



Aotearoa Music Awards 2024 (AMA)

Terms and Conditions of Entry

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1. Aotearoa Music Awards 2024 – Award Categories

Award Category	Nominations Accepted via Award Force Y/N	Award Type	Voted/Judged By
Te Pukaemi o te Tau Album of The Year	Y	General	Academy
Te Waiata Tōtahi o te Tau Single of the Year	Y	General	Academy
Te Kaipuoro Takitahi Toa Best Solo Artist	Y	General	Academy
Te Roopu Toa Best Group	Y	General	Academy
Mana Reo	Y	Māori	Specialist School
Te Kaipuoro Māori Toa Best Māori Artist	Y	Māori	Specialist School
Te Kaipuoro Manohi Toa Best Alternative Artist	Y	Genre	Specialist School
Te Kaipuoro Inamata Toa Best Classical Artist	Y	Genre	Specialist School
Te Kaipuoro Tuawhenua Toa Best Country Music Artist	Y	Genre	Specialist School
Te Kaipuoro Tāhiko Toa Best Electronic Artist	Y	Genre	Specialist School
Te Kaipuoro Taketake Toa Best Folk Artist	Y	Genre	Specialist School
Te Kaipuoro Hipihope Toa Best Hip Hop Artist	Y	Genre	Specialist School
Te Kaipuoro Tautito Toa Best Jazz Artist	Y	Genre	Specialist School
Te Kaipuoro Arotini Toa Best Pop Artist	Y	Genre	Specialist School
Te Kaipuoro Rakapioi Toa Best Rock Artist	Y	Genre	Specialist School
Te Kaipuoro Taketake Toa Best Roots Artist	Y	Genre	Specialist School
Te Kaipuoro Awe Toa Best Soul/RnB Artist	Y	Genre	Specialist School
Te Kaiwhakaputa Toa Best Producer	Y	Artisan	Specialist School
Te Kaipukaha Toa Best Engineer	Y	Artisan	Specialist School
Te Kiko Puoro Ataata Toa Best Video Content	Y	Artisan	Specialist School
Te Toi Ataata Pukaemi Toa Best Album Artwork	Y	Artisan	Specialist School
Highest Selling NZ Artist	N	General Data	Data
Radio Airplay of the Year	N	General Data	Data
Note: For a category to qualify to be part of AMA there needs to be a minimum of four (4) eligible entries. If there are fewer than four (4) entries, the category will not progress in the relevant year.			
Awards not covered by these Terms and Conditions			
People's Choice	N	General Public	Public
Te Kaituhura Puoro Toa o te Tau Breakthrough Artist of the Year Tohu Tutuki o te Ao International Achievement Other Awards for Outstanding Achievement	N	Discretionary	Discretionary Award Panel
Te Kaipuoro Waiata Tamariki Toa Best Children's Music Artist	Presented at Ngā Manu Tirairaka Children's Music Awards		
Te Pukaemi Toa o Te Moana Nui a Kiwa Best Pacific Music Album	Presented at the Pacific Music Awards		



