

ARIA

AWARDS 2021

**2021 ARIA Awards
Eligibility Criteria and Category
Definitions**

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1. ARIA Awards Categories

(A) Categories for which entries are accepted

ARIA will accept entries from ARIA Members in the following categories:

(a) ARIA Awards

Category	ARIA Award Type	Voted/Judged By
Album of the Year	General	Voting Academy
Michael Gudinski Breakthrough Artist	General	Voting Academy
Best Artist	General	Voting Academy
Best Group	General	Voting Academy
Best Independent Release	General	Judging School
Best Adult Contemporary Album	Genre Award	Judging School
Best Blues & Roots Album	Genre Award	Judging School
Best Children's Album	Genre Award	Judging School
Best Country Album	Genre Award	Judging School
Best Dance Release	Genre Award	Judging School
Best Pop Release	Genre Award	Judging School
Best Rock Album	Genre Award	Judging School
Best Hard Rock / Heavy Metal Album	Genre Award	Judging School
Best Hip Hop Release	Genre Award	Judging School
Best Soul / R&B Release	Genre Award	Judging School
Best Australian Live Act	General	Public Vote
Best Video	General	Public Vote

(b) Fine Arts ARIA Awards

Category	Voted/Judged By
Best Classical Album	Judging School
Best Jazz Album	Judging School
Best World Music Album	Judging School
Best Original Soundtrack or Musical Theatre Cast Album	Judging School

(c) Artisan ARIA Awards

Category	Voted/Judged By
Best Cover Art	Voting Academy
Engineer of the Year	Judging School
Producer of the Year	Judging School

(B) Categories for which entries are not accepted

ARIA does not accept entries in the following categories as the entries and nominations for these categories are drawn from a range of different sources as specified below and as detailed further in this document:

Category	Nominations Determined by	Voted/Judged By
Song of the Year	Ten highest selling Singles based on ARIA Singles Chart	Public Vote
Most Popular International Artist	Ten highest selling international artists based on ARIA Albums Chart and ARIA Singles Chart Data	Public Vote
ARIA Hall of Fame	ARIA Board	ARIA Board
ARIA Icon and Lifetime Achievement Awards	ARIA Board	ARIA Board
Telstra ARIA Music Teacher Award	A specialist judging panel following receipt of entries from the public.	Judging School + Public Vote

2. Conditions of Entry

- (a) All ARIA Members are eligible to submit entries for the Awards.
- (b) ARIA Members can submit up to eight entries in each individual category for which entries are accepted. Levy members (Sony, Universal Music and Warner Music) may submit up to twelve entries in each category.
- (c) If a particular ARIA Member's recordings are distributed by another party, it is the responsibility of that ARIA Member to liaise with its distributor to confirm which eligible entity will be submitting the entry to ARIA.
- (d) All Recordings and materials submitted as part of an entry must be non-infringing and authorised materials. If ARIA is advised that any materials submitted as part of an entry are infringing or unauthorised, then ARIA will determine in its sole discretion the eligibility of such materials and the eligibility of the entry.
- (e) ARIA will require each ARIA Member to submit certain collateral and assets (for example, RAP Sheets, cover art files, Apple or Spotify IDs, MP3s and YouTube links) as specified in the *Guide To Submitting Entries* which ARIA will make available to all ARIA Members. The conditions set out in the *Guide To Submitting Entries* also form part of these Conditions of Entry.
- (f) Please note that, should you incorrectly enter an artist or recording for any category, you will be liable for any additional auditing costs incurred.
- (g) By submitting an entry, you agree that ARIA (and its licensees) may use the submitted collateral and assets in connection with the ARIA Awards voting platform, the ARIA Awards television programs and promotions, activities and marketing for the ARIA Awards without payment to you.
- (h) Unless you advise ARIA otherwise, you also consent to the use of any audio recording that you submit to ARIA as a part of your entry being used as music on hold on the telephone systems of ARIA and PPCA.
- (i) A properly executed and valid Statutory Declaration (in the format provided by ARIA) must accompany any entries in the category of Best Independent Release. ARIA will determine at its discretion whether the Statutory Declaration that accompanies each entry is valid.
- (j) All entries must be submitted via the designated ARIA online platform within the specified timeframe.
- (k) All ARIA Members who submit an entry agree that the decision of ARIA regarding the eligibility of an entry is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- (l) The person who submits the entry on behalf of each ARIA Member acknowledges that they have read and accept the terms of this document. Any entry by an ARIA Member constitutes acceptance of the terms of this document.

3. Determination of the Awards winners

3.1 Voting and Award Determinations

All entries received by ARIA are first assessed to ensure that the relevant recordings are eligible for the particular Award category for which they have been entered. Once eligibility has been confirmed, all eligible entries received by ARIA are then presented for voting or determination as set out in Section 1 above and as set out below.

