



EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY 24th JANUARY AT 10 AM AEDT

**THE AUSTRALIAN MUSIC PRIZE ANNOUNCES ITS 18TH SHORTLIST in
Partnership with EMI, Virgin and Island Records**

The 18th (for 2022 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 490 eligible Australian artist album releases of 2022, 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 18th **Soundmerch AMP**, is:

1300	Foreign Language
Body Type	Everything Is Dangerous But Nothing's Surprising
Camp Cope	Running With The Hurricane
Julia Jacklin	Pre Pleasure
King Stingray	King Stingray
Laura Jean	Amateurs
Party Dozen	The Real Work
Sampa The Great	As Above, So Below
Tasman Keith	A Colour Undone

Founder and Prize Director of The Soundmerch AMP, **Scott B. Murphy**, said: ***"Yet again we have 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 year's 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 Sydney on the 1st of March.**

"Virgin, Island and EMI are proud to play our small part in supporting this stellar line up of artists

and recordings. 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.

Roy Kellaway from King Stingray said: **"We are so stoked that our debut album made the shortlist for the AMP and feel privileged to be in the company of so many other great artists that are making so many great records. Yo Manyak."**

Body Type said: **"It means the world to have our debut record shortlisted for the AMP. How cool to be recognised and supported by such a prestigious industry body. It's an honour to be nominated. Thank you!"**

Upon reviewing the debut album from 1300, AMP judge, Chris Berkley (Red Eye Records, 2SER), commented: **"Crisp beats, jiggy R&B and rapidfire multilingual delivery that's world-class. Straddles effortlessly the throwback vibes of Timbaland to the cutting-edge of contemporaries like Brockhampton. A body-poppin' booty-shakin' big-vibes ride."**

Upon reviewing the Camp Cope album, AMP judge, Britt Aylen (writer, broadcaster), said: **"Running With the Hurricane is Camp Cope's most complex and accomplished record yet. It's somehow both raw and polished, with layered vocals and a fuller sound than their previous offerings. Lyrically, still as powerful as ever."**

Upon reviewing Julia Jacklin's album, AMP judge, Mikey Cahill (writer, DJ), commented: **"'Pre Pleasure' is perfect in every way. Julia's delicate lyrics, production and the string arrangements are so beautiful, it's simply a masterpiece."**

Upon reviewing the Laura Jean album, AMP judge, Pat Monaghan (retailer), said: **"Laura Jean's 'Amateurs' is, at first glance, another winning, charmer of an indie-rock record. Dig deeper into these songs and they teem with wit, heart, optimism, dashed hopes, perhaps a hint of bitterness, admiration and no little defiance. A masterpiece from a true melody maven."**

Speaking on Party Dozen's album, AMP judge and Edge Radio Music Director Aeron Clark said: **"Every time I listen to this album I feel really energised from start to finish. It's so densely textured and feels like getting punched in the face over and over again (in a good way)."**

Upon reviewing the Sampa The Great album, AMP judge, Bryget Chrisfield (music writer) said: **"Sampa envisioned 'An Afro Future' – 'seeing people who look like me on stage' – and made it her reality. She's described this album, which features the legendary Angélique Kidjo on one song, as the truest expression of her art to date and the artistry on display here is next-level."**

AMP judge and artist Phil Jamieson said of Tasman Keith's album: **"Ambitious, unbridled, vulnerable & poetic, Tasman Keith's debut combines all with a deft palate of pop, R&B & rap. An assured, confident record that also has the pervasive ability to move your body."**

SoundMerch is thrilled to be presenting the winner of the **2022 SoundMerch AMP** with a cash prize of **\$30,000**. The winner will be revealed **Wednesday 1 March 2023**.

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THE SOUNDMERCH AMP 2022 IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



18TH SOUNDMERCH AMP JUDGES

Britt Aylen	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	