2. General Entry Terms

- 2.1 Entry is open to all people and recorded music product meeting the Eligibility Criteria.
- 2.2 Whether an entry is deemed to meet the Eligibility Criteria and be accepted for consideration for an Award is at the absolute discretion of the AMA Eligibility Committee.
- 2.3 The entry fee is **\$46 (inc. GST) per Award category**, payable by the person/company completing the entry (the **Nominator**) on behalf of the award nominee (the **Nominee**). If Nominators elect to pay by credit card via the AMA Award Force Nominations platform a merchant fee will be applied. If an entry is deemed ineligible then fees will be refunded.
- 2.4 The deadline for entries is **5.00pm, Wednesday 20 December, 2023** (the **Deadline**). Late entries will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- 2.5 All entries must be submitted online through the AMA Award Force nominations platform by Nominators who are Authorised Persons. No manual entries will be accepted. Entries must be completed and associated fees paid in full by the Nominator prior to the Deadline. Any specific entry requirements set out on the AMA Award Force nominations platform also form part of these Terms and Conditions of Entry.
- 2.6 To qualify as an Authorised Person a Nominator must either be the Nominee or an authorised representative of the Nominee. Where a Nominator is an authorised representative of a Nominee, they confirm that the Nominee for each and every entry they submit has endorsed and personally agreed to the entry details submitted and confirmed their entry into each respective award category and their understanding and acceptance of these Terms and Conditions of Entry. In the case of any Nominee that is a group, at least one member of the nominated group (who has the express authority to represent all members of the group) must have personally agreed to the foregoing and endorsed the nomination.
- 2.7 A separate entry is required for each and every Award category for which any artist or recorded music product is to be considered. Only one nomination per artist per category is allowed – a recorded music product or artist may be entered in multiple General or General Māori Award categories but may **not** be entered in more than one Genre Award category. For the avoidance of doubt, no entry is required to be submitted for the General Data, General Public or Discretionary Award categories.
- 2.8 As host and kaitiaki of AMA, Recorded Music NZ is committed to fostering a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for everyone involved. Every person involved with AMA or attending an AMA event is expected and required to comply with the **AMA Statement of Expectations** and Nominators and Nominees agree that they will conduct themselves in accordance with the same. This applies in respect of all dealings related to AMA, whether dealing with Recorded Music NZ, its event partners or anyone else, and applies at all stages including throughout the nomination and entry process, at the event itself, and to any interaction or communications in relation to the AMA promotional campaign.
- 2.9 All Nominators and Nominees agree to accept the decision of the judges and any other decision-making Committees as final. Under no circumstances will judges or Recorded Music NZ enter into any communication or correspondence with Nominees, Nominators, or any other person in respect of judging decisions.
- 2.10 All publicity in respect of the Awards shall be the prerogative of Recorded Music NZ. Nominators and Nominees (where applicable through their representative) agree to keep information and communications confidential where required to do so by Recorded Music NZ, for example the identity of finalists prior to the official announcement.

Any questions, concerns or complaints in relation to these Terms and Conditions of Entry should be directed to Recorded Music NZ as follows: by email to ama@recordedmusic.co.nz



3. Conduct Expectations

3.1 Statement of Expectations

The Aotearoa Music Awards (**AMA**) is a celebration of artists and those behind-the-scenes in the recorded music industry in Aotearoa. As host and kaitiaki of AMA, Recorded Music NZ is committed to fostering a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for all involved.

AMA is a team effort and everyone has a part to play in creating a positive environment. Recorded Music NZ expects and requires everyone involved with AMA to respect others, act lawfully and with integrity and to act safely and responsibly. These expectations apply to our partners and their contractors, sponsors, award nominees, persons nominating, judges, award winners and others involved in the lead-up to the event, at the event itself, and in any interactions after the event.

Specifically we expect and require everyone involved with AMA:

- To treat everyone fairly and with respect;
- To behave in a professional and courteous manner at all times;
- Not to engage in, encourage, or condone any form of discrimination, harassment or bullying;
- Not to engage in, encourage or condone any form of sexual harassment;
- If in a position of power or influence, to be mindful of that and take extra care not to take advantage of an imbalance of power;
- To be especially mindful of language and behaviour when in the presence of minors;
- To operate within the law at all times;
- To act safely and responsibly including as to alcohol consumption; and
- To act with integrity and be honest in all dealings.

In particular, AMA award winners receive the honour of holding a Tūi and the title of AMA award winner, and as such will be expected to uphold and maintain high standards of conduct. In order to safeguard the integrity of AMA and the Tūi awards, and the reputation of AMA, our organisation and our wider music whānau, Recorded Music NZ reserves the right, in its absolute discretion, to take reasonable and appropriate action to uphold these expectations.

In the spirit of open communication and constant improvement, we encourage people to speak up if they wish to raise any issue, concern or complaint in relation to this Statement of Expectations. You can do this by email to any of the following people:

- Jo Oliver, CEO Recorded Music NZ: jo@recordedmusic.co.nz
- Christy Whelan, Head of Legal & Business Affairs: christy@recordedmusic.co.nz
- Sarah Illingworth, Communications Specialist: sarah.illingworth@recordedmusic.co.nz