- (a) Five (5) awards categories are judged/voted by the Voting Academy which consists of over 800 representatives from every area of the music industry (**Voting Academy**).
- (b) Eighteen (18) awards categories are judged/voted by specialist Judging Schools which consist of representatives experienced with that genre of music (**Judging School**).
- (c) Five (5) awards categories are determined by Public Vote. These are:
 - (i) Song of the Year;
 - (ii) Most Popular International Artist;
 - (iii) Best Australian Live Act;
 - (iv) Best Video; and
 - (v) Telstra ARIA Music Teacher.
- (d) The ARIA Hall of Fame and the Icon and Lifetime Achievement Awards are awarded at the discretion of the ARIA Board.

3.2 ARIA Award Rulings

Once an ARIA Award (including an ARIA Hall of Fame induction) has been awarded to a recipient, the ARIA Board may take whatever measures it considers necessary to preserve the integrity of the ARIA Awards. These measures may include revoking the award if, in the opinion of the ARIA Board:

- (a) the recipient has acted or behaved in a manner that has brought disrepute to the ARIA Awards;
- (b) the initial entry and/or the subsequent conferral of the ARIA Award was based on false or misleading information; or
- (c) the recipient has participated in conduct that undermines the integrity of the ARIA Awards.

In circumstances where an ARIA Award is revoked following the presentation, it is at the ARIA Board's discretion as to whether an award is given in that category for that year. The ARIA Board may also, at its discretion, subsequently restore an ARIA Award that has been revoked or undertake any further measures that it deems appropriate.

The ARIA Board's decision in relation to all matters under section 3.2 is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

4. General Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility for the Awards is defined by ARIA as follows:

4.1 Entry

- (a) Only ARIA members are able to enter recordings/items for judging.
- (b) ARIA members may enter any artist / recording satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in this document.
- (c) Recordings / Releases which have previously been nominated (in prior years) are ineligible.
- (d) An ARIA member can only enter its own artists (or those it distributes) and cannot enter the artists of another record label.
- (e) ARIA LEVY MEMBERS may lodge up to eight (8) entries in each category.
- (f) ARIA MEMBERS may lodge up to six (6) entries in each category.

4.2 Definitions and Interpretation

- (a) **Album:** An Album is defined to be a release in physical and/or digital format which does not qualify as a Single and which satisfies other criteria particular to each category.
- (b) **Awards:** means the 2021 ARIA Awards which includes, to avoid doubt, the 2021 ARIA Fine Arts and Artisan Awards.
- (c) **Chart Eligibility Period:** means the relevant period during which ARIA published its charts, being the period commencing on 8 September 2020 and concluding on 6 September 2021 (inclusive).
- (d) **Credited Recording Artists:** Recording artists credited on the release must meet the Artist eligibility criteria (see Section below: **4.3 Artist Eligibility**) except in the case of Best Classical Album and Best Jazz Album - refer to those particular category definitions.
- (e) **Current Eligibility Period:** means the period commencing 4 September 2020 and concluding on 2 September 2021 inclusive.
- (f) **Eligibility of a Single:** In the case of singles, a single is deemed eligible if the official media servicing date or video servicing date (determined by the 'published' date listed on the label or artist's YouTube channel) is within the Eligibility Period, where it is acknowledged that the track may have been previously available for individual digital purchase as part of an Album release outside of the Eligibility Period.
- (g) **Eligibility Period:** To be eligible for a nomination in the Awards (in any of the categories where an entry is required from ARIA Members), the relevant item must have been released either:
 - (i) within the Current Eligibility Period; or
 - (ii) during the Previous Eligibility Period, provided that the item has not previously been entered in any ARIA Awards category.
- (h) **Judging School** means the persons described in Section 3(b).
- (i) **Multi-Artist Compilations:** Unless otherwise specified, multi-artist compilations are not eligible.
- (j) **Multi-discs:** Where the entered release comprises more than one disc, the discs must be sold as 'one set' to qualify.

- (k) **New Recordings:** New recordings, including new live recordings, of previously released compositions are eligible.
- (l) **Number of times a recording may be entered:** A recording may be entered in more than one non-genre category, but may not be entered in more than one genre category. Category definitions indicate those that are genre categories.
- (m) **Previous Eligibility Period:** means the two immediately preceding eligibility periods commencing 7 September 2018 and concluding on 3 September 2020. For the avoidance of doubt:
- *the 2019 eligibility period* spanned 7 September 2018 to 5 September 2019 and
 - *the 2020 eligibility period* spanned 6 September 2019 to 3 September 2020.
- (n) **Release Date:** Release date is defined as the date the product was first officially commercially released in physical or digital format in Australia through retail channels (which, for the purpose of clarity, may include online physical and digital retailers and/or the artist's own website).
- (o) **Re-released Recordings:** Re-released recordings are not eligible. All entries must comprise at least 50% (by number of tracks) previously unreleased recordings. Note that, for this purpose, remixed tracks do not count as previously unreleased recordings and the inclusion of any previously released material will render the particular track ineligible.
- (p) **Single:** A Single is defined to be a product released in physical and/or digital format and which either:
- (i) contains up to five different songs, and with a music content of not more than 25 minutes duration; or
 - (ii) contains multiple versions of not more than five songs with a combined duration of not more than 40 minutes providing that the combined duration of the longest versions of each song does not exceed 25 minutes.
- For the purposes of this definition, 'song' may include an instrumental only piece.
- (q) **Voting Academy** means the persons described in Section 3(a).

