



**EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM TUESDAY 5 OCTOBER**

**The Australian Music Prize announces SoundMerch as 2021 major sponsor increasing prize money to \$30K + first nominated albums revealed + judging panel with international judge, Billy Bragg announced**

Australia's most prestigious music award, **The Australian Music Prize (AMP)**, returns for its 17th installment in 2021 revealing its nominated albums to date up for a huge **\$30,000** cash prize thanks to major sponsor **SoundMerch**. Open to all Australian artists who have released an eligible album during the 2021 calendar year, the **SoundMerch AMP** will award one lucky act with the **\$30K** cash prize for the best album of the year as decided by an expert panel of industry judges. In a **SoundMerch AMP** first, this year will also feature a special international guest judge, welcoming renowned artist **Billy Bragg** to the diverse judging panel. Judges are currently listening to over 300 eligible 2021 albums, with more still to come as albums will continue to be added weekly right up to the end of the year, estimating to amount to upwards of 415 releases judged for the 16th annual prize.

***"The AMP is such a wonderful reflection of the calibre of music that was released in one year and I truly love that it's judged on the music itself and the album as a whole, no matter who you are or who you are 'represented by'. I have always had such a high regard for it and having our album make the shortlist last year truly was mind blowing. Now to be on the other side and listening to all the incredible works that have been released so far, it is a heartening sigh that regardless of what's happening in the world, the quality of music and art being created is forging ahead."***

– Fanny Lumsden, AMP 2020 Shortlisted Artist & AMP 2021 Judge

For the first time in its 17 year history, **The SoundMerch AMP** has a guest international judge, **Billy Bragg**. Set to tour Australia for three unique shows on consecutive nights in five major cities from **January 14 to February 10 2022** as a part of his ***One Step Forward, Two Steps Back*** tour, **Billy Bragg** joins an all encompassing lineup of Australian music industry professionals including artists, radio broadcasters, record store owners, music writers and editors currently compiling the immense longlist of **SoundMerch AMP** nominated albums. **Bragg** says he is honoured to be included as **The SoundMerch AMP's** inaugural international judge, ***"Australia has given me so much encouragement and support over the years, I'm pleased to have the opportunity to return some of that sentiment to up and coming Australian artists"***

As for the prize itself, 2021 major sponsor **SoundMerch** is thrilled to be presenting the winner of the 2021 **SoundMerch AMP** with an increase in prize money following one of the toughest years the music industry has ever faced. **SoundMerch** owner, **Tim Everist** says he is proud to initiate the change and further support Australian artists in 2021, ***"Our partnership with The AMP last year worked exactly as I had hoped - SOUNDMERCH was able to give back to the artists that we do business with whilst promoting new business, so this year I'm pleased to be able to increase the cash prize by \$10,000 to \$30,000."***

The nominated artists and albums up for the 2021 **Australian Music Prize** announced so far **can be found at The SoundMerch AMP [website](#)**, with more eligible entrants still to be deliberated as new releases come to light, so be sure to follow **The SoundMerch AMP's** socials to stay up to date with any new inclusions. The final 9 nominees will be announced in early 2022, with the winner revealed **Thursday 3 March 2022**. The judges are still listening to albums, so if you know of an eligible album, be sure to get your nominations in – [click here for eligibility criteria and to submit album details](#).

**17th SoundMerch AMP Judges:**

Abbe May, Artist  
Aeron Clark, Edge Radio  
Alex Gow, Artist  
Alice Ivy, Artist  
Andrew Drever, Music Writer  
Bernard Zuel, Writer  
Billy Bragg, Artist

Blake Scott, Artist  
 Bruce Milne, Greville Records  
 Bryget Chrisfield, Music Writer  
 Cassie Walker, Triple M Digital Music Lead  
 Chris Berkley, Red Eye Records  
 Chris Gill, Northside Records  
 Chris Holland, Triple M  
 Dan Gordon and Maia Bilyk, FBi  
 Emmy Mack, Artist  
 Fanny Lumsden, Artist  
 Jeb Taylor, Music Farmers  
 Jessica Dale The Music, Assistant Editor  
 Kate Hennessy, Music Writer  
 Kav Temperley, Artist  
 Laura Hill, Artist  
 Michael Hohnen, Artist  
 Mike Glynn, JB Hi Fi  
 Mikey Cahill, Writer  
 Phil Jamieson, Artist  
 Sam Cromack, Artist  
 Simon Winkler, 3RRR  
 Sose Fuamoli, Music Journalist & Radio Host  
 Steve Bell, Sonic Sherpa Owner  
 Surahn Sidhu, Artist  
 Tim Daley, Apple Music  
 Ziggy Ramo, Artist  
 Zoë Radas, STACK Music Editor

**SOCIALS:**

Website: <https://www.australianmusicprize.com.au/>  
 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/australianmusicprize/>  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/australianmusicprize/>  
 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TheAMP>  
 Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/AusMusicPrize>

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THE SOUNDMERCHANT AMP 2021 IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



17TH SOUNDMERCHANT AMP JUDGES

Britt Aylen	Bryget Chrisfield	Sosefina Fuamoli	Laura Hill	Abbe May	Surahn Sidhu
Steve Bell	Aeron Clark	Chris Gill	Michael Hohnen	Bruce Milne	Jeb Taylor
Chris Berkley	Sam Cromack	Mike Glynn	Chris Holland	Zoë Radas	Kav Temperley
Maia Bilyk	Jessica Dale	Dan Gordon	Phil Jamieson	Ziggy Ramo	Cassie Walker
Billy Bragg	Tim Daley	Alex Gow	Fanny Lumsden	Annika Schmarsel	Simon Winkler
Mikey Cahill	Andrew Drever	Kate Hennessy	Emmy Mack	Blake Scott	Bernard Zuel