3.2 Disqualification, Revocation or Refusal for Breach of Statement of Expectations

Nominees acknowledge (if applicable by their representative) that the conduct of award winners, whether in the workplace or privately and whether in connection with AMA or otherwise, can impact on the reputation of Recorded Music NZ, AMA and the wider music community, long after the time they receive the award. As a result, Nominees agree that, if they receive an award, the continuation of that award is conditional on their ongoing compliance with the conduct expectations in these Terms and Conditions of Entry.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Terms and Conditions, the Board of Recorded Music NZ reserves the right at any time, in its absolute discretion, to take action that in the Board's opinion is appropriate to uphold the principles and values set out in the Statement of Expectations, and/or to protect the integrity of AMA or the Tūi awards and/or to protect the reputation of Recorded Music NZ and its members, the AMA and/or the wider recorded music community. The Board may act on its own initiative or in response to a complaint or information provided to Recorded Music NZ. Such action may include (but is not limited to) refusing or disqualifying an entry at any stage; revoking, cancelling or requiring the return of an award that has already been given; refusing entry to the AMA or other related event; or reinstating an award that has previously been revoked. Any such decision of the Board of Recorded Music NZ is final and at its absolute discretion. If an award is revoked, the Board has absolute discretion to decide whether or not to give the award to another Nominee in its place.



4. Entry Submission Terms – Confirmation and Grant of Rights

- 4.1 Nominators are required to submit certain information, materials and assets in order to complete an entry (for example sound recordings, cover art files, press photos, music videos, Apple or Spotify links, MP3s and YouTube links) as specified in the nominations platform (**Materials**). Any specific entry requirements set out on the AMA nominations platform also form part of these Terms and Conditions of Entry.
- 4.2 **Use of Materials:** By submitting a nomination, the Nominator, Nominee and if applicable all members of the nominated group or band (through their representative or Endorser) agree and consent that:
- a. They are authorised to submit the entry to the Aotearoa Music Awards and all Materials submitted as part of the entry are authorised and non-infringing;
 - b. Recorded Music NZ and its event partners and contractors may process any personal information provided with the nomination, including names, contact details, photographs and biographical information, for the purpose of judging, promoting and managing the Aotearoa Music Awards;
 - c. Recorded Music NZ and its licensees may use the submitted Materials in connection with the Aotearoa Music Awards voting platform, the Aotearoa Music Awards broadcast/online programmes and Aotearoa Music Awards promotional activities, content and marketing in all media in perpetuity without payment to the Nominator or the relevant artist, producer, or any other person;
 - d. Where the Nominator or Nominee is not the relevant right owner of submitted Materials, consent has been obtained from the relevant right owner and such right owner confirms that the same are authorised and that use in accordance with these Terms and Conditions of Entry will not infringe the rights of any third party.
- 4.3 **Artist Appearance, Promotion and Performance:** By submitting a nomination, the Nominator, Nominee and if applicable all members of the nominated group or band (through their representative or Endorser) agree and consent that:
- a. If they are announced as a finalist they will make themselves available for reasonable PR and media opportunities related to AMA promotional activity and will (if requested by Recorded Music NZ) attend the AMA event, subject always to any conflicting professional obligations or other personal circumstances;
 - b. If they attend an AMA event, whether as a guest or presenter, Recorded Music NZ and its partners may take photographs, make audio and/or audio-visual recordings of the Nominee's image, voice, conversations, interviews and appearances on stage and at the venue or red carpet (excluding any musical performance); and all such photos, recordings and other materials will be owned by Recorded Music NZ and may be reproduced and communicated worldwide by Recorded Music NZ and its partners in all media in perpetuity; and
 - c. In the event that the Nominee is confirmed to give a musical performance at the AMA Showcase or in relation to promoting AMA, the Nominee, and if applicable every member of the nominated group, agrees to sign a performance release agreement in or substantially in the form requested by Recorded Music NZ.



5. General Eligibility

5.1 **Product Release – Timing & Distribution**

Unless otherwise specified in the Specific Award Category Criteria, all Award categories, other than the Discretionary and General Data categories, require eligible recorded music product to have been **Released** by the nominee between **1 August 2022-31 December 2023** (inclusive) (**Eligibility Period**).

Released means made commercially available for the first time through legitimate physical and/or digital music retail channels in New Zealand, including streaming platforms (**Sales Channels**).