4.3 Artist Eligibility

- (a) Any artist that satisfies any of the following criteria will be deemed to be eligible:
- (i) Any artist who is an Australian citizen;
 - (ii) Any artist who was born in Australia;
 - (iii) Any artist with permanent residency status and who has lived in Australia for at least six months per year for the two consecutive years ending on 2 September 2021;
 - (iv) Any artist who has applied for permanent residency and has lived in Australia for at least six months per year for two consecutive years ending on 2 September 2021 and is signed to an Australian record label; or
 - (v) Any New Zealand artist who has lived in Australia for at least six months per year for the two consecutive years ending on 2 September 2021 and is signed to an Australian record label.
- (b) In the case of groups or duos at least 50% of the members of the group must satisfy at least one of the above criteria. Each entry must be accompanied by a list of group members appearing on the release.

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- (c) The ARIA Board reserves the right to exercise its discretion to grant eligibility in special circumstances where, for example, the artist in question has a strong historical and cultural connection with Australia.

4.4 Ineligibility

All entries will be reviewed for eligibility by the Eligibility Sub-Committee of the ARIA Awards Committee, which reserves the right to make the final judgement on category, artist and product eligibility. The Eligibility Sub-Committee will provide notice citing reasons for any entries deemed ineligible. The nominating ARIA member will have two (2) business days from such notice to respond, at which time the Eligibility Sub-Committee will review the entry and make a final decision.

5. General Category Definitions

5.1 Album of the Year

- (a) Judged by the Voting Academy.
- (b) Solo artists and groups are eligible.
- (c) The Album must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period and must have appeared in the ARIA Top 50 Albums Chart published during the Chart Eligibility Period.

5.2 Michael Gudinski Breakthrough Artist

- (a) Judged by the Voting Academy.
- (b) Solo artists and groups are eligible, as are Album and Single recordings.
- (c) The recording must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period and must have appeared in:
 - (i) the ARIA Top 100 Albums Chart;
 - (ii) the ARIA Top 100 Singles Chart;
 - (iii) the ARIA Top 20 Australian Albums Chart; or
 - (iv) the ARIA Top 20 Australian Singles Chart,published during the Chart Eligibility Period.
- (d) Artists and groups are not eligible if they, or any member of the group:
 - (i) have previously been a final five (5) nominee in any ARIA Awards category with an Album or Single; or
 - (ii) if they have been in a group that has previously been a final five (5) nominee in any ARIA Awards category with an Album or Single; or
 - (iii) have had a previous Top 50 Album in the ARIA Albums Chart or Top 50 Single in the ARIA Singles Chart. A placing in an ARIA *genre* chart will not exclude artists from this category.

5.3 Best Artist

- (a) Judged by the Voting Academy. There will be 10 nominees in this category.
- (a) Album and Single recordings are eligible.
- (b) If the product packaging refers to an individual and a band, the ARIA Member must nominate whether that act is to be deemed a solo or group act for the Awards. A nominee for Best Artist cannot be nominated in the Best Group Category.
- (c) The recording must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period and must have appeared in:
 - (i) the ARIA Top 100 Albums Chart; or
 - (ii) the ARIA Top 100 Singles Chart,published during the Chart Eligibility Period.

5.4 Best Group

- (a) Judged by the Voting Academy.
- (b) Album and Single recordings are eligible.
- (c) A group is comprised of two or more people. If the name on the product packaging is that of a band with no indication of any individual name, then such band will be considered in the Group category only. If the product packaging refers to an individual and a band, the ARIA Member must nominate whether that act is to be deemed a group or a solo act for the Awards. A nominee for Best Artist cannot be nominated in the Best Group Category.
- (d) The recording must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period and must have appeared in:
 - (i) the ARIA Top 100 Albums Chart; or
 - (ii) the ARIA Top 100 Singles Chart,published during the Chart Eligibility Period.

