



2018 ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Entries for the 2018 Adelaide Roots and Blues Association Blues Album of the Year (BAY) and Roots Album of the Year (RAY) are now open.

Entries close 23rd of July 2018.

This document contains important information about eligibility, judging and scoring guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY

- * Albums are to have been released in purchasable hard CD and/or digital form in the period of 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018.
- * An album may be credited to a solo performer, duo or group or be an assembly of tracks by a number of artists.
- * An album may not be a compilation of previously released material.
- * At least half of the credited principal performers are to have been resident in SA for a greater part of the eligibility period.
- * The release must contain a minimum of 6 tracks and/or or be at least 25 minutes in total duration.
- * If applicable, recording acts may submit entries for multiple eligible albums.

ENTRY ROUTINE

- * The online entry form must be completed no later than Monday 23rd of July 2018. The online entry form is here: <http://www.adelaiderootsandblues.org/album-of-the-year-entry-page.html>
 - * 6 hard copies of the album are also to reach Michael Winter (Album of the Year coordinator) before the 23rd of July deadline.
 - * 6 burned disc copies of any digital-only releases are to Michael Winter (Album of the Year coordinator) before the 23rd of July deadline.
- Albums should be mailed to:
ARBA Album of the Year
PO Box 457 Unley 5061.
- Questions should be directed to Album of the Year coordinator Michael Winter:
<mailto:bassface@adam.com.au>

JUDGING-CRITERIA

- * The entered albums will be assessed by a panel of 5 independent judges appointed by the ARBA committee.
- * The scoring criteria are outlined below for both BAY and RAY. Obviously, "Blues Content" only applies to BAY and "Roots Content" only applies to RAY. Each of the 5 scoring criteria will be scored out of 10 and then multiplied by a weighting, as indicated.

1a) BLUES CONTENT (score multiplied by 4)

The judges will assess the overall quality of the music. The sound and feel of the music should be true to any blues sub-categories: traditional blues, country blues, soul blues, rock blues and/or

contemporary blues. Judges will be listening for inspired and original song selections or covers that involve new takes on non-original material. Creative reach is encouraged.

1b) ROOTS CONTENT (score multiplied by 4)

The judges will assess the overall quality of the music and to what extent the music meets the definition of "roots". Roots music can hold elements of folk, blues, gospel, rhythm and blues, 'primitive' jazz, jump-swing, different forms of country, bluegrass, Cajun, zydeco, hillbilly, rockabilly, reggae, funk, Americana, world, Celtic etc, but not so much of any one of those elements that it can be classified as such. The Judges will be listening for inspired and original song selections or covers that involve new takes on non-original material. Creative reach is encouraged.

2) ORIGINALITY (score multiplied by 3)

Original compositions are encouraged. Cover tunes are allowed but copying the original rendition lick by lick is discouraged, will not be looked upon favourably by the judges, and will be reflected in scoring.

3) VOCAL PERFORMANCE (score multiplied by 2)

Quality of vocal performance including concepts of tone, musicality, meaning, and expression.

4) INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE (score multiplied by 2)

Quality of performance of all instruments featured on the album.

5) AUDIO QUALITY (score multiplied by 2)

Recording clarity and purity, production (mixing/mastering), balance of vocal-instrumental levels, appropriate uniformity of loudness within and amongst tracks, track ordering, apt duration of inter-track spaces, etc.

6) DESIGN/ARTWORK (no multiplier)

Scope and standards of design, artwork, photography, lettering, layout, packaging, etc.

The above as applied to the cover, rear, inside sleeves (if any), disc, inside tray (if) and elements at any additional pages or booklets.

7) CREDITS/INFORMATION (no multiplier)

Listings of performers and instruments, recording information.

Studio, production, design etc credits, other info and acknowledgements.

Track numbers, durations, writer credits, track and album notes, lyrics.

Also biographic details, related concert information (if applicable), links to websites, etc.

TALLYING SCORES AND DETERMINING WINNING BAY and RAY

The following process will be applied for albums entered in the BAY and separately for albums entered in the RAY:

1. The coordinator will multiply the Raw Score in each category by the established multiplier to get each judge's Individual Weighted Score in each category for each album.
2. The Individual Weighted Scores for each category will be added together to determine each album's Net Weighted Score for each judge.
3. After each album's Net Weighted Score per judge has been calculated, each album will be ranked by judge based on that judge's order of scores, with the album receiving the judge's highest Net Weighted Score being given a ranking of 1, and so on for that judge. This will reveal each album's Final Ranking Number for each judge.

4. The coordinator then will total the Final Ranking Number from all judges for each album to determine the Gross Final Ranking. This figure is averaged (divided by the total number of judges) to achieve the Aggregate Album Ranking.
5. The winning album will be the album with the best Aggregate Ranking.
6. In the case of a tie, the coordinator shall calculate the sum of all Net Weighted Scores from all judges for the tied albums. The album with the higher sum of Net Weighted Scores wins.
7. If, after the application of point 6, there is still a tie, the following will apply: The judges will cast a vote to decide which of the albums that are still tied for first place will be the winner.

The judge's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

FINALISTS AND AWARD PRESENTATION

The top three albums for RAY and BAY will be declared "Finalists" and will be announced via media release, ARBA website and social media on Monday October 1st.

The winning albums will be announced and the trophies presented at the Semaphore Workers Club on Friday October 19th. This announcement will be followed by media release and website and social media announcements.

ENTRY OF BAY INTO BLUES FOUNDATION CD CONTEST

Being an affiliate of the Blues Foundation based in Memphis USA, ARBA will submit the 2018 BAY to the Blues Foundation's Best Self-Produced CD Contest with the winner out of world-wide entries to be announced at the IBC in January 2019.

Personnel of the related act are to be members of ARBA and to provide four additional CD copies

See information re the Blues Foundation's Best Self-Produced CD Contest:

<http://www.blues.org/international-blues-challenge/self-produced-cd>