5.2 **Product Eligibility**

Unless otherwise specified in the Specific Award Category Criteria, all Award categories other than the Discretionary and General Data categories require a minimum of three (3) **Singles** to have been Released by the Nominee during the Eligibility Period.

A **Single** is an individual recording Released as part of a physical or digital Album or bundle of recordings, and/or as a physical single or standalone digital track. For the avoidance of doubt an individual recording only Released as part of a bundle of recordings (including as part of a Multi-Artist compilation or in the form of a new recording as part of “best of” or similar album) will count as a Single for the purposes of determining whether an artist has Released 3x Singles during the Eligibility Period.

5.3 **Excluded Product**

Multi-Artist Compilations: Multi-Artist compilations are not eligible for Album of the Year. If multiple artists contribute individual Singles to an album project and are listed individually on the album packaging, the project will be considered a Multi-Artist compilation. If multiple artists collaborate on album and the album packaging only refers to a single group, artist or producer’s name, this will be considered as an album by a single group, or artist and therefore eligible. To ensure a group or artist is eligible in these situations, Recorded Music NZ recommends that special attention be paid to how songs and guest artists are billed on the album packaging.

“Best of” / “Greatest Hits”: Unless otherwise specified in the specific award category criteria, so-called ‘Best Of’ or ‘Greatest Hits’ albums are not eligible. For the avoidance of doubt a new recording or new recordings featured on a best of or greatest hits album may count as Singles and may be eligible for Single of the Year and if an artist has three new Singles Released during the Eligibility Period the artist may be eligible for certain awards, however the album would remain ineligible.

Re-released recordings (Singles and Albums): Re-released recordings are not eligible. This includes ‘deluxe’, ‘bonus disc’, or ‘tour edition’ or ‘live’ versions of previously released recordings.

5.4 **Contributor / Nominee Eligibility**

All Award categories require that nominees are human and:

- a. If an individual, they must be a New Zealand citizen or have been granted permanent residency in New Zealand;
- b. If a group, a minimum of half of the number of permanent members of the group must be either New Zealand citizens or permanent residents. PROVIDED THAT in respect of issues regarding citizenship or residency status, the AMA Eligibility Committee reserves the right to exercise its discretion to grant eligibility in special circumstances where, for example, an artist in question has a strong historical and cultural connection with Aotearoa.

5.5 AI Generated recorded music product is not eligible for any Award category. **AI Generated** recorded music product means music that is composed, produced, or generated by artificial intelligence systems using algorithms and machine learning techniques to analyse vast amounts of existing music data and generate new compositions / recordings based on patterns, styles, and structures found in the data. Elements of AI can be used by nominees in creating and/or performing eligible recorded music product but cannot be the sole or core



component. Human authorship is essential and for any recorded music product to be eligible the primary creative contributor(s) must be human.

5.6 Nominators must be able to provide proof if requested that a human is the primary creative contributor of the submitted recorded music product. For Artisan categories the Nominator must be able provide proof if requested that the technical work is the result of human effort.

5.7 ***Other Eligibility Considerations***

- a. An artist or recorded music product may be eligible for multiple General and/or Māori Award categories but can only be eligible for one Genre Award category.
- b. In addition to meeting the general eligibility criteria, entries must meet the Specific Award Category Eligibility Criteria applying to the relevant award category.
- c. All entries, including for the General Awards, Māori Awards, Genre Awards and Artisan Awards are subject to the Eligibility Decision Process set out in Part 7 of these Terms and Conditions of Entry.



6. Specific Award Category Eligibility Criteria

6.1 **General Awards**

- **Album of the Year:** Solo artists and Groups are eligible. Only Albums are eligible. For the avoidance of doubt those types of album recordings described under Excluded Product at clause 5.3 are ineligible.

An **Album** constitutes recordings (or a recording) with a playing time of over 25 minutes or of five or more different songs. Videos or previously nominated tracks included on an Album will not be considered when determining the duration of the Album or the total number of recordings on an Album. For the avoidance of doubt those types of album recordings described under Excluded Product are ineligible.

- **Single of the Year:** Solo Artists and Groups are eligible. Only Singles are eligible. A Single only made commercially available as part of an Album or bundle of recordings is eligible only if a video of the Single was produced and Released within the Eligibility Period. In these cases the Single release date will be determined by the date the video was first released, not the date the recording was first made commercially available.
- **Best Group:** Only Groups are eligible. A **Group** comprises two or more people.
- **Best Solo Artist:** Only Solo Artists are eligible. A Solo Artist comprises one person.

