



## **THE AUSTRALIAN JAZZ BELL AWARDS 2017 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 winners for 2017 will be announced at an awards ceremony on Thursday 18 May, 2017.

The pre-qualification is that the artist presenting the material must be an Australian citizen or resident. It is not required that all musicians in your band are Australian. There is also no requirement for the album to be recorded in Australia.

**Compositions:** There are no requirement for compositions to be by Australians except for the Best Composition category where all composers must be Australian.

The nominees for the finals of the Jazz Bell Awards 2017 will be chosen by voting members of the Australian Jazz Academy ([www.australianjazzacademy.org.au](http://www.australianjazzacademy.org.au)). The members of the Academy will be casting their ballot online at the latest on April 30 at midnight.

The nominees will be announced during the first week of May 2017 and an international panel comprising of International Jazz critics and professionals will vote to decide on the winner in each category.

The Australian Jazz Bell Awards reserves the right to accept or reject any application. An application is only rendered official if accepted by our organisation. We will be notifying every applicant whether the application is accepted or not. Each application must be endorsed by a member of the Australian Jazz Academy. Without such endorsement, we will not be considering the application.

To apply you are required to fill the application form "application to enter the Australian Jazz Bell Awards 2017", provide the details of the member that is endorsing the application, include 10 CDs and an optional online link where the music is available for streaming. We encourage you to do both. You can also include links to your YouTube videos although the videos cannot enter the awards at this stage, it will be a help to the members in their decision-making process.

A press release with the shortlist will be released in early May 2017. Details of the date will be available on the website: [www.bellawards.org](http://www.bellawards.org) and on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

### **Seven awards will be announced on the night of the 2017 Bell Awards Ceremony:**

- **Best Australian Jazz Vocal Album**  
(For a CD led by or featuring a vocalist)
- **Best Australian Instrumental Jazz Album**
- **Best Produced Album**

- **Best Australian Jazz Song/Composition of the Year**
- **Best Australian Jazz Ensemble of the Year**  
(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)
- **Graeme Bell Hall of Fame**  
(Recognising outstanding artistic achievement, and contribution to Australian Jazz by a living artist)

**\* Nominations close 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 \***

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

- **Best Australian Jazz Vocal Album**  
Album led by or featuring a vocalist; featuring one or more Australian vocalists.
- **Best Australian Instrumental Jazz Album**  
This category will reward to best recording that in the opinion of the members and judges is the most esthetic. To qualify the recording must be free of Lyrics. As it is becoming a trend for instrumental albums to have 1 or 2 tracks out of 10, that contain lyrics we will accept such albums but the songs containing lyrics will be excluded from the judgement.
- **Best Produced Album**  
This category will be awarded to the best sounding album. The members and judges will take into consideration the quality of the performance and the sound recording quality. The award will go the producer of the recording that must be an album comprising at least 50 minutes' worth of music.
- **Best Australian Jazz Song/Composition 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 2016. 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 of the Year**  
This category is designed to reward working large ensembles or big bands. The minimum size of the band must be 7 members. A list of the last 12 months' gigs must be provided as well as a live recording or video. Only the band leader must be Australian.
- **Young Australian Jazz Artist of the Year**  
For musicians, up to & including 25 years of age (as of 31 December, 2016) living in Australia, or Australians currently living overseas.  
This Award can only be won once.
- **Graeme Bell Hall of Fame Award**  
Recognises outstanding artistic achievement, and contribution to Australian jazz by a living artist. There are no applications for this category as the judges have the exclusivity for considering who should be nominated.

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**For further information, please contact**

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