

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 30 October 2026 (for release after 10am)

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2026 QUEENSLAND MUSIC AWARDS

SELF NOMINATE FOR GENRES, FESTIVAL & VENUE OF THE YEAR NOW

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Image accreditation: QMA 2025 Full Flower Moon Band - Blues / Roots Award Winners. Photographer: Darcy Goss Media

What do Amy Shark, Violent Soho, Troy Cassar-Daley, Kate Miller-Heidke, Sycco and Thelma Plum all have in common? They've been recognised by the Queensland Music Awards – that's what!

Nominations are now open for the 20th Queensland Music Awards (QMAs) set to celebrate the best and brightest in Queensland's music scene during the annual awards ceremony to take place in April 2026.

For more information and media requests, please contact Katlin McCullough
at katlin.mccullough@qmusic.com.au

Produced by QMusic with support from the Queensland Government via Arts Queensland, the QMA's are an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the Queensland music industry. Queensland based artists, filmmakers, producers, venues and festivals are invited to self-nominate for the suite of 20 genre and excellence awards, with submissions closing **Monday, 1 December 2025, 11.59pm – there will be NO EXTENSIONS.**

Judged by over 100 Australian based industry professionals, the Awards have long celebrated early career artists, acting as a launch pad for many who've become household names. Past winners include lauded artist and judge on The Voice Australia, **Kate Miller-Heidke**, who took home the Pop award in 2006 at the then Q Song Awards, a year before the release of her debut album *Little Eve*.

Last year's Electronic, Export and Song of the Year winner, **Young Franco** fresh off his North American tour encourages artists to get their nominations in saying,

"Being a part of the QMA's is so great, it really feels like a community and has always felt that way. Don't forget to nominate yourself!"

The **People's Choice Awards** are also back in 2026, thanks to long-time supporters **The Music**. Live music venues and festivals are invited to nominate from today (Thursday, 30 October 2025) for their chance to be crowned **Festival of the Year**, **Regional Venue of the Year**, **Metro Venue of the Year** or **Accessible and Inclusive Venue of the Year**. Once eligible finalists are selected fans will be invited to vote for the venue and festival of the year categories via **The Music's** website in early 2026.

As the music industry evolves - so do we! Here is what's new in 2026:

- **Producer of the Year:** this self-nominating award will recognise outstanding work by a Queensland music producer over the past year.
- **Breakthrough Artist of the Year:** this Industry Excellence Award determined by an expert judging panel recognises a breakthrough artist from Queensland.
- **Indigenous Artist of the Year:** replacing the historical song genre category, any First Nations artists who enters the self-nomination awards and identifies as Indigenous will automatically be eligible for this award.
- **Accessible and Inclusive Venue of the Year:** Updated to recognise that accessibility goes beyond physical facilities. This award celebrates venues that champion both physical accessibility and efforts to foster diversity and inclusivity in their programming and audiences.

In addition to the Self-nomination, Major, Industry Excellence and People's Choice awards the full suite of QMusic Scholarships and Prizes, supported by Arts Queensland will be presented at the QMA's ceremony. Applications for the [Dennis 'Mop' Conlon Scholarship](#), [Billy Thorpe Scholarship](#), [Carol Lloyd Award](#) and [Grant McLennan Fellowship](#) are open from Wednesday, 22 October 2025 to Thursday, 8 January 2026.

For further information / to nominate or apply for the Queensland Music Awards or QMusic Scholarships and Prizes please visit the [QMusic website](#).

queenslandmusicawards.com.au

2026 QMA Award Categories:

Self-Nominating Award Categories (Nominations Open 30 Oct – 1 Dec 2025)

Contemporary Classical; Blues & Roots; Children's Music; Country; Electronic; Folk; Heavy; Hip Hop; Jazz; Music for Screen; Music Video of the Year Award (Filmmakers only); Pop; Rock; Soul/Funk/R'n'B; World Award.

Venue & Festival Awards (Nominations Open 30 Oct – 1 Dec 2025)

Metro Venue of the Year (*People's Choice Award*); Regional Venue of the Year (*People's Choice Award*); Festival of the Year (*People's Choice Award*); Accessible and Inclusive Venue of the Year.

Major Awards

Song of the Year; Album of the Year; Highest Selling Single; Highest Selling Album; Export Achievement Award; Lifetime Achievement Award.

Industry Excellence Awards

Breakthrough Artist of the Year; Indigenous Artist of the Year Award; Regional Artist of the Year Award; Producer of the Year Award (NEW self-nominating award - producers only)

Apply now - queenslandmusicawards.com.au

#QldMusicAwards @QldMusicAwards

To view the QMusic Scholarships and Prizes [MEDIA KIT CLICK HERE.](#)

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For further information of requests for interviews please contact:

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About Queensland Music Awards

Produced by QMusic, 2026 will be the 20th iteration of the Queensland Music Awards (QMAs) – an annual celebration of Queensland’s best music. From the most promising breaking artists to established legends, the Queensland Music Awards have recognised the likes of Amy Shark, Keith Urban, Thelma Plum and each year produces a high-quality show featuring the states hottest acts and living legends.

About QMusic

QMusic is Queensland’s music industry development association. The work of QMusic is critical to the success of Queensland’s contemporary music economy. It is the only significant and established not-for-profit organisation in Queensland dedicated to delivering sector development and major music industry events including the QMAs and BIGSOUND with stimulate and grow the state’s music sector.