

Kutcha Edwards wins \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Music 2016

- Kutcha Edwards awarded Melbourne Prize for Music 2016 for his outstanding contribution to Australian music
- Winners of the Outstanding Musicians Award 2016, the new Beleura Award for Composition 2016, the Development Award 2016 and the new Distinguished Musicians Fellowship 2016 announced
- \$131,500 total prize money awarded, including travel
- Over \$1 million awarded to Victorian sculptors, writers, musicians through the annual Melbourne Prize since inception

The winners of the esteemed **Melbourne Prize for Music 2016 and Awards** were announced tonight at a special awards ceremony.

Acclaimed musician **Kutcha Edwards** was awarded the **\$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Music 2016** in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Australian music and for enriching cultural and public life. **The 2016 Melbourne Prize is supported by The Vera Moore Foundation.**

Scott Tinkler is the recipient of the **\$30,000 Outstanding Musicians Award 2016** for his recent work *Whale*, which represents an outstanding example of creativity and skill. **This award is supported by Dr. Ron Benson.**

Kate Neal, for her composition *Semaphore*, is the recipient of the inaugural **\$25,000 Beleura Award for Composition 2016**, which recognises a composition of outstanding musicianship, skill and creativity. This new award is supported by **The Tallis Foundation** in memory of **John Tallis (1911-1996)**.

Matthias Schack-Arnott is the recipient of the **\$16,000 Development Award**, which is awarded to an emerging musician or group of musicians, aged 30 years and under, who demonstrate outstanding musical talent with the potential to develop their professional career. This Award consists of a **\$6,000** music instrument and equipment grant supported by **Yamaha Music Australia** and **\$10,000** supported by **The William Buckland Foundation**.

Kutcha Edwards was also awarded the inaugural **\$20,000 Distinguished Musicians Fellowship 2016**, which includes a commercial engagement with, and is provided by, the **Victorian College of the Arts and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music**.

The **\$4,000 Civic Choice Award 2016**, supported by **Readings**, will be awarded to a finalist (across all awards categories) who receives the highest number of public votes. The winner of the **Civic Choice Award 2016** will be announced on the 25th of November. Votes can be cast online at www.melbourneprize.org as well as at a public exhibition at Federation Square – principal Exhibition and Events partner of the annual Melbourne Prize. The public exhibition closes on the 21st of November. Voters will go into the running to win an overnight stay at the **Sofitel Melbourne On Collins – Melbourne's Hotel for the Arts**.

The winners of the **Melbourne Prize for Music 2016 and Awards** were selected by a judging panel, made up of some of Australia's most respected music identities, including **Patrick Donovan**, CEO Music Victoria and Chair of the Australian Music Industry Network; **Professor Paul Grabowsky AO**, Pianist, Composer, Conductor, and Director Monash Academy of Performing Arts and winner of the Melbourne Prize for Music 2006; **Genevieve Lacey**, Recorder Virtuoso, Artistic Director and Collaborator; **Marshall McGuire**, Harpist and Director of Artistic Planning Melbourne Recital Centre; **Helen Marcou**, Co-founder Bakehouse Studios and SLAM; and **Ronald Vermeulen**, Director of Artistic Planning Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Judges' Statement:

Kutcha Edwards' commitment to his story and outstanding contribution to Australian music speaks for itself. **Scott Tinkler** demonstrates a unique expression and a new musical language. **Kate Neal's** multifaceted compositions create an audio-visual immersion. **Matthias Schack-Arnott** creates an evocative journey of distinctive musicianship. Each category recipient, and all finalists this year, are outstanding Victorian musicians of exceptional skill and talent.

Winners Biographies:

Kutcha Edwards – winner of the Melbourne Prize for Music 2016 and inaugural Distinguished Musicians Fellowship 2016

Kutchka began his solo career in 2001 and has since produced four albums. He has staged two theatre productions and has received multiple awards over the subsequent years. Fusing soulful music and a rich, powerful voice with his personal story, Kutchka's songs reflect on life as an Aboriginal man in white Australia. His deep and rhythmic tones are that of a storyteller whose inspiring songs are full of passion and spirit that evoke a connection to an intimate and resilient Songline.