If the eligible recorded music product refers to an individual and a band, the Nominator must advise whether that act is to be deemed a Group or Solo Artist.

6.2 **Māori Awards**

- **Te Kaipuoro Māori Toa | Best Māori Artist:** Only Solo Artists and Groups of Māori whakapapa are eligible. A Group is considered to be of Māori descent if at least half of the band members are of Māori whakapapa. Eligible recorded music product can be in te reo Māori, reo rua, and/or English.
- **Mana Reo:** Solo Artists and Groups are eligible. Singles, Albums or other bundles of recordings such as EPs are all eligible, provided that the nominated recorded music product has a minimum 50% reo Māori component. For the avoidance of doubt, a Single featured on a multi-artist compilation may be eligible for the Mana Reo Award category.

6.3 **Genre Awards**

Unless otherwise specified in the specific Award category criteria, **Solo Artists** and **Groups** who have **Released** a minimum of three (3) **Singles** during the **Eligibility Period** are eligible. Nominees can only be entered into one (1) of the Genre Award categories below.

- **Te Kaipuoro Manohi Toa | Best Alternative Artist:** Artists working primarily within alternative music genres are eligible.
- **Te Kaipuoro Inamata Toa | Best Classical Artist:** This category encompasses all eligible New Zealand classical recordings, including vocal and/or instrumental, traditional and contemporary recordings. New Zealand featured artists or soloists involved with ensembles or orchestras containing non-New Zealand artists are eligible, provided the recording credits the New Zealander(s) as the featured artist(s).
- **Te Kaipuoro Tuawhenua Toa | Best Country Music Artist:** Artists working primarily within the country genre are eligible.
- **Te Kaipuoro Tāhiko Toa | Best Electronic Artist:** Artists working primarily within the electronic genre are eligible. Remixes of non-electronic artists are ineligible.
- **Te Kaipuoro Taketake Toa | Best Folk Artist:** Artists working primarily within the folk genre are eligible. The eligibility period for this Award category is **1 October 2022-31 December 2023** (inclusive).
- **Te Kaipuoro Hipihope Toa | Best Hip Hop Artist:** Artists working primarily within the hip hop genre are eligible.
- **Te Kaipuoro Tautito Toa | Best Jazz Artist:** Artists working primarily within the jazz genre are eligible. The eligibility period for this Award category is **1 January 2022-31 December 2023** (inclusive).



- **Te Kaipuoro Arotini Toa | Best Pop Artist:** Artists working primarily within the pop genre are eligible.
- **Te Kaipuoro Rakapioi Toa | Best Rock Artist:** Artists working primarily within rock, hard rock or heavy metal genres are eligible.
- **Te Kaipuoro Taketake Toa | Best Roots Artist:** Artists working primarily within the genres of dub, reggae, roots and blues are eligible.
- **Te Kaipuoro Awe Toa | Best Soul/Rnb Artist:** Artists working primarily within the soul, RnB, and funk genres are eligible.

6.4 **Artisan Awards**

- **Te Kaiwhakaputa Toa | Best Producer:** The Nominee must have produced a minimum of three (3) Singles Released during the Eligibility Period by one or various artists/groups. Recordings performed by both New Zealand and international artists are eligible.
- **Te Kaipukaha Toa | Best Engineer:** The Nominee must have engineered a minimum of three (3) Singles Released during the Eligibility Period by one or various artists/groups. Recordings performed by both New Zealand and international artists are eligible.
- **Te Toi Ataata Pukaemi Toa | Best Album Artwork:** Only Albums Released during the Eligibility Period are eligible as recorded music product for this Award category. This category refers solely to the Album artwork, or the primary image of the digital product of the nominated Album. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not include other marketing material including (but not limited to) poster artwork and merchandise. The award is given to the designer(s) of the artwork. Only covers designed for New Zealand artists are eligible.
- **Te Kiko Puoro Ataata Toa | Best Video Content:** Only video content produced for eligible New Zealand artists and first serviced to broadcast, online platforms and/or Sales Channels in New Zealand during the Eligibility Period is eligible. For avoidance of doubt video content for the purpose of this category refers solely to the official music video, trailers, teasers, visualizers, lyric videos or other video content that supports a single release. Entry is limited to one video content set for a single release campaign per artist. This award is presented to the director of the video content.

