

QMF: QLD MUSIC TRAILS

DREAM
ALoud
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Queensland's Trailblazing Queensland Music Trails Scores Back-to-Back Nominations at Global Music Cities Awards in 2025.

BRISBANE, QLD — 21 July 2025

Queensland Music Festival (QMF) is once again being celebrated globally, following its 2024 win and now a 2025 finalist nomination at the prestigious **Music Cities Awards**, the world's leading platform recognising music-led innovation and impact.

In 2024, QMF's immersive coastal event *Between the Tides* took home the **Best Music Tourism Initiative** award for its powerful collaboration with the Yuwi People and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, transforming Cape Hillsborough National Park into a world-class cultural destination grounded in First Nations storytelling and stewardship.

In 2025, QMF is again among the global finalists, this time for the *Dream Aloud Festival*, nominated for **Best Music Tourism Initiative**. The flagship event, held in Far North Queensland, celebrates First Nations leadership and cultural exchange through an all-First Nations lineup. The 2024 festival featured standout performances from artists including **Baker Boy, King Stingray, Bumpy and JK-47**, with cultural programming such as Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremonies, and dance workshops deeply grounding the event in Country and community.

Held annually, the Music Cities Awards spotlight innovative projects from across the globe that use music to drive cultural, social, and economic transformation. This year's competition drew a record-breaking 365 submissions from 51 countries.

"To be recognised two years in a row by the Music Cities Awards is incredibly meaningful," said **QMF CEO Daryl Raven**

"It affirms the impact of our work alongside communities and Traditional Owners across Queensland. Dream Aloud and Between the Tides are not just events, they're platforms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander storytelling, celebration, and connection. We're proud to champion the sharing of First Nations cultures and heritage through Queensland Music Trails"

Minister for the Environment and Tourism, Andrew Powell, congratulates Queensland Music Trails for being internationally recognised for a second year in a row.

"Queensland Music Trails is an immersive experience for music lovers to reconnect with nature while enjoying some tunes, and its popularity shows with this second consecutive nomination."

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Minister for Education and the Arts John-Paul Langbroek said the nomination was a strong endorsement of Queensland Music Festival and the Dream Aloud Festival.

“Congratulations to Queensland Music Festival for its second consecutive year being nominated for a Music Cities Award.

“This nomination shines the spotlight on Queensland and grows our reputation as the home of vibrant arts experiences,” Minister Langbroek said.

“The Crisafulli Government is proud to support Queensland Music Festival and its Queensland Music Trails, which create jobs for Queensland artists and attract visitors to regional destinations to enjoy music, local tourism, and cultural experiences.”

Cairns is a region rich in cultural assets, providing a world-class stage for world-class performances such as the Dream Aloud Festival. The region is hungry for rhythm, storytelling and shared experiences, bringing more acts to entertain locals and visitors.

“Locals have said loud and clear they want more music events and festivals, and we’re responding,” said **Cairns Mayor Amy Eden**.

“We’re thankful to QMF for offering such a significant cultural event and choosing our region to share in music and the magic of storytelling. It’s no surprise to me that they have been recognised on the global stage for their contribution to music tourism.

“It’s an exciting time as we count down to the announcement of the awards. No matter the final outcome, this is a huge accolade for QMF and our city.

“The Dream Aloud Festival has a welcome home in Cairns and does so much more than fill venues. We recognise its role in supporting local jobs, boosting tourism, and showcasing the talent that makes this region unique.”

The winners will be announced at the **Music Cities Convention** in Fayetteville, Arkansas, on **16 September 2025**.

From coast to rainforest, QMF’s **Queensland Music Trails** initiative continues to spotlight the strength, creativity and resilience of First Nations communities through live performance, storytelling, and place-based programming. As Queensland prepares to welcome the world for the 2032 Olympic Games, QMF remains committed to elevating regional voices and showcasing the depth and diversity of First Nations culture on Country.

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About Queensland Music Trails

Queensland Music Trails is a groundbreaking initiative by Queensland Music Festival, inviting audiences to explore the state’s diverse landscapes through curated live music experiences. From beaches to rainforests, QMF transforms regional and remote destinations into unforgettable stages, celebrating culture, creativity, and community. Queensland Music Trails are proudly supported by the Queensland Government.