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2023 APRA Professional Development Awards finalists announced

by [Australian Music Centre](#)



Image: APRA Professional Development Awards

The finalists for the 2023 APRA Professional Development Awards (PDAs) have been revealed today, showcasing a broad range of Australian songwriting and composing talent across the categories of Popular Contemporary, Hip Hop/Rap/Soul/R&B, Classical/Experimental, Jazz/Improvised Music, Screen Composition, Country/Americana, Dance/Electronic, Music Theatre and NATSIMO (General), NATSIMO (Youth) and NATSIMO (Senior).

With profiles steadily on the rise, this year's shortlist includes Rirratjingu storyteller, songwriter and performer Yirmal, rising electronic producer and artist Ninajirachi, hip hop artist and A.GIRL, Korean-Australian pianist, composer and improviser [Sophie Min](#), Melbourne multi-disciplinary artist Hannah Crofts, screen composer [Samuel Weiss](#), Perth-based experimental artist [Josten Myburgh](#), Telenova's Angeline Armstrong and more.

Held annually, the PDAs provide impactful support for emerging songwriters and composers - previous winners Gotye, Mo'Ju, Ecca Vandal, Melanie Dyer, Ngaiire, Gordi, Baker Boy, Amanda Cole, Beckah Amani and many more have all benefited from this career-boosting initiative.

A panel of judges comprising Jenny Morris, Ngaiire, Lance Ferguson, John Ferris, Neil Gooding, Kristy Gostelow, Mindy Meng Wang, Joel Ma, Sosefina Fuamoli, Fanny Lumsden, Dave Ruby Howe, Nina Las Vegas and more have determined this group of music creators who are in the running to each take home a career-changing

cash prize of \$10,000 as well as a prize from Australis Music. A complete list of this year's PDAs judges can be found [here](#).

New in 2023 are the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Music Office categories: NATSIMO General, Youth and Senior, which support members doing exciting work at different life stages. The NATSIMO PDAs provide three promising Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander music practitioners with a grant of \$10,000 each. Finalists include Dharawal songwriter and producer AODHAN (NATSIMO Youth), Yanyuwa and Wardaman singer-songwriter Shellie Morris (NATSIMO Senior) and 2023 APRA Music Awards performer, Rirratjingu artist Yirmal (NATSIMO General).

The winners of the APRA PDAs will be announced on **Thursday 15 June 2023**.

[A full list of finalists can be found on the APRA AMCOS website.](#)

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