

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE 13th AMP

BEST ALBUM OF 2017

The Shortlist is Announced!

In the lead up to the 13th Australian Music Prize winner announcement on March 9, where our Principal Partner [PPCA](#) will award \$30,000 in prize money to the best album of 2017, today we are proud to announce the nine albums to have made the Shortlist (in alphabetical order):

[Beaches](#) – ‘Second of Spring’

[Darcy Baylis](#) – ‘Intimacy & Isolation’

[HTMLflowers](#) – ‘Chrome Halo’

[Jen Cloher](#) – ‘Jen Cloher’

[Jordan Rakei](#) – ‘Wallflower’

[Liars](#) – ‘TFCF’

[Paul Kelly](#) – ‘Life is Fine’

[Sampa The Great](#) – ‘Birds and the BEE9’

[The Vampires](#) – ‘The Vampires Meet Lionel Loueke’

PPCA Chief Executive Dan Rosen said, “Congratulations to the nine artists that have made it through to the shortlist of the 13th Australian Music Prize. All of them have produced outstanding albums. We look forward to presenting the winner with their \$30,000 prize money on March 9. ”

The 13th AMP has broken away from tradition with the Longlist announcements this year being held as successful *Longlist Live* pop-up gigs in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, made possible by the support of Longlist Partner [Mountain Goat Beer](#).

This year’s winner announcement will be made in Melbourne on Friday March 9. As part of a new partnership with the Victorian Government, the AMP will call Melbourne home in 2018 and 2019.🇺🇸

Victoria’s Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley said, “Victoria is the heart and home of live music and we are very proud to have secured the Australian Music Prize in Melbourne for the next two years. The Prize adds yet another string to Melbourne’s musical bow – and we can’t wait to honour these incredible shortlisted artists and acts in March.”

Founder and Director of the AMP, Scott B Murphy said, “I can’t applaud the 19 judges of The 13th AMP enough – the volume of eligible releases skyrocketed by about 100 from 2016 to 2017 - that’s a lot of great Australian music they had to give up their time to ‘absorb’ and then produce this diverse, compelling list of 9. Please, discover and enjoy these albums.”

The AMP exists to discover, reward and promote new Australian music of excellence.

ABOUT THE 13TH AMP SHORTLISTED ARTISTS:

[Beaches](#) – ‘Second of Spring’

Iconic Melbourne psych rock quintet Beaches make the AMP Shortlist for the third time with their

double album 'Second of Spring'. Following extensive Australian and US tours, Beaches have garnered glowing critical acclaim for their recordings and an avid following for their trancelike, sonic overdrive live shows.

[Darcy Baylis](#) – 'Intimacy & Isolation'

Singer/producer/songwriter Darcy Baylis released his debut album 'Intimacy & Isolation' in February 2017. Part of Melbourne's club scene, Baylis' album was released as he also juggled the demands of studying his Honours in Music and follows the release of EPs 'How Can I Live?/Ecstasy' and 'Envelopes'.

[HTMLflowers](#) – 'Chrome Halo'

'Chrome Halo' is the debut album from Melbourne artist and musician HTMLflowers (Grant Gronewold), featuring Banoffee, Oscar Key Sung, Sui Zhen, Marcus Whale and Felicity Yang. Gronewold lives with Cystic Fibrosis, and with raw detail 'Chrome Halo' tells of this battle.

[Jen Cloher](#) – 'Jen Cloher'

Jen Cloher's self titled fourth album is the culmination of a period of artistic and personal growth, with the NIDA graduate an outspoken advocate for artist fights and the co-founder of the Milk! Records label (Courtney Barnett, Fraser A Gorman, Loose Tooth). 'Jen Cloher' is Cloher's second AMP nomination following her Shortlisted 'In Blood Memory' album in the 9th AMP.

[Jordan Rakei](#) – 'Wallflower'

With a fistful of highly praised releases under his belt and a soulful, jazz and hip-hop driven sound, 25 year-old multi-instrumentalist, vocalist and producer Jordan Rakei is a rare talent whose artistry transcends the confines of age. Recently signed to Ninja Tune, Jordan released his second LP "Wallflower" in September 2017.

[Liars](#) – 'TFCF'

'TFCF' which stands for 'Theme From Crying Fountain', marks a new creative process for Angus Andrew and his eighth Liars album – following years of recording in Brooklyn, LA and Berlin, it's recorded in his hometown of Sydney and without his Liars band mate and only constant collaborator Aaron Hemphill. There's no defining style to 'TFCF' as it shifts between sampled elements, brash processed sounds and "real" instrumentation, passages of pointed abstraction and passages of willful songcraft, avant gestures and genuine pop moments.

[Paul Kelly](#) – 'Life is Fine'

Paul Kelly is one of Australia's most iconic and prolific songwriters and a name synonymous with some of the most cherished Australian songs of all time. 'Life is Fine' is his 23rd studio album and was the highest selling Australian album of 2017. Debuting at #1 on the ARIA Album Chart - the first #1 of Kelly's career - 'Life is Fine' has been certified Gold.

[Sampa The Great](#) – 'Birds and the BEE9'

Born in Zambia and now based in Sydney, rapper Sampa Tembo, aka Sampa The Great, has set about making music that combines her natural style and energy with thought-provoking, socially-conscious themes. Sampa found a love for hip-hop at an early age, and following previous releases, 'Birds and the BEE9' is her debut album.

[The Vampires](#) – 'The Vampires Meet Lionel Loueke'

Sydney based The Vampires' music is a unique blend of soulful jazz, old-school reggae, romantic Afro-Peruvian, danceable Afro-Cuban, exotic Balkan and all-out funk-laden Afrobeat. Combined with risk-

taking improvisation, sophisticated compositions and an uncanny sense of dialogue and emotion between the sax/trumpet front line, the band defies genres to have developed a style of their own. 'The Vampires Meet Lionel Loueke' is their fifth album.

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