Scott Tinkler – winner of the Outstanding Musicians Award 2016

Scott has been a leading musician, improviser and composer for over three decades. In his own playing, he uses his trumpet to find new effects, colours and techniques, and through collaboration he presents performances that explore the music of other cultures, and new ways to connect through improvisation. Scott Tinkler's entered work, *Whale*, is a new solo project that explores rhythm and sound in a highly energetic and exposed environment, stretching the world of solo trumpet to new areas of expressions of sound.

Kate Neal – winner of the inaugural Beleura Award for Composition 2016

Kate is an artist with over 20 years' experience as a composer, arranger, teacher, artistic director and collaborator. Kate holds a BMus (VCA, Melbourne); BMus/MMus (RC, The Hague); PGDip (non-western music, SC, Amsterdam); PGDip (RNCM, Manchester) and is a current PhD Graduate Fellow at Princeton University. Kate's entered composition for this category is a 60-minute mixed media work (music, dance, light, theatre) for three dancers and nine musicians. *Semaphore* explores and abstracts encoded methods of communication and signalling, and hence, concepts and narratives of miscommunication.

Matthias Schack-Arnott – winner of the Development Award 2016

Matthias is a percussive artist working in contemporary classical and experimental music as a performer, composer and improviser. He maintains an internationally active career, creating his own solo projects, performing as key artist in Speak Percussion, and appearing as a guest artist with diverse ensembles and orchestras. Matthias' entered music, *Mapping the interior: In search of the inland sea* explores the extreme effects of heat stroke experienced by early explorers of the deserts in Southern and Central Australia.

Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director Simon Warrender has been delighted with the response to this year's Prize.

"On behalf of the Melbourne Prize Trust, I would like to congratulate this year's winners and finalists and all applicants, who collectively reinforce our great city's reputation as a centre of opportunity for musicians.

"I would like to acknowledge the generous support and community investment of our 2016 partners and patrons who have made it possible to offer the Melbourne Prize 2016 program and exhibition, and for recognising the importance of supporting and developing our arts and culture," he added.

The Melbourne Prize Trust is proud to have the **Victorian Government**, through **Creative Victoria**, and the **City of Melbourne** through **Melbourne Music Week 2016** (www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/mmw), as Government Partners.

"The Melbourne Prize for Music provides substantial opportunities for local music makers and offers inspiration for the next generation. The Victorian Government is a proud partner of the Melbourne Prize program. Congratulations to all of this year's finalists and thank you for the contribution you make to our city and state," said Martin Foley MP, Minister for Creative Industries.

"Melbourne is one of the great creative cities of the world. For more than 10 years, the annual Melbourne Prize has made a significant contribution to our rich cultural life. The Prize is about celebrating creative excellence and talent. I congratulate the winners across all categories and we are delighted to be supporting the finalist exhibition through Melbourne Music Week 2016," said Martin Cutter, Acting Chief Executive Officer and City of Melbourne.

For more information or for interview opportunities call Nicolette Baxter at Royce Communications on 8628 9320 or 0438 142 342 or visit www.melbourneprize.org

Progress of the Prize can be followed via our social media platforms:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Melbourne-Prize>
https://twitter.com/Melbourne_Prize

Notes to the Editor:

Launched in 2004, the Melbourne Prize Trust was established to recognise and reward talent, excellence and inspire creative development. The Trust achieves this aim by running the annual Melbourne Prize, which is funded by a collaboration of partners and patrons. The Melbourne Prize Trust and annual Melbourne Prize was founded by Executive Director, Simon Warrender. Committee for Melbourne is a founding supporter.

The Melbourne Prize for Music 2016 is made possible through the generous support of partners and patrons of the Melbourne Prize Trust, which can be seen at www.melbourneprize.org. The Trust is pleased to have **Chong Lim** as an advisor this year.