5.5 Best Independent Release

- (a) Judged by a Judging School.
- (b) Solo artists and groups are eligible, as are Album and Single recordings.
- (c) The nominated recording must be released by an 'Independent' ARIA Member. For the purpose of this Award category, an ARIA Member will be considered to be Independent if the ARIA Member:
 - (i) or the nominated artist or group, funds its own A&R and marketing costs in respect of the nominated recording (a Levy Member may provide these funds, provided that these funds are not only recoupable but repayable), and undertakes its own local marketing and promotion (including media and DSP servicing) of the relevant release;
 - (ii) is not owned in whole or in part by any Levy Member or their respective affiliates or subsidiaries; and
 - (iii) has not entered into an exclusive licence agreement with a Levy Member for Australia in respect of the nominated recording.
- (d) Each entry in this category will need to be accompanied by a statutory declaration, in the form prescribed by ARIA (see Appendix A), declared by the Chief Financial Officer or a Director of the nominating ARIA Member confirming the above criteria has been met during the Current Eligibility Period. In order to be considered, the statutory declaration must be physically (not electronically) signed by the Chief Financial Officer or Director of the nominating ARIA Member and properly witnessed in accordance with the statutory declaration guidelines.
- (e) The recording must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period.
- (f) For the purpose of eligibility in this category of Best Independent Release only, EMI Music Australia Pty Ltd will also be considered to be a Levy Member.

5.6 Best Adult Contemporary Album

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Solo artists and groups are eligible.
- (c) Only Album recordings are eligible.
- (d) The Album must be directed toward Adult Contemporary formats.

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- (e) The Album cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards.
 - (f) The Album must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period and appear in the ARIA Top 100 Albums Chart published during the Chart Eligibility Period.

5.7 Best Blues & Roots Album

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Solo artists and groups are eligible.
- (c) Only Album recordings are eligible.
- (d) The Album must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period.
- (e) This category encompasses both contemporary and traditional blues forms and contemporary adaptations of Australian traditional music and/or folklore.
- (f) The Album cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards.

5.8 Best Children's Album

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Solo artists, groups, soundtracks and various artist projects are eligible.
- (c) Only Album recordings are eligible.
- (d) The Album must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period.
- (e) This category encompasses recordings where the form and content are directed towards a pre-teen demographic.
- (f) In the case of compilations, entries must comprise 50% material recorded specifically for that compilation.
- (g) The Album cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards.

5.9 Best Country Album

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Solo artists and groups are eligible.
- (c) Only Album recordings are eligible.
- (d) The Album must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period.
- (e) This category encompasses country music, both contemporary and traditional.
- (f) The Album cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards and must have appeared in the Top 20 of the ARIA Country Albums Chart published during the Chart Eligibility Period.

5.10 Best Dance Release

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Solo artists, groups, and production teams are eligible.
- (c) Album and Single recordings are eligible provided they have been commercially released during the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period.

- (d) Artists working primarily within the dance genre e.g.: House, Techno, Trance, Hardcore, Garage, Breakbeat, Drum & Bass, Disco and Electronica are eligible. In the case of a remixed Album or Single, the production team(s) and the original recording artist(s) must both meet the Artist eligibility criteria (see Section 4.3), and the release must qualify for inclusion in either the ARIA Albums or Singles chart. The ARIA Member must also nominate whether the production team or the original recording artist would be the recipient of the ARIA Award in this category.
- (e) The Album or Single cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards. Note that, if an original version has been entered in the 'Best Pop' category, a remix is ineligible in the 'Dance Release' category.
- (f) The Album or Single must have appeared in:
 - (i) the Top 20 ARIA Dance Singles or Albums Chart; AND/OR
 - (ii) the Top 20 of the ARIA Club Tracks Chart,published during the Chart Eligibility Period.

5.11 Best Pop Release

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Solo artists and groups are eligible.
- (c) Album and Single recordings are eligible.
- (d) The Album or Single must be directed toward CHR/Top 40 formats.
- (e) The Album or Single cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards.
- (f) The recording must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period and must have appeared in:
 - (i) the ARIA Top 100 Albums Chart; or
 - (ii) the ARIA Top 100 Singles Chart,published during the Chart Eligibility Period.

5.12 Best Rock Album

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Solo artists and groups are eligible.
- (c) Only Album recordings are eligible.
- (d) The Album must be directed toward Contemporary Rock, Modern Rock and Active Rock formats.
- (e) The Album cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards.
- (f) The Album must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period and appear in the ARIA Top 100 Albums Chart published during the Chart Eligibility Period.

5.13 Best Hard Rock / Heavy Metal Album

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Solo artists and groups are eligible.

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- (c) Only Album recordings are eligible.
 - (d) The Album must be directed toward Hard Rock or Heavy Metal formats.
 - (e) The Album cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards.
 - (f) The Album must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period and appear in the ARIA Top 100 Albums Chart published during the Chart Eligibility Period.

