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MEDIA RELEASE
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Cairns singer-songwriter Leanne Tennant wins \$15,000 Carol Lloyd Award

North Queensland blues 'n roots artist [Leanne Tennant](#) has been named Queensland Music Festival's (QMF) 2018 [Carol Lloyd Award](#) winner at the closing event of WOW at Festival 2018, the [Songs That Made Me](#) concert in the QPAC Concert Hall.

QMF Artistic Director and Carol Lloyd Award judge Katie Noonan congratulated Leanne, saying she hoped the award would enable her to follow in the footsteps of Australia's original female rocker.

"Once again, the five judges and I were blown away by the quality of the submissions and the huge variety of talent across Queensland," Ms Noonan said.

"Our finalists are five talented women singer-songwriters who are all worthy of the award but our overall winner was clear, it was a 100 per cent unanimous decision from all six judges. We can't wait to see Leanne soar!"

Already a winner of two Queensland Music Awards and nominated for some of the country's most celebrated accolades, Leanne Tennant has steadily established herself as one to watch since releasing her debut album *Pull Up Your Britches* in 2014 and acclaimed sophomore album *Red Wine, Late Nights* in 2016.

Tennant has performed at festivals across Australia, supporting the likes of Cold Chisel, Ash Grunwald and Men At Work's Colin Hay, and has worked closely with Ben Ely (Regurgitator) and celebrated producer Jamie Trevaskis. Her breakthrough singles *Bear The Crown* and *GENTLE ANNIE* have scored rotation on Triple J and Double J and received rave reviews.

Leanne can use the funding to assist in recording an original full-length album, or record and tour an EP, and will have the opportunity to broaden her experience in the music industry and connect with some of Australia's most respected artists.

Entries from across the state for the \$15,000 grant were narrowed down to five talented finalists, including Leanne Tennant; Sunshine Coast songstress [Sahara Beck](#) (who now calls Brisbane home), Brisbane vocal powerhouse [Rivah \(Bec Laughton\)](#), Brisbane indie-pop artist [Harriette Pilbeam \(Hatchie\)](#) and Toowoomba country crooner [Sue Ray](#).

Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch congratulated Leanne Tennant on taking out the 2018 Carol Lloyd Award, and applauded all the finalists on their incredible contributions to Queensland's vibrant contemporary music scene.

"The Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland, is proud to support the [Carol Lloyd Award](#), and I am delighted that Leanne will be provided this opportunity to showcase and develop her work and to trail blaze – just like Carol Lloyd before her," Ms Enoch said.

"Leanne is already an important part of Queensland's contemporary music story – she is already shining on a global stage with performances on the Gold Coast and Cairns as part of Festival 2018."

APRA AMCOS (Australasian Performing Right Association and Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society) earlier this year revealed that only 21.9 percent of its songwriter/composer membership identifies as female.

QMF has long been a champion of women in music. More than 6,000 women participated in last year's program, including the choirs recruited for the mass choral event [You're the Voice](#), making up 78 percent of all festival participants. On top of that, the behind the scenes team in last year's festival was also made up of 58 percent women, including key leadership roles.

Judges of the 2018 Carol Lloyd Award included QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan, Time Off Media's Sean Sennett, Rock & Roll Writers Festival Director Leanne de Souza, QUT Head of Music John Willsteed, former co-owner of The Zoo Joc Curran and Women in Voice founder Annie Peterson.

Entries for the 2019 award will open in November 2018.

ENDS

Queensland Music Festival is a state-wide celebration of music with a vision to transform lives and communities through music. Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

The Carol Lloyd Award is presented by Queensland Music Festival and supported by APRA AMCOS, Hutchinson Builders and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

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Notes to editor

Carol Lloyd was the first Australian female singer-songwriter to front a successful rock band, making her name in the ultimate boys club when she started out with Railroad Gin in the 1970s, then the Carol Lloyd Band, and finally as a solo artist, stacking up number one hits along the way.

Her ground-breaking, worldwide EMI publishing contract saw Carol release hits like *A Matter of Time*, *Do Ya Love Me* and *You Told The World* in 27 countries. Carol Lloyd lost her battle with pulmonary fibrosis in February 2017, but the wild woman of rock's spirit lives on.

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