **The Vera Moore Foundation**, and all our **2019 partners and patrons** is greatly appreciated. Their support helps to develop our creative resources and provide opportunities to benefit our abundant artistic talent through the annual Melbourne Prize.

Federation Square is the Exhibition and Events partner and 'home' of the Melbourne Prize. This long-term partnership makes it possible for the public, visiting the free public exhibition each November, to engage with abundant talent in literature, music and (urban) sculpture and provides artists, writers and musicians with public exposure, in one of the country's most visited public spaces.

Creative development this year has been kindly undertaken by **PLAYGROUND**. The design identity is the work of **Caitlin Demetriou**. **Mr P Studios** have developed the digital visualisations.

The annual Melbourne Prize operates in a three-year cycle, including the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture, the Melbourne Prize for Literature and the Melbourne Prize for Music. The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture will be offered in 2020. It is the most valuable prize of its kind in Australia.

Since inception, the annual Melbourne Prize has made available more than \$1.5 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 and children's garden precinct at the Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne. Miniatures of this sculpture are available for purchase through the Melbourne Prize Trust, which is a Deductible Gift Recipient and Income Tax Exempt Charity.

Past recipients - Melbourne Prize for Music & Awards

Melbourne Prize for Music

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

2016 Kate Neal

2013 Kate Kelsey-Sugg

2010 Natalie Bartsch

2007 Julian Langdon

Distinguished Musicians Fellowship

2016 Kutcha Edwards

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Thanks to our 2019 Patrons and Partners:

Government Partners	Patrons	Melbourne Prize for Music 2019 Partners	Distinguished Musicians Fellowship 2019	Development Award 2019	Beleura Emerging Composers Award 2019
 	 vera moore	 vera moore		Dr. Alastair Jackson AM	
Exhibition & Event Partner	Diana Gibson AO	MELBOURNE PRIZE TRUST	Exhibition Consultant	 	Exhibition Signage & AV
	 The Yulgilbar Foundation	Corporate Partners	 Coley Consulting	Civic Choice Award 2019 Partner	 architectural & environmental signage
Founding Partners	Dr. Ron Benson	 HOTELS & RESORTS	Print Partners	 MELOURNE'S OWN SINCE 1989	
 	 scanlon foundation	 Spirit of Australia	 Print & Image Management	Media Communications	Banners
 Building a better working world	Professional Services	Creative Partners	  FINE PRINTERS	ROYCE COMMUNICATIONS	 Evan Evans
MinterEllison	 Grant Thornton	 PLAYGROUND®	IT Services	Trophies	Catering Partner
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