



Announcing the 2022 Soundmerch AMP recipient, King Stingray with their debut album 'King Stingray'



King Stingray's Dimathaya Burarrwanga & Roy Kellaway at The 18th Soundmerch Australian Music Prize
Photo credit: [@vasilipapathanasopoulos](https://www.instagram.com/vasilipapathanasopoulos)

Australia's most prestigious music accolade, the **Soundmerch Australian Music Prize** has today been awarded to **King Stingray** for their self-titled 2022 album, **King Stingray**, released via Cooking Vinyl Australia.

Taking home **\$30,000 cash** thanks to Soundmerch, King Stingray's acclaimed record joins the highly esteemed list of previous award-winning albums, including last year's **Smiling With No Teeth** by **Genesis Owusu** and 2020's **We Will Always Love You** by **The Avalanches**. The Soundmerch AMP was presented to King Stingray by AMP judges **Sose Fuamoli** and **Maia Bilyk** alongside Soundmerch owner **Tim Everist**, at the 18th annual ceremony held in **Sydney's Oxford Art Factory** this evening.

King Stingray's Roy Kellaway and **Dimathaya Burarrwanga** flew into Sydney to attend the event and accept the prize.

"We're so unbelievably stoked to have won the 18th AMP. We had so much fun making this record and we just hope that listeners can hear the joy that we had making it, as well as feel the joy for themselves. It really means the world to us to hear people enjoying the album and we have so many people to thank: our manager Stu; our family who support us all the way; the Yirrkala and Nhulunbuy community; Kris Keough; Casey from Select Music; our publicist Bec from Deathproof; Dan, Craig and Damo from Sony Music Publishing; Jack, Leigh and Stu from Cooking Vinyl Australia. And of course, a massive thanks to all the judges of The AMP. The list goes on! Thanks everyone! Rock on!" – King Stingray

King Stingray is the debut studio album from the Australian (Northeast Arnhem Land) rock group, **King Stingray**. Produced by band member Roy Kellaway with all 10 tracks written by Kellaway and fellow member **Yirrnja Yunupinju**. The band describe their sound as "Yolŋu surf rock", and perform songs with lyrics in both English and Yolŋu Matha.

The album was released on 5 August 2022 and debuted at **number 6 on the ARIA Charts**. At the **2022 ARIA Music Awards**, the album was **nominated for Album of the Year, Best Group, Best Rock Album, Best Cover Art** and **won the Breakthrough Artist award**. The album was nominated for **Australian Album of the Year at the J Awards**.

As always, **The Soundmerch AMP** continues to rise above genre, popularity, politics and sales, to focus entirely on artistic merit. *King Stingray* was chosen from a massive **490 eligible 2022 releases**, of which the judges chose **98 as official nominations**, and then carefully deliberated on a **shortlist of the top 9 albums of the year**.

Thanks and congratulations must be showered upon the 18th judging panel - a diverse judging panel of **over 30 industry experts**, including artists, radio presenters, music writers and music retailers, King Stingray's LP spearheaded an absolutely stellar list of high-calibre releases that reflect the diversity and strength of the Australian music landscape.

"When we appoint judges we don't tell them how to judge, or what we're looking for. We simply say that this prize is about the album format (so don't base your judgement on 1, 2 or 3 tracks) and that originality is the number one consideration. King Stingray - the band - are wonderfully original and their 2022, debut album certainly tells us this. Well done King Stingray and your support team." – **Scott Murphy, AMP Founder/Director**

King Stingray by King Stingray was chosen as the winning album of The 18th Soundmerch AMP from a Shortlist of 9 albums – the other 8 in contention were: **Foreign Language** by **1300**; **Everything Is Dangerous But Nothing's Surprising** by **Body Type**; **Running With The Hurricane** by **Camp Cope**; **Pre Pleasure** by **Julia Jacklin**; **Amateurs** by **Laura Jean**; **The Real Work** by **Party Dozen**; **As Above, So Below** by **Sampa The Great**; **A Colour Undone** by **Tasman Keith**.

"King Stingray's debut album didn't jump out at me immediately, unlike some of the other records on what is an incredible shortlist of nine. Over time, I began to admire the beauty, joy and deft instrumental manoeuvres; a record full of bloody gorgeous arrangements! Turns out, I AM a sucker for a debut — it's my favourite album of the crop." - **Phil Jamieson**

The AMP wishes to thank major sponsor, **Soundmerch** for their generous contribution to fund the coveted prize, as well as long-term champions, **APRA AMCOS, Mushroom Group, PPCA, Inertia, Sony Music, Universal Music AU, EMI, Virgin Music AU, Island Records, MGM, Sony Music Publishing, Warner Music** and **Brett Oaten Solicitors**. New partners on board in 2022 were **The ACE Hotel, Sydney** and the **Oxford Art Factory**.

The prize continues to exist in order to discover, reward and promote new Australian music of excellence.

THE 18th SOUNDMERCH AMP RECIPIENT:

KING STINGRAY



PREVIOUS AUSTRALIAN MUSIC PRIZE RECIPIENTS

- 2021 – Genesis Owusu – Smiling With No Teeth
- 2020 - The Avalanches - We Will Always Love You
- 2019 - Sampa the Great - The Return
- 2018 - Gurrumul - Djarimirri
- 2017 - Sampa the Great, Birds and the BEE9
- 2016 - A.B. Original - Reclaim Australia
- 2015 - Courtney Barnett - Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes I Just Sit
- 2014 - REMI - Raw X Infinity
- 2013 - Big Scary, Not Art
- 2012 - Hermitude, HyperParadise
- 2011 - The Jezabels, Prisoner
- 2010 - Cloud Control, Bliss Release
- 2009 - Lisa Mitchel, Wonder
- 2008 - Eddy Current Suppression Ring, Primary Colours
- 2007 - The Mess Hall, Devils Elbow
- 2006 - Augie March, Moo, You Bloody Choir
- 2005 - The Drones, Wait Long by the River and the Bodies of Your Enemies Will Float By

For more information: www.australianmusicprize.com.au



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THE SOUNDMERCH AMP 2022 IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



18TH SOUNDMERCH AMP JUDGES

Britt Aulen	Kate Casey	Sose Fuamoli	Brent Griffin	Chris Holland	Martha Marlow	Georgia Sallybanks	Cassie Walker
Steve Bell	Bryget Chrisfield	Chris Gill	Reg Harris	Phil Jamieson	Abbe May	Annika Schmarsel	Simon Winkler
Chris Berkley	Aeron Clark	Mike Glynn	Laura Hill	Fanny Lumsden	Rory McDougall	Taylah Strano	Bernard Zuel
Maia Bilyk	Tim Daley	Dan Gordon	Michael Hohnen	Emmy Mack	Pat Monaghan	Jeb Taylor	
Mikey Cahill	Andrew Drever	Alex Gow		James Mangohig	Zoe Radas	Henry Wagons	