

## AWARD CATEGORIES

Nominations will be accepted for:

- Best Pacific Female Artist
- Best Pacific Male Artist
- Best Pacific Group
- Best Pacific Language
- Best Pacific Gospel Artist
- Best Pacific Hip Hop Artist
- Best Pacific Soul/RnB Artist
- Best Roots/Reggae Artist
- Best Pacific Song
- Best Pacific Music Video
- Best Producer
- Best International Pacific Artist
- Recorded Music NZ Te Tino Pukaemi Moana Nui A Kiwa O Te Tau | Best Pacific Music Album ( The Tūr )

Finalists are confirmed from all the nominations received. Finalists will be announced by press release and at the Finalist Announcement event, which will be held in July (date and details to be confirmed).

All award winners will be announced and confirmed at the Pacific Music Awards ceremony, which will be held on Thursday 21 August, at the Due Drop Events Centre, Manukau, Auckland, Aotearoa.

### *Additional Categories*

The following awards may also be presented – with the recipients being selected by the Pacific Music Awards Trust or based on statistical data:

- Phillip Fuemana Most Promising Pacific Artist
- NZ On Air Radio Airplay Award
- NZ On Air Streaming Award
- Arch Angel Independent Music Award
- Creative New Zealand Award
- SunPix People's Choice Award – Best Pacific Artist
- Special Recognition – Outstanding Achievement
- Ministry for Pacific Peoples Lifetime Achievement Award

*Please note, the sponsors for the award categories above are based on our 2024 sponsors and the 2025 sponsors are still being confirmed.*

### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Entry is open to artists and recordings that meet the eligibility criteria
2. Entry is open to Pacific Music artists who are New Zealand citizens or permanent residents, for all of the award categories, except for the Best International Pacific Artist Award, which is open to Pacific artists who are citizens or permanent residents of any country other than New Zealand.
3. Entry is to be made for each category for which any artist or recording is to be considered. Only one nomination per artist per category is allowed.
4. All entries must be submitted online through the Pacific Music Awards online nomination system. No manual entries will be accepted.
5. The entry fee is NZD\$45 per artist (this is a flat fee, regardless of the number of categories entered)
6. The nominator, nominating company or person, will acknowledge and confirm they have fully read and complied with the Terms and Conditions of entry.
7. The nominee (or at least one member of a nominated group) must agree, to the entry details personally confirming their entry into each respective award category and their understanding and acceptance of the terms and conditions of entry. This confirmation cannot be agreed to on the nominee's behalf.
8. Nominations for Best Producer, Best Music Video and Best Pacific Song may only be made by the relevant artist and/or their representative. Self nominations by a producer, video director or songwriter will not be accepted. The only exception to this rule will be if the producer, video director or songwriter is also the artist themselves.
9. It is important for the success of the event that nominators ensure nominees are available to attend the finalist announcement event and the awards ceremony. Nominees also need to be available for media and promo details for the awards; and to also perform at the awards if required to by the Pacific Music Awards Trust. Nominators and nominees are required to meet all costs (accommodation, transport, etc) for the nominees and their personnel to attend in the first instance. If contribution to costs is possible, the Pacific Music Awards will confirm this directly. All nominators permit the Pacific Music Awards Trust and any person the Pacific Music Awards Trust authorises to perform the works entered as part of the Pacific Music Awards ceremony and to record it for those purposes.
10. Audio files for all recordings (single, EP or album) must be provided within the online nomination system (MP3 or WAV files). However, if these are not available, two (2) copies of the recording can be provided on compact disc or USB.
11. Nominations for all videos must be accompanied by one (1) high quality video file of the clip
12. By entering the Pacific Music Awards you consent to the relevant single/EP/album/music video being encoded and uploaded onto the awards nomination and judging portal. The files will be streamed (not downloadable) and access is only provided to the judging panel and only for the express purpose of judging. The relevant files will be removed from the site after judging concludes.
13. For a category to qualify there needs to be a minimum of four (4) entries. If there are less than 4 entries, it is at the discretion of the Pacific Music Awards Trust whether or not that category will progress.
14. All nominators agree to accept the decision of the judges as final. Under no circumstances will correspondence be entered into with nominees, nominators, or any other person, or any interviews granted in respect of judging decisions. Anyone found lobbying judges for their votes will have their entries disqualified.
15. All publicity in respect of the awards shall be the prerogative of the Pacific Music Awards Trust. The nominators confirm that the artist details, such as bios, photos, audio and video files, provided with entries, may be used for media and the awards ceremony as required.
16. All nominators agree that the Pacific Music Awards Trust will have the right to print the name and likenesses of the nominees in publicity in respect of the awards and all matters incidental thereto.