5.14 Best Hip Hop Release

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Album and Single recordings are eligible.
- (c) Solo artists, groups, and production teams are eligible. The Album or Single must be directed towards the Hip Hop format.
- (d) The Album or Single must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period and must have appeared in:
 - (i) the ARIA Top 100 Albums Chart;
 - (ii) the ARIA Top 100 Singles Chart;
 - (iii) ARIA Top 40 Hip Hop/R&B Albums Chart
 - (iv) ARIA Top 40 Hip Hop/R&B Singles Chart;
 - (v) ARIA Top 20 Australian Hip Hop/R&B Singles Chart; OR
 - (vi) ARIA Top 10 Australian Hip Hop/R&B Albums Chart,
published during the Chart Eligibility Period.
- (e) The Album or Single cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards.
- (f) The ARIA Member must also nominate whether the production team or the original recording artist would be the recipient of the ARIA Award in this category.

5.15 Best Soul / R&B Release

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Album and Single recordings are eligible.
- (c) Solo artists, groups, and production teams are eligible. Artists working primarily within the R&B, Soul, Funk, Reggae and Dancehall genres, are eligible.
- (d) The Album or Single must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period and must have appeared in:
 - (i) the ARIA Top 100 Albums Chart;
 - (ii) the ARIA Top 100 Singles Chart;
 - (iii) ARIA Top 40 Hip Hop/R&B Albums Chart
 - (iv) ARIA Top 40 Hip Hop/R&B Singles Chart;
 - (v) ARIA Top 20 Australian Hip Hop/R&B Singles Chart; OR

- (vi) ARIA Top 10 Australian Hip Hop/R&B Albums Chart,
published during the Chart Eligibility Period.
- (e) The Album or Single cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards.
- (f) The ARIA Member must also nominate whether the production team or the original recording artist would be the recipient of the ARIA Award in this category.

6. Fine Arts Awards Category Definitions

6.1 Best Classical Album

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Solo artists and groups are eligible.
- (c) Only Album recordings are eligible. Recordings where a minimum of 50% of artists featured on the Album packaging meet the Artist eligibility criteria (see Section 4.3) are eligible, even when ensembles or orchestras contain more than 50% of non-Australian artists.
- (d) The Album cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards.
- (e) The Album must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period and must have been surveyed for the ARIA Top 20 Core Classical Albums Chart during the Chart Eligibility Period.

6.2 Best Jazz Album

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Solo artists and groups are eligible.
- (c) Only Album recordings are eligible. Recordings where a minimum of 50% of artists featured on the Album packaging meet the Artist eligibility criteria (see Section 4.3) are eligible, even when ensembles or orchestras contain more than 50% of non-Australian artists.
- (d) The Album cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards.
- (e) The Album must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period.

6.3 Best World Music Album

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Solo artists and groups are eligible.
- (c) Only Album recordings are eligible.
- (d) The Album must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period.
- (e) This category encompasses predominately Traditional, Indigenous, Ethnic, Folk or Cross-Cultural music.
- (f) The Album cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards.

6.4 Best Original Soundtrack or Musical Theatre Cast Album

- (a) Judged by a Judging School. Note: this is a genre category.
- (b) Solo artists, groups and various artist compilations are eligible.
- (c) Only Album recordings are eligible.
- (d) The Album must be released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period.
- (e) Recordings of existing or planned musical theatre productions and soundtracks, scores and underscores for existing or planned film and television productions are eligible. Please note that: (i) audio or audiovisual recordings of live performances or concerts; and (ii) filmed live compilations of performances from television programs, are ineligible for this category.

- (f) All Albums must comprise of 100% previously unreleased recordings, except:
 - (i) New recordings of previously released cast and/or show recordings are eligible.
 - (ii) In the case of compilation soundtracks, which must contain over 50% of previously unreleased material by tracks and/or time, and all artists must meet the Artist eligibility criteria (as set out in section 4.3).

- (g) The Album cannot be entered in any other genre category of the Awards.

7. Artisan Awards Category Definitions

7.1 Best Cover Art

- (a) Judged by the Voting Academy.
- (b) This category awards original cover graphics by designers who meet the Artist eligibility requirements as set out in Section 4.3. Criteria for judging includes:
 - (i) originality of design concept;
 - (ii) overall design appreciation; and
 - (iii) merchandising impact.
- (c) Releases which are released during the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period and meet the general eligibility criteria may be eligible for this Award category even though they may not meet specific criteria for other Awards categories. For the purposes of clarity, this may include a greatest hits Album or a new compilation of previously recorded works.
- (d) The Award in this category is presented to the designer(s) of the cover who must meet the general eligibility criteria for Artists (as set out in Section 4.3 of this document). In the case of a co-designer, all parties must individually meet the General Eligibility Criteria for Artists set out in Section 4.3.

