

THE INDUSTRY OBSERVER

Ngaiire, Christine Anu and Claire Edwardes head 2019 AWMA finalists



[News](#) By [Lars Brandle](#) Sep 12, 2019

Ngaiire, Christine Anu and Claire Edwardes lead the finalists for the [2019 Australian Women in Music Awards \(AWMAs\)](#), set for Oct. 9 at Brisbane's Powerhouse.

Future soul singer Ngaiire is up for a hatrick, with nods for artistic excellence category, diversity in music and the songwriter award, a hotly-contested category that also features Mojo Juju and Thelma Plum.



Christine Anu

In the full list of nominations, published today, "My Island Home" singer Christine Anu scores a brace of chances, for artistic excellence and diversity in music, while percussionist Claire Edwardes is up for the creative leadership and excellence in classical music.

The lifetime achievement award will be contested by a handful of greats, Joy McKean, Marcia Hines, and Vika and Linda Bull, while a triumvirate of celebrated artists — Go-Betweens drummer Lindy Morrison, country singer Alison Hams and one time Eurovision rep Dami Im — will compete for the humanitarian award.



Lindy Morrison

Veteran broadcaster and author Jane Gazzo is up against Ange McCormack and Jules LeFevre in the music journalist honour, while the emerging artist category highlights stars-of-the-future Alice Skye, Ella Fence and Lisa Caruso.



Jane Gazzo

All up, 15 AWMA's will be handed out on the night, including three new award categories for excellence in classical music, music journalism and image making, with winners selected by a panel of industry professionals.

A special award will be presented to the 2019 inductee for the AWMA Honour Roll.

"Queensland is pleased to host the AWMA's for the second consecutive year, profiling our state's commitment to gender equality and providing opportunities for women," comments Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk in a statement unveiling the 2019 AWMA's shortlist.



Vicki Gordon

The event is a "fantastic addition to Queensland's vibrant arts scene," adds Di Farmer, minister for child safety, youth and women and minister for the prevention of domestic and family violence.

“They are another great opportunity to showcase the tremendous creativity and depth of talent of our many female artists and I hope it’s a springboard to further and well-deserved success.”

Performers on the night will include Renée Geyer, Katie Noonan, Clare Bowditch, Melinda Schneider, Ngaiire, Kaylah Truth, Cheryl Barker, Tamara-Anna Cislowska.



Katie Noonan

[The event](#) provides both an opportunity to “celebrate tremendous talent,” and offers a platform for artists and music practitioners to “come together, to learn and empower one another,” says founding director and executive producer Vicki Gordon, who [established the gala](#) to shine a light on the impressive and often unsung accomplishments of women across the Australian music industry.

Organisers [this year](#) received almost double the nominations, from every state and across all areas of diversity, reflecting “the urgent need for change in the Australian music industry,” Gordon notes.

See the full list of nominations below.

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Christine Anu, Nai Palm, NGAIIRE

CREATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Claire Edwardes

Elaine Chia

Katie Noonan

DIVERSITY IN MUSIC AWARD

Christine Anu

Lisa Cheney & Peggy Polias (Making Waves)

NGAIIRE

EMERGING ARTIST AWARD

Alice Skye, Ella Fence, Lisa Caruso

EXCELLENCE IN CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARD

Caroline Almonte

Claire Edwardes

Sarah-Grace Williams

EXCELLENCE IN IMAGE MAKING AWARD

Chloe Jean

Melaine Knight

Ntombi Moyo

FILMMAKER AWARD

Aimée-Lee Xu Hsien Curran
Tashi Hall

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Alison Hams

Dami Im

Lindy Morrison, OAM

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Joy McKean, OAM
Marcia Hines, AM
Vika and Linda Bull

LIVE PRODUCTION AWARD

Jenny Moon
Kait Hall
Laurie May

MUSIC JOURNALIST AWARD

Ange McCormack
Jane Gazzo
Jules LeFevre

MUSIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

Elise Reitze-Swensen
Lynette Irwin
Sue Telfer

MUSIC PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD

Jessica Vaini
Kerrie Geier
Tashi Hall

SONGWRITER AWARD

Mojo Juju
NGAIIRE
Thelma Plum

STUDIO PRODUCTION AWARD

Elise Reitze-Swensen (Feels)
Kathy Naunton
Virginia Read