6.5 **General Data Awards**

Nomination is not required. For these awards, winners are determined by The Official New Zealand Music Charts Compiler and recorded music product does not have to be Released during the Eligibility Period. A recording may therefore be eligible for this Award in multiple eligibility periods / Award years.

- **Te Toa Hoko Teitei | Highest Selling New Zealand Artist:** The Highest Selling New Zealand Artist is based on the combination of 'across the counter' physical sales, direct to consumer digital sales, and on-demand streams over Singles and Albums during the Eligibility Period. Artists' 'Greatest Hits' or 'Best Of' albums are eligible for nomination. Multi-artist compilations are not eligible for nomination.
- **Te Rikoata Marakerake O Te Tau | Radio Airplay Record of the Year Award:** The Radio Airplay Award is awarded to the New Zealand Single most played on the radio in Aotearoa during the Eligibility Period, based on radio airplay data.

6.6 **Discretionary Awards**

Nomination is not required. These awards are decided by the AMA Discretionary Award Panel and awarded at its discretion. Winners do not have to have Released recorded music product during the Eligibility Period.



7. Eligibility Decision Process

- 7.1 All entries will be reviewed for eligibility by the AMA Eligibility Committee.
- 7.2 The AMA Eligibility Committee will provide notice to the Nominator citing reasons for any entries deemed ineligible. The Nominator will have five (5) days from such notice to respond, at which time the AMA Eligibility Committee will review the response and entry and make a final decision.
- 7.3 Recorded Music NZ reserves the right to rule any nomination for a genre category ineligible, at its own discretion, on the basis that the nominated recording is not appropriate or relevant to the genre category in which it has been nominated. In any such instance, Recorded Music NZ will advise the Nominator of this decision and advise the Nominator which alternative genre category the recording should be nominated in. The Nominator will then be entitled to lodge a nomination for that recording in that advised genre category within 48 hours of receiving notice from Recorded Music NZ, even if the Deadline has passed.
- 7.4 The AMA Eligibility Committee shall make final judgement on category, nominee and recorded music product eligibility at its absolute discretion. Where an entry is deemed ineligible any entry fees received will be refunded to the Nominator.
- 7.5 For the avoidance of doubt, if the Recorded Music NZ Board refuses or disqualifies an entry due to a breach of the Conduct Expectations set out in part 3 of these Terms and Conditions of Entry, the Eligibility Process set out above does not apply.



8. Judging Process & Selection

8.1 Process

Entries that are eligible and have not been disqualified will proceed to the judging stage. Judging will take place as follows:

- General Categories are judged by the 'Judging Academy', which consists of more than 200 representatives from various sectors of the music industry.
- Māori, Genre and Artisan categories are judged by specialised 'Judging Schools', which generally consist of between ten (10) and twenty (20) – but no less than five (5) representatives – from that genre or relevant music industry sector, as selected by Recorded Music NZ in consultation with the relevant sector.
- The General Data categories are determined by data supplied by the Official New Zealand Music Charts compiler.
- The Discretionary categories will be judged by the AMA Discretionary Award Panel and awarded at its discretion.
- An independent scrutineer appointed by Recorded Music NZ will tabulate the votes. The scrutineer will report directly to Recorded Music NZ in absolute confidence.
- In respect of Album of the Year, Single of the Year, Best Group and Best Solo Artist there will be two stages of judging. The Academy will first vote on the full list of nominees. The Academy will then vote on the top 10 finalists in each category, as determined by the first round of voting.