7.2 Engineer of the Year

- (a) Judged by a Judging School.
- (b) Single tracks, multiple tracks, Albums or multiple Albums or any combination of such releases may be submitted for each engineer. DVD releases are not eligible.
- (c) Only work released during the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period will be considered.
- (d) International product is eligible but engineer entrants must accord with the General Eligibility Criteria for Artists (as set out in Section 4.3 of this document). Entrants must meet the General Eligibility Criteria for Artists set out in Section 4.3.
- (e) The release(s) must appear in the ARIA Top 100 Albums Chart or the ARIA Top 100 Singles Chart published during the Chart Eligibility Period.
- (f) Entries made by multiple ARIA Members for the same individual will be consolidated by ARIA, with all releases submitted as part of those nominations listed for consideration by the Judging School.
- (g) In relation to releases that have been co-engineered, the names of all engineers that are being entered should be listed (either individual / artist / group). If none of the named engineers are entered for alternative / additional releases, the entry will proceed, as submitted, on a co-engineer basis. If any of the engineers are submitted individually, or with another engineer for alternative releases, ARIA will split the original co-engineer entry into individual entries. Set out below is an example to illustrate this:

Band XYZ (comprising of 3 members named Uno, Dos and Tres) released an album titled Album A.

Scenario 1: Band XYZ jointly engineer Album A. None of the individual members of Band XYZ are entered as an engineer in the Engineer of the Year category for any other releases. In this case, for Band XYZ, the entry and Album A will appear as a separate standalone entry for judging purposes. Their entry will be displayed as: Band XYZ – Album A.

Scenario 2: Band XYZ is entered in the Engineer of the Year category for Album A. Dos is entered as an engineer for another artist's album titled W.O.W. The entries will be displayed as:

Uno – Album A

Tre – Album A

Dos – Album A and W.O.W.

7.3 Producer of the Year

- (a) Judged by a Judging School.
- (b) Single tracks, multiple tracks, Albums or multiple Albums or any combination of such releases may be submitted for each producer. DVD releases are not eligible.
- (c) Only work released during the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period will be considered.
- (d) International product is eligible but producer entrants must accord with the General Eligibility Criteria for Artists (as set out in Section 4.3 of this document). Entrants must meet the General Eligibility criteria for Artists as set out in Section 4.3.
- (e) The release(s) must appear in the ARIA Top 100 Albums Chart or the ARIA Top 100 Singles Chart published during the Chart Eligibility Period.
- (f) Entries made by multiple ARIA Members for the same individual will be consolidated by ARIA, with all releases submitted as part of those nominations listed for consideration by the Judging School.
- (h) In relation to releases that have been co-produced, the names of all producers that are being entered should be listed (either individual / artist / group). If none of the named producers are submitted for alternative / additional releases, they will be entered as a co-production. If any of the producers are submitted individually, or with another producer for alternative releases, ARIA will split the original co-production entry into individual entries. Set out below is an example to illustrate this:

Band XYZ (comprising of 3 members named Uno, Dos and Tres) released an album titled Album A.

Scenario 1: *Band XYZ jointly produce Album A. None of the individual members of Band XYZ are entered as a producer in the Producer of the Year category for any other releases. In this case, for Band XYZ, the entry and Album A will appear as a separate standalone entry for judging purposes. Their entry will be displayed as: Band XYZ – Album A.*

Scenario 2: *Band XYZ is entered in the Producer of the Year category for Album A. Dos is entered as a producer for another artist's album titled W.O.W. The entries will be displayed as:*

Uno – Album A

Tre – Album A

Dos – Album A and W.O.W.

Scenario 3:

Band XYZ jointly produce Album A with Pip Producer. None of the individual members of Band XYZ or Pip Producer are entered as a producer in the Producer of the Year category for any other releases. In this case, for Band XYZ and Pip Producer, the entry and Album A will appear as a separate standalone entry for judging purposes. Their entry will be displayed as: Band XYZ and Pip Producer – Album A.

Scenario 4:

Band XYZ and Pip Producer are entered in the Producer of the Year category for Album A. Dos is entered as a producer for another artist's album titled W.O.W. Pip Producer is also entered as a producer for another artist's album titled O.M.G.. The entries will be displayed as:

Uno – Album A

Tre – Album A

Dos – Album A and W.O.W.

Pip Producer – Album A and O.M.G.

8. Public Voted Awards Category Definitions

In 2021, ARIA will present five Publicly Voted Awards. Listed below are the category definitions and nomination methodology for each category. Voters will be asked to select a winner from a nominee pool provided by ARIA or by the Voting Academy as applicable. The method of voting by the general public in each category will be determined by ARIA each year.

8.1 Song of the Year

- (a) The nominee pool for Song of the Year will be drawn from eligible Single releases by Australian artists as defined in Section 4.3.
- (b) The ten highest selling Singles from these entries, based on ARIA sales statistics for the charts published between 29 September 2020 and 27 September 2021 inclusive, will form the nominee pool. Sales of different releases by the same artist during the period cannot be aggregated for the purpose of this category. Qualifying releases must have been released in the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period, but may be an Album track subsequently released as a Single if the official media or video servicing date is within either Eligibility Period.
- (c) Products previously nominated for the ARIA Awards in this award category are ineligible.
- (d) An artist will only appear on the nominee list once, even if that artist has multiple releases that may otherwise be eligible.
- (e) ARIA Members will be contacted in advance of the nominations announcement, so that they can provide the necessary collateral materials (e.g. cover art images).