Since inception, the annual Melbourne Prize has made available more than \$1 million in prizes and award, artist residencies, equipment grants and an annual public exhibition at Federation Square to Victorian writers, sculptors and musicians.

Cornwell Design are a Founding Partner of the Melbourne Prize Trust and each year develop and design the identity, promotional material and exhibition for the annual Melbourne Prize – this year for music. Cornwell's generous support since inception is appreciated.

Federation Square is the Exhibition and Events partner and 'home' of the Melbourne Prize. This long-term partnership makes it possible for the public, visiting the free public exhibition each November, to engage with abundant talent in literature, music and (urban) sculpture and provides artists, writers and musicians with public exposure, in one of the country's most visited public spaces.

The Melbourne Prize Trust appreciates the generous support of **Federation Square**, **The Vera Moore Foundation** and all our 2016 partners and patrons who help to develop our creative resources and provide opportunities to benefit our abundant artistic talent through the annual Melbourne Prize.

The annual Melbourne Prize operates in a three-year cycle, including the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture, the Melbourne Prize for Literature and the Melbourne Prize for Music. The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture will be offered in 2017. It is the most valuable prize of its kind in Australia.

The origins of the Melbourne Prize Trust date back to *The Magic Pudding* sculpture commission and children's garden precinct at the Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne. Miniatures of this sculpture are available for purchase through the Melbourne Prize Trust, which is a Deductible Gift Recipient and Income Tax Exempt Charity.

Melbourne Prize Trust Board

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Past recipients - Melbourne Prize for Music & Awards

Melbourne Prize for Music

2013 Brett Dean

2010 David Jones

2007 Professor Paul Grabowsky AO

Outstanding Musicians Award

2013 Stephen Magnusson

2010 Ben Northey

2007 Genevieve Lacey

Development Award

2013 Kate Kelsey-Sugg

2010 Natalie Bartsch

2007 Julian Langdon

Thank you to our 2016 partner and patrons

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**The Annual Melbourne Prize
2005 – 2015 Alumni**

2015	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2015 Professor Chris Wallace-Crabbe AM	Writers Prize 2015 Kate Ryan
	Best Writing Award 2015 Andrea Goldsmith	Civic Choice Award 2015 Robyn Annear
2014	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2014 Geoff Robinson	Civic Choice Award 2014 Kay Abude
	Professional Development Award 2014 Kay Abude	Rural & Regional Development Award 2014 Aleks Danko
2013	Melbourne Prize for Music 2013 Brett Dean	Development Award 2013 Kate Kelsey-Sugg
	Outstanding Musicians Award 2013 Stephen Magnusson	Civic Choice Award 2013 Mick Harvey
2012	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012 Alex Miller	Civic Choice Award 2012 Tony Birch
	Best Writing Award 2012 Craig Sherborne	
2011	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2011 Bianca Hester	Civic Choice Award 2011 Lucas Maddock & Isaac Greener
	Professional Development Award 2011 Lucas Maddock & Isaac Greener	
2010	Melbourne Prize for Music 2010 David Jones	Development Award 2010 Natalie Bartsch
	Outstanding Musicians Award 2010 Ben Northey	
2009	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2009 Gerald Murnane	Civic Choice Award 2009 Amra Pajalic
	Best Writing Award 2009 Nam Le	
2008	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2008 Alexander Knox	VicUrban Award 2008 Louise Paramor
	Professional Development Award 2008 Tom Nicholson	Civic Choice Award 2008 Elaine Miles
2007	Melbourne Prize for Music 2007 Paul Grabowsky	Development Award 2007 Julian Langdon
	Outstanding Musicians Award 2007 Genevieve Lacey	
2006	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2006 Helen Garner	Civic Choice Award 2006 Henry von Doussa
	Best Writing Award 2006 Chistos Tsiolkas	
2005	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2005 Open Spatial Workshop	Civic Choice Award 2005 Matthew de Moiser
	Professional Development Award 2005 Karen Abernethy	