

## Finalists announced in the Melbourne Prize for Music 2019 & Awards

- An outstanding Victorian musician is poised to win \$60,000
- Record numbers of entries received across all 2019 award categories
- Public voting for the Civic Choice Award 2019 opens today

The finalists in one of Australia's most valuable music prizes, the **Melbourne Prize for Music 2019 and Awards**, have been announced today.

The Melbourne Prize for Music 2019 and Awards provides significant opportunities and financial rewards to Victorian musicians in recognition of their outstanding talent. The 2019 finalists have been shortlisted following a record number of entries spanning a range of music genres.

The **NEW \$60,000 MELBOURNE PRIZE FOR MUSIC 2019** will be awarded to an outstanding Victorian musician or group whose work demonstrates exceptional musicianship, skill and creativity. All music genres are eligible for this Prize. The Melbourne Prize for Music is supported by principal partner, **The Vera Moore Foundation** and the **Melbourne Prize Trust**. The finalists are:

**Deborah Cheetham AO David Bridie Andrea Keller Erkki Veltheim Sophie Brous**

The **\$18,500 DEVELOPMENT AWARD 2019** will be awarded to an early career musician or group of musicians who demonstrate outstanding musical talent and potential. All music genres are eligible for this Award. The Development Award 2019 includes \$10,000 cash, a \$6,000 Yamaha Music voucher and a \$2,500 Qantas airfare voucher. The Development Award 2019 is supported by **Dr Alastair Jackson AM, Yamaha Music Australia** and **Qantas**. The finalists are:

**Aviva Edean Mojo Juju Scott McConnachie Kaiit Waup Elizabeth Welsh**

The **\$12,500 BELEURA EMERGING COMPOSERS AWARD 2019** will be awarded to an emerging Victorian composer to commission work to further develop their career. All genres of composition are eligible for this Award. **The Beleura Emerging Composers Award 2019** is made possible by **The Tallis Foundation**, in memory of John Tallis (1911-1996). The finalists are:

**Annie Hui-Hsin Hsieh Andrea Keller Sophie Koh May Lyon Tilman Robinson**

The **\$20,000 DISTINGUISHED MUSICIANS FELLOWSHIP 2019** will be awarded to a finalist in the Melbourne Prize for Music 2019, the Beleura Emerging Composers Award 2019 and the Development Award 2019. **The Distinguished Musicians Fellowship 2019** will reward a Victorian musician with a commercial engagement with the **Melbourne Conservatorium of Music** and is made possible by the **Melbourne Conservatorium of Music** and **The University of Melbourne**. The recipient will be announced on November 13.

The 2019 judges include six esteemed music sector professionals: **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..

### 2019 JUDGES' STATEMENT:

*"The Melbourne Prize for Music arises out of a particular vision of our city as a place of depth, diversity and opportunity, and the many ways in which music reflects the fabric of contemporary life. The process of adjudication itself highlights the range of the competition, as the judges bring a vast body of knowledge and experience to the table; empathy and equality are stars that guide our deliberations. The quality of the music we have heard, and the future dreams shared with us, have amounted to a moving and exhilarating affirmation that Melbourne's musical culture continues to grow boldly, and that we should all take great pride in the power of music to transform, empower and heal. It is a privilege to be entrusted with this task. Congratulations to the finalists and thank you to all who entered this year."*

# MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release | Wednesday 4 September 2019

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

"The interest and talent in this year's Prize has been overwhelming and I would like to thank all entrants in what was a record-breaking year for the total number entries received," Mr Warrender said.

"Finalists have been chosen from an immensely strong field from across all genres and career stages. The finalists in this year's Melbourne Prize for Music 2019 and Awards are a testament to Melbourne and Victoria's dynamic and diverse music scene.

"On behalf of the Melbourne Prize Trust I would like to thank our principal partner, The Vera Moore Foundation, Government and Prize Partners, Event and Exhibition Partner Federation Square and all 2019 patrons and partners for their generous support in making this year's Melbourne Prize and Awards possible," he added.

Voting is now also open for the **\$3,000 CIVIC CHOICE AWARD 2019**, which will be awarded to a finalist across all Award categories with the highest number of public votes. The Civic Choice Award 2019 is proudly supported by **Readings**. Voters will have a chance to win an overnight stay at Melbourne Sofitel on Collins - Melbourne's hotel for the arts.

## KEY DATES:

- **Finalists announced:** Wednesday 4 September 2019
- **Public Exhibition at Federation Square:** Monday 11 Monday 25 November 2019
- **Winners announced:** Wednesday 13 November 2019
- **Winner of the Civic Choice Award 2019 announced:** Friday 29 November 2019

For all announcements visit [www.melbourneprize.org](http://www.melbourneprize.org)

For more information or for interview opportunities contact Nicolette Baxter at Royce on 8628 9320 or 0438 143 342

- ENDS -

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

[facebook.com/Melbourne-Prize](https://facebook.com/Melbourne-Prize)

[twitter.com/Melbourne\\_Prize](https://twitter.com/Melbourne_Prize)

## 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

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with public exposure, in one of the country's most visited public spaces.

Creative development this year has been kindly undertaken by **Adit Wardhana** and **Lauren Messina**. The design identity is the work of **Caitlin Demetriou**. **Mr P Studios** have developed the digital visualisations. **Cornwell Design** are a Founding Partner of the Melbourne Prize Trust.

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

2013 Brett Dean  
2010 David Jones  
2007 Professor Paul Grabowsky AO

### Outstanding Musicians Award

2013 Stephen Magnusson  
2010 Ben Northey  
2007 Genevieve Lacey

### Development Award

2013 Kate Kelsey-Sugg  
2010 Natalie Bartsch  
2007 Julian Langdon

## 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
 <b>CREATIVE VICTORIA</b>	 vera moore	 vera moore	 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE	 Dr. Alastair Jackson AM	 BELEURA HOUSE & GARDEN MORNINGTON
 <b>CITY OF MELBOURNE</b>	 Diana Gibson AO	 MELBOURNE PRIZE TRUST	Exhibition Consultant	 <b>YAMAHA</b>	Exhibition Signage & AV
Exhibition & Event Partner	 YULGILBAR The Yulgilbar Foundation	Corporate Partners	 Coleby Consulting	 QANTAS Spirit of Australia	 premiergraphics architectural & environmental signage
 <b>FED SQUARE</b>	Dr. Ron Benson	 SOFITEL HOTELS & RESORTS	 Print Partners	Civic Choice Award 2019 Partner	 CREATIVE VISION AUDIO
Founding Partners	 scanlon foundation	 QANTAS Spirit of Australia	 ROTHFIELD Print & Image Management	 Readings BOOKS MUSIC FILM	Social Media
 <b>Cornwell</b>	 Grant Thornton	Creative Partners	 Spicers	Media Communications	[SARAHKEMPSON]
 COMMITTEE MELBOURNE	Professional Services	 <b>Cornwell</b>	 ELLIKON FINE PRINTERS	ROYCE COMMUNICATIONS	Trophies
 EY Building a better working world		 <b>MR.P</b>		IT Services	 Fundere Foundry
MinterEllison				The Mighty Wonton Names24	
Design by Cornwell and Mr P Committee for Melbourne a founding supporter					