



THE AUSTRALIAN MUSIC PRIZE ANNOUNCES ITS 17TH SHORTLIST in Partnership with EMI, Virgin and Island Records

The 17th (for 2021 albums) **Soundmerch AMP** is thrilled to reveal its list of 9 finalists up for the annual prize of **\$30K** cash courtesy of the major sponsor, independent Australian merchandising company **Soundmerch**. After reviewing 464 eligible Australian artist album releases of 2021, the diverse judging panel of industry experts have been carefully deliberating the Nominated albums and have chosen 9 to comprise the Shortlist.

The Shortlist of the 17th **Soundmerch AMP**, is:

Amyl and The Sniffers	Comfort To Me
Baker Boy	Gela
Emma Donovan & The Putbacks	Under These Streets
Genesis Owusu	Smiling With No Teeth
Hiatus Kaiyote	Mood Valiant
King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard	Butterfly 3000
Martha Marlow	Medicine Man
Nick Cave & Warren Ellis	Carnage
Odette	Herald

Founder and Prize Director of The Soundmerch AMP, **Scott B. Murphy**, said: *“This is a **VERY** strong list. It’s incredibly diverse and truly captures another year of the **WORLD’S** best music. I sincerely thank the Soundmerch AMP team of judges – their donation of time and passion is much greater than what most people would think.”*

In support of the prize, and to ensure **The AMP** continues to champion new Australian music, locally respected labels **EMI**, **Virgin** and **Island** have each partnered with **The Soundmerch AMP** to sponsor this Shortlist by each label contributing **\$3,000** cash to form a **Shortlist funding pool of \$9,000** which will be used to guarantee that the Shortlisted artists are able to attend the **Winner Announcement event in Melbourne on the 3rd of March**.

“Virgin, Island and EMI are proud to play our small part in supporting this stellar line up of artists and recordings. In one of the toughest years ever faced by the industry this is a list of both established artists familiar to AMP shortlists and emerging talent putting their hands up for global recognition - all at the absolute top of their game” said **Tim Janes**, Managing Director of Virgin Music Australia.

Danzal Baker aka **Baker Boy**, said: *“Blown away that Gela has been shortlisted for the Aus Music Prize! There has been so much incredible music and albums released over the last year, it’s crazy to think Gela is sitting alongside some of the absolute best! Such an honour!”*

Kofi Owusu-Ansah aka **Genesis Owusu** said: *"It's a real pleasure to be considered for the Australian Music Prize this year. It's so important to have initiatives like this, that really strive to validate and strengthen creativity over everything else."*

Emma Donovan & The Putbacks said: *"Under These Streets reflected our return to the studio and realigning as a band coming out of some very dark and tormenting times. We literally ran out the door from lockdown and jumped deep into the studio to create this album and we are so honoured that it has been nominated for the Australian Music Prize. This album shows our strength as a musical unit and our relationship and trust with one another. We are thrilled that music lovers are tuning in and digging our sounds and songs."*

Martha Marlow said: *"In such a challenging time for our industry the Australian Music Prize plays a hugely important role in identifying and showcasing the depth and breadth of the incredible music being continually created by so many talented artists despite the many difficulties we have faced in the last few years. Creating 'Medicine Man' has been a challenging journey for me as, pandemic aside, over the last few years I have learned to live with chronic pain and illness associated with the onset of an auto-inflammatory disease. My album has been heavily influenced by this journey. I am, therefore, particularly grateful it has been so well received. So much hard work and care has gone into the making of 'Medicine Man' - I'm humbled by the calibre of the judging panel who took the time to listen to it and am incredibly grateful it has been shortlisted for this distinguished prize. Thank you to all the extraordinary musicians involved in the making of this album and thank you to the AMP and SoundMerch their support. Now more than ever, Australian artists need the recognition and acknowledgement that this prize brings."*

Hiatus Kaiyote said: *"We are thrilled for Mood Valiant to be included as a finalist for AMP!"*

Amyl and the Sniffers said: *"Thank you very much for including us as nominees this year. Some of the best artists in the country have won the Australian Music Prize so we are honoured to be shortlisted."*

King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard said: *"Feels like a real 'fluke' that BF3K has made the shortlist for the AMP. A polymeric synthesiser experiment made in our bedrooms during a global pandemic while in the most locked down city in the world was never meant to be anything other than a passing curiosity. It's surreal and humbling to think that this weird record of ours has connected with so many people. We're grateful to be thought of, grateful to be noticed."*

SoundMerch is thrilled to be presenting the winner of the 2021 **SoundMerch AMP** with an increased cash prize of \$30K following one of the toughest years the music industry has ever faced. The winner will be revealed **Thursday 3 March 2022**.

For more information: scott@australianmusicprize.com.au www.australianmusicprize.com.au



THE SOUNDMERCH AMP 2021 IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



17TH SOUNDMERCH AMP JUDGES

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Steve Bell
Chris Berkley
Maia Bilyk
Billy Bragg
Mikey Cahill

Bryget Chrisfield
Aeron Clark
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Jessica Dale
Tim Daley
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