8.2 Most Popular International Artist

- (a) The nominee pool for Most Popular International Artist will be drawn from the ten highest selling artists, based on aggregated ARIA Album and related Single sales statistics for the charts published between 29 September 2020 and 27 September 2021 inclusive. Sales will be derived from the ARIA Top 100 Singles and Top 100 Albums charts, where the sale of ten bundled single products or tracks will equate to one Album sale. Qualifying releases must consist of at least 90% new recordings and must have been first released either during the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period.
- (b) ARIA members will be contacted in advance of the nominations announcement, so that they can provide the necessary collateral materials (e.g. cover art images).

8.3 Best Australian Live Act

- (a) The Voting Academy will determine the final 10 nominees, which will then form the nominee pool for public voting.
- (b) ARIA Members may enter eligible acts as part of the normal entry process. The entries must meet the Artist eligibility criteria set out in Section 4.3 of this document.
- (c) The Artist must have performed live at no less than three ticketed events (which may include a music festival) held in at least one Australian State and / or Territory during the Current Eligibility Period. For the purpose of this category, the criteria is limited to live performances with an in-person audience. Performances that are live streamed only are not eligible.

8.4 Best Video

- (b) The Voting Academy will determine the final 10 nominee clips, which will then go forward for public voting.
- (c) The Award in this category is presented to both the artist and the Director of the entered video, both of whom must meet the General Eligibility Criteria for Artists as set out in Section 4.3 of this document.

- (d) If the Single was not commercially released then the media servicing date or the video servicing date (determined by the 'published' date listed on the label or artist's YouTube channel) must fall within the Current Eligibility Period or the Previous Eligibility Period.
- (e) ARIA Members may enter eligible clips as part of the normal entry process.
- (f) ARIA Members are requested to limit entries to those video clips that have had at least 50,000 online views in Australia (across all available service platforms) during the Current Eligibility Period, and may be asked to provide confirmation that the threshold has been met.

8.5 Telstra ARIA Music Teacher Award

- (a) Entries for this ARIA Award category are submitted by members of the public.
- (b) Separate terms and conditions and entry criteria are applicable for this Award category.
- (c) A judging panel will determine the final nominees, which will then form the nominee pool for: (a) public voting and (b) industry voting. Each voting category (ie public and industry) will contribute towards 50% of the final result respectively.

APPENDIX A

Commonwealth of Australia
STATUTORY DECLARATION
Statutory Declarations Act 1959

I,	Full Name		
Of	Address		
State		Postcode	
Being	Occupation		

make the following declaration under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*:

1. I declare that the statement ticked below is true and correct:

I am the Chief Financial Officer

OR

I am the Director

of the record company listed in Schedule 1 (the "**Record Company**").

2. The Record Company wishes to enter a recording or album for consideration for the 2021 ARIA Awards in the category titled "Best Independent Release". The title of the recording or album is set out in Schedule 2 (the "**Nominated Recording/s**").

3. For the purpose of this declaration, "**Eligibility Period**" means the period occurring between 4 September 2020 and 2 September 2021 inclusive.

4. I declare that the statement ticked below is true and correct for the duration of the Eligibility Period:

The Artist/Group (defined in Schedule 2) or the Record Company: (i) funds all artist and repertoire and marketing costs in relation to the Nominated Recording/s; and (ii) undertakes its own local marketing and promotion (including media and digital service provider servicing) in relation to the Nominated Recording/s. I declare that only the persons listed in Schedule 3 provided the media and digital service provider servicing for the Nominated Recording/s during the Eligibility Period.

OR

ARIA has three levy members, namely Sony Music Entertainment Australia Pty Ltd, Universal Music Australia Pty Limited and Warner Music Australia Pty Limited (the "**ARIA Levy Members**"). I declare that one of the ARIA Levy Members or EMI Music Australia Pty Ltd ("**EMI**") has provided the artist and repertoire costs and/or the marketing costs in relation to the Nominated Recording/s, but: (i) these aforementioned funds and costs are fully recoupable and repayable in full to the ARIA Levy Member or EMI; and (ii) the Artist/Group (defined in Schedule 2) or the Record Company undertakes its own local marketing and promotion (including media and digital service provider servicing) in relation to the Nominated Recording/s. I declare that only the persons listed in Schedule 3 provided the media and digital service provider servicing for the Nominated Recording/s during the Eligibility Period.

5. I declare that the Record Company is not owned in whole or in part by any of the ARIA Levy Members, EMI or their respective affiliates or subsidiaries during the Eligibility Period.

6. I declare that the Record Company has not entered into an exclusive licence for the territory of Australia with any of the ARIA Levy Members, EMI or their respective affiliates or subsidiaries in respect of the Nominated Recording/s during the Eligibility Period.

