



**EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY 3 MARCH at 3PM AEDT**

## **Drum Roll: Announcing the 2021 Soundmerch AMP recipient, Genesis Owusu with their album *Smiling With No Teeth***

Australia's most prestigious music accolade, the **Soundmerch Australian Music Prize** has today been awarded to **Genesis Owusu** for their 2021 Australian album of the year, ***Smiling With No Teeth***. Taking home an unprecedented **\$30,000** thanks to **Soundmerch**, **Genesis Owusu's** acclaimed record joins the highly esteemed list of previous award winning albums, including last year's ***We Will Always Love You*** by **The Avalanches**. The **Soundmerch AMP** was presented to **Genesis Owusu** by journalist **Osman Faruqi** and esteemed musician **Georgia Maq** alongside **Soundmerch** owner **Tim Everist**, at the 17th annual ceremony held in Melbourne today, with **Owusu** accepting the honorary prize via satellite from soundcheck at his sold out show at Sydney's Enmore Theatre.

Produced by **2021 ARIA Award** winning producers **Andrew Klippel** and **Dave Hammer**, plus **Matt Corby**, **Harvey Sutherland** and **Joe LaPorta**, ***Smiling With No Teeth*** has garnered the Ghanaian-Australian artist colossal success since its release almost a year ago to the date. Released 5 March 2021, the record took out four **ARIA Awards** for **Album of the Year**, **Best Hip Hop Release**, **Best Independent Release** and **Best Cover Art**, as well as **Australian Video of the Year** and **Australian Album of the Year** at the **2021 J Awards**.

***"This means a lot. This is an award with a lot of esteem, not to mention putting real money back into music at a time like this is so crucial. I'm super grateful, and I'm keen to use this prize to help spread my art across the world, shouting out Australian talent on the way."*** – Genesis Owusu

As always, **The Soundmerch AMP** continues to rise above genre, popularity, politics and sales, to focus entirely on artistic merit. From a massive 450 eligible 2021 releases, to the chosen 110 official nominations, and the carefully deliberated shortlist of the top 9 albums of the year, **Genesis Owusu**, ***Smiling With No Teeth*** remained a frontrunner and was subsequently crowned this year's indisputable winner.

Chosen by a diverse judging panel of over 30 industry experts, including artists, radio presenters, music writers, retailers and inaugural guest international judge **Billy Bragg**, **Genesis Owusu'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. 'Smiling With No Teeth' stacks up perfectly as said so by at least 80% of our judging panel. Well done Kofi and your support team."*** – Scott Murphy, AMP Founder/Director

2021 was undoubtedly one of the worst hit years the industry has ever seen, yet amidst the challenges of release disruptions and touring cancellations, Australian artists continued to adapt and create some truly impressive bodies of work. The art that has been produced during and as a result of these times is testament to the ongoing resilience of Australia's thriving music scene. Familiar voices including industry veterans **Nick Cave** and **Warren Ellis**, returning AMP nominees **Emma Donovan & The Putbacks** and **King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard**, and Grammy nominated **Hiatus Kaiyote**, shined alongside debut releases from **Genesis Owusu**, **Martha Marlow** and **Baker Boy**, plus AMP newcomers **Amyl & The Sniffers** and **Odette** for their respective sophomore records.

***"I am so proud of every single musician, producer, artist and everyone involved in the music process who found the inspiration, energy and resource to make new music at the most stressful times for the Australian music industry. The 2021 AMP Finalists are some of the strongest albums in the world over the past 12 months, and will inspire musicians for years to come."***

– AMP Judge, Cassie Walker: Executive Producer, Music Programs Double J

The AMP wishes to thank major sponsors **Soundmerch** for their generous contribution to fund the coveted prize, as well as long term champions, **APRA AMCOS, Mushroom Group, Inertia, Sony Music, Universal, EMI, Virgin, Island, MGM, Sony Music Publishing** and **Collarts**. The prize continues to exist not just to celebrate the album as a respected format, but to recognise and champion Australian musicians and their original work.

## THE 17<sup>th</sup> SOUNDMERCH AMP RECIPIENT

**Genesis Owusu – *Smiling With No Teeth***

### 2021 FINALISTS

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*

### PREVIOUS AUSTRALIAN MUSIC PRIZE RECIPIENTS

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 Mitchell, 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](http://www.australianmusicprize.com.au)



THE SOUNDMERCH AMP 2021 IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



17TH SOUNDMERCH AMP JUDGES

Britt Ayles	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