



THE AUSTRALIAN JAZZ BELL AWARDS 2012 GUIDELINES

The Australian Jazz Bell Awards recognise and encourage excellence in the performance, recording and presentation of jazz in Australia. The Australian Jazz Awards are informally known as 'the Bells' in honour of one of the greats of Australian Jazz, Mr Graeme Bell MBE AO.

The Australian Jazz Awards 2012 will be announced at an awards ceremony on Thursday 3 May 2012.

The 2012 Bell Awards nominees will be chosen by a panel comprising jazz critics and key figures in the jazz industry, from Australia and/or overseas. The judges will announce a shortlist of three finalists for each category. To win an award, the judges must feel the nomination is up to international standard.

Any interested parties are invited to nominate others or themselves. The judges reserve the right to change the category of nomination. The Australian Jazz Bell Awards reserves the right to accept or reject nominations. A nomination is only rendered official if accepted by our judges and successful nominees will be notified of this via written confirmation.

As assessment is based on the nominated CD release, ten copies of the CD in question must be provided with the nomination. For all nominations, a supporting statement is required. This supporting statement should clearly outline the nominator's reason for nominating the artist or CD and can include any press material related to either the artist or the album in question.

A press release with the shortlist will be released in April 2012. Details of the date will be available on the website: www.bellawards.org and on our Facebook and twitter pages.

Eight awards will be announced on the night of the 2012 Bell Awards Ceremony: -

- **Best Australian Jazz Vocal Album**
(For a CD led by or featuring a vocalist)
- **Most Original Australian Jazz Album**
- **Best Australian Contemporary Jazz Album**
- **Best Australian Traditional Jazz Album**
- **Best Australian Jazz Song of the Year**
- **Best Australian Jazz Ensemble**
(Based on recordings and/or live performances, and achievements within the past year)
- **Young Australian Jazz Artist Of The Year**
(For musicians up to and including 25 years of age)
- **Hall of Fame**
(Recognising outstanding artistic achievement, and contribution to Australian Jazz by a living artist)

*** Nominations close 15 February 2012 ***

SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Best Australian Jazz Vocal Album**
Album led by or featuring a vocalist; featuring one or more Australian vocalists.
- **Most Original Australian Jazz Album**
This category will reward original music composed by the artists performing on the album, especially where artists achieve a high level of originality in the sound/concept of the music presented. Original compositions (by one or more members of the band) should comprise of more than half of the music on the recording. The music can encompass a variety of jazz and jazz-related styles.

However, this category and "Best Australian Contemporary Jazz Album" are mutually exclusive, no one album can enter both categories.
- **Best Australian Contemporary Jazz Album**
Jazz or jazz-based music in the view of the nominator the music is of wide appeal. The music may include original compositions by members of the band, and/or new arrangements for pieces drawn from the standard repertoire and popular music. Featuring Australian artists; or in the case of CDs recorded overseas, led by an Australian artist, or featuring a majority of Australian band members.

This category and "Most Original Australian Jazz Album" are mutually exclusive, i.e. no album can be nominated in both categories.
- **Best Australian Traditional Jazz Album**
Predominantly instrumental album; all styles that are before 1958. Featuring Australian artists; or in the case of CDs recorded overseas, led by an Australian artist, or featuring a majority of Australian band members.

- **Best Australian Jazz Song of the Year**

A song (either instrumental, or featuring vocals) that was released for the first time during the period between 1st January and 31 December 2011. The composer (or in the case of a co-composition, at least one of the composers) must be resident in Australia, or an Australian currently living overseas. This category restricts the entries to one per composer (a collaborative team is considered as one composer and no one in the team can be nominated a second time in this category).

- **Best Australian Jazz Ensemble**

For bands of any style or size; based on a range of their performances over the year. Who are based in Australia, or comprising Australians currently living overseas.

- **Young Australian Jazz Artist of the Year**

For musicians up to & including 25 years of age (as of 31st December 2011) living in Australia, or Australians currently living overseas.

This Award can only be won once.

- **Hall of Fame Award**

Recognises outstanding artistic achievement, and contribution to Australian jazz by a living artist.

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For further information please contact

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