Completed declarations should be emailed to awards@aria.com.au

SCHEDULE 1: RECORD COMPANY

Record Company Name	
ABN	
Registered Business Address	

SCHEDULE 2: NOMINATED RECORDING/S

Title of Nominated Single or Album	Artist/Group

SCHEDULE 3: MEDIA AND DIGITAL SERVICE PROVIDER SERVICING PERSONNEL

Name of Person	Name of Employer/Company

I understand that a person who intentionally makes a false statement in a statutory declaration is guilty of an offence under section 11 of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*, and I believe that the statements in this declaration are true in every particular.

Signed *		Date	
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(signature of the person making the declaration)

<i>Optional: email address and/or telephone number of person making the declaration</i>	
---	--

Declared at	Place		
On this	Date	Day of	Month 2021

Before me, *

(signature of the person before whom the declaration is made)

Full name

Occupation

Address

<i>Optional: email address and/or telephone number of person before whom the declaration is made</i>	
--	--

Note 1 A person who intentionally makes a false statement in a statutory declaration is guilty of an offence, the punishment for which is imprisonment for a term of 4 years — see section 11 of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*.

Note 2 Chapter 2 of the *Criminal Code* applies to all offences against the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* — see section 5A of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*.

A statutory declaration under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* may be made before—

(1) a person who is currently licensed or registered under a law to practise in one of the following occupations:

Architect	Chiropractor	Dentist
Financial adviser	Financial Planner	Legal practitioner
Medical practitioner	Midwife	Migration agent registered under Division 3 of Part 3 of the <i>Migration Act 1958</i>
Nurse	Occupational therapist	Optometrist
Patent attorney	Pharmacist	Physiotherapist
Psychologist	Trade marks attorney	Veterinary surgeon

(2) a person who is enrolled on the roll of the Supreme Court of a State or Territory, or the High Court of Australia, as a legal practitioner (however described); or

(3) a person who is in the following list:

Accountant who is:(a) a fellow of the National Tax Accountants' Association; or (b) a member of any of the following:

- i. Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand;
- ii. the Association of Taxation and Management Accountants;
- iii. CPA Australia;
- iv. the Institute of Public Accountants

Agent of the Australian Postal Corporation who is in charge of an office supplying postal services to the public

APS employee engaged on an ongoing basis with 5 or more years of continuous service who is not specified in another item in this list

Australian Consular Officer or Australian Diplomatic Officer (within the meaning of the *Consular Fees Act 1955*)

Bailiff

Bank officer with 5 or more continuous years of service

Building society officer with 5 or more years of continuous service

Chief executive officer of a Commonwealth court

Clerk of a court

Commissioner for Affidavits

Commissioner for Declarations

Credit union officer with 5 or more years of continuous service

Employee of a Commonwealth authority engaged on a permanent basis with 5 or more years of continuous service who is not specified in another item in this list

Employee of the Australian Trade and Investment Commission who is: (a) in a country or place outside Australia; and (b) authorised under paragraph 3(d) of the *Consular Fees Act 1955*; and (c) exercising the employee's function at that place

Employee of the Commonwealth who is: (a) at a place outside Australia; and (b) authorised under paragraph 3 (c) of the *Consular Fees Act 1955*; and (c) exercising the employee's function at that place

Engineer who is (a) a member of Engineers Australia, other than at the grade of student; or (b) a Registered Professional Engineer of Professionals Australia; or (c) registered as an engineer under a law of the Commonwealth, a State or Territory; or (d) registered on the National Engineering Register by Engineers Australia

Finance company officer with 5 or more years of continuous service

Holder of a statutory office not specified in another item in this list

Judge

Justice of the Peace

Magistrate

Marriage celebrant registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*

Master of a court

Member of the Australian Defence Force who is: (a) an officer (b) a non-commissioned officer within the meaning of the *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982* with 5 or more years of continuous service (c) a warrant officer within the meaning of that Act

Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy

Member of the Governance Institute of Australia Ltd

Member of: (a) the Parliament of the Commonwealth (b) the Parliament of a State (c) a Territory legislature (d) a local government authority

Minister of religion registered under Subdivision A of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*

Notary public, including a notary public (however described) exercising functions at a place outside (a) the Commonwealth (b) the external Territories of the Commonwealth

Permanent employee of the Australian Postal Corporation with 5 or more years of continuous service who is employed in an office providing postal services to the public

Permanent employee of (a) State or Territory or a State or Territory authority (b) a local government authority, with 5 or more years of continuous service, other than such an employee who is specified in another item of this list

Person before whom a statutory declaration may be made under the law of the State or Territory in which the declaration is made

Police officer

Registrar, or Deputy Registrar, of a court

Senior executive employee of a Commonwealth authority

Senior executive employee of a State or Territory

SES employee of the Commonwealth

Sheriff

Sheriff's officer

Teacher employed on a permanent full-time or part-time basis at a school or tertiary education institution