8.2 Selection & engagement of judges

- For AMA 2024 Recorded Music NZ is refreshing the Judging Academy and Judging Schools with a commitment to representation for Māori, diversity and inclusion, and appropriate representation across music industry roles and sectors.
- The judges who will be part of the Academy and/or the new AMA Discretionary Award Panel will be selected by Recorded Music NZ, from various sectors across the music industry. The judges who will be part of specialised Judging Schools will be selected by Recorded Music NZ in consultation with the relevant sector.
- All judges will be engaged by Recorded Music NZ and Recorded Music NZ is responsible for all communications relating to the awards and judging.
- In order to participate, judges must confirm their agreement to comply with these terms and conditions, including the Statement of Expectations, and the obligations of confidentiality as set out by Recorded Music NZ.
- Judges agree that Recorded Music NZ and its event partners, contractors and service providers (including voting platform Award Force) may process any personal information provided in connection with judging, including names, contact details and other personal information, for the purpose of judging, promoting and managing the Aotearoa Music Awards.
- The identity of judges will be kept confidential unless agreed otherwise. Recorded Music NZ is committed to improving transparency of the judging process and intends to publish demographic information that judges agree to provide. Any Nominator or Nominee found lobbying judges for their votes will have their entry/ies disqualified.



9. Judging Criteria

The Aotearoa Music Awards recognises artists and recordings that have demonstrated excellence, audience reach, commercial success and cultural impact.

General Judging Criteria

When voting, all judges of the Aotearoa Music Awards agree:

1. To consider all aspects of the eligible recorded music product and to vote for artists and recordings that have demonstrated excellence, audience reach, commercial success and cultural impact
2. To set aside any personal loyalty to Nominees (Aotearoa is a small place so we accept that conflicts exist but we must prioritise objectivity when voting)
3. To consider the overall balance of the music industry which the Aotearoa Music Awards exists to celebrate, bearing in mind the importance of diversity and representation
4. To keep your votes strictly confidential

Genre, Māori and Artisan Award Judging Criteria

When voting in any of the Genre, Māori and Artisan categories judges shall consider the General Judging Criteria EXCEPT THAT

- Point 1 of the General Judging Criteria does **not** apply to the categories below which have specific criteria as set out; and
- For the remaining categories when applying Point 1 of the General Judging Criteria, Judges may give appropriate weighting to different aspects of the eligible recorded music product to reflect the specialist nature of the award, genre or audience concerned.

In respect of the categories set out below, judges agree to follow the below specific criteria:

- **Te Kaipuoro Māori Toa | Best Māori Artist:** The main judging criterion is that the music reflects a unique Māori identity and/or is an expression of Māori culture, which may not necessarily have any Māori language content. Artistic merit and commercial success should also be taken into account. Points 2-4 of the General Judging Criteria apply but point 1 does not.
- **Mana Reo:** The main judging criterion is that the music aims to grow the interest and appeal of the Māori language and culture in and through mainstream recorded music. Artistic merit, the artist's regularity of reo Māori releases and/or commitment to, and commercial success should also be taken into account. Points 2-4 of the General Judging Criteria apply but point 1 does not.
- **Te Kaiwhakaputa Toa | Best Producer (Artisan Award):** Technical excellence is the only criterion. As part of determining technical excellence, Judges are also encouraged to consider the process involved in creating the finished recorded music product. Points 2-4 of the General Judging Criteria apply but point 1 does not.
- **Te Kaipukaha Toa | Best Engineer (Artisan Award):** Technical excellence is the only criterion. As part of determining technical excellence, Judges are also encouraged to consider the process involved in creating the finished recorded music product. Points 2-4 of the General Judging Criteria apply but point 1 does not.
- **Te Toi Ataata Pukaemi Toa | Best Album Artwork (Artisan Award):** Criteria for judging includes originality of design concept, and marketing impact. Points 2-4 of the General Judging Criteria apply but point 1 does not.
- **Te Kiko Puoro Ataata Toa | Best Video Content (Artisan Award):** Concept, direction and performance of the video content are the major criteria, not necessarily the excellence of the music. Points 2-4 of the General Judging Criteria apply but point 1 does not.

Judges are not required to have regard to conduct expectations when considering Nominees for an award. However, if judges are or become aware of any information, concerns or issues relating to Nominee conduct, they are asked to immediately pass on that information, concern or issue to Recorded Music NZ for further consideration.



Judges are not expected to make decisions regarding eligibility when considering Nominees for an Award, as only eligible recorded music product and Nominees will pass through to the judging stage. However, if judges are or become aware of any information, concerns, or issues relating to eligibility they are asked to immediately pass on that information, issue or concern to Recorded Music NZ for further consideration.