17. All nominators agree not to disclose the content of any communication with the Pacific Music Awards Trust regarding awards nominees and/or finalists prior to the official announcement of finalists.
18. Final entry is at the absolute discretion of the Eligibility Sub-committee of the Pacific Music Awards Trust.
19. All entries received by nominators and/or nominee artists shall constitute full acceptance of these terms and conditions. These conditions will be the basis for the terms of reference of the judging panel.
20. Pacific Music Awards Trust must receive all entries, confirmed, by 5.00pm, Tuesday 15 April 2025.

## ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for the Pacific Music Awards is defined by the Pacific Music Awards Trust to be:

### 1. RECORDINGS

- a) Only recordings (singles, EPs, or albums) released in New Zealand during the period of 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024 are eligible. Except for those recordings entered for the Best International Pacific Artist – which can be released in NZ and/or anywhere outside of New Zealand, during the same eligible period.
- b) All recordings must be publicly available for sale. Sales can be through physical and/or digital outlets, artist websites or directly at artist performances.
- c) An album constitutes audio recordings (or a single audio recording) with a playing time of over 25 minutes or of five different songs or more. Videos included on an album will not be considered when determining the duration of the album or the total number of tracks on an album.
- d) 'Release' is defined as the date the recording was first officially available for sale
- e) Re-released recordings are not eligible. This includes 'deluxe', 'bonus disc', 'tour edition' versions of previously released recordings.
- f) Unless otherwise specified, so called 'Best Of' or 'Greatest Hits' albums are not eligible. For the avoidance of doubt a new recording featured on a best of or greatest hits album may be eligible as a single, however the album will remain ineligible.
- g) Where the entered release comprises more than one disc, the discs must be sold only as 'one set' to qualify.
- h) AI Generated recordings are 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.
- i) A single is an individual recording and may have been released as part of a physical or digital EP/album, a physical single or digital bundle or as an individual digital track.
- j) Unless otherwise specified, multi-artist compilations are not eligible. For the avoidance of doubt, if multiple artists contribute individual tracks 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 an 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, the Pacific Music Awards Trust recommends that special attention be paid to how songs and guest artists are billed on the album artwork and/or packaging.

- k) Any entry that does not comply with proper copyright licensing conditions i.e. any clearances or permissions required from copyright owners, APRA|AMCOS or Recorded Music NZ Ltd may be disqualified from judging.
- l) The Pacific Music Awards Trust and Recorded Music NZ Ltd are to be indemnified from any subsequent action, that may be directed against either the Pacific Music Awards Trust or Recorded Music NZ Ltd, should any entries be found to not conform with standard copyright licensing conditions.
- m) Entering the Pacific Music Awards does not affect entry into the Aotearoa Music Awards.

## 2. NOMINEES

For all categories except the Best Pacific International category, all nominees:

- Must be New Zealand citizens; (by birth or citizenship), or
- Have been granted permanent residency in New Zealand

In the case of groups, a minimum of half the number of group members, must qualify with the above.

For the Best International Pacific Artist Award, all nominees:

- Must be citizens or permanent residents of any country other than New Zealand.

All nominees for the Pacific Music Awards' artist categories:

- a) Must be of Pacific descent.
- b) For all categories, with the exception of solo artists, a minimum of half of the nominees must qualify under 2(a).
- c) If the label refers to an individual and a group, the nominator must advise whether that act is to be deemed a group or a solo act for the awards.
- d) In the case of Best Pacific Song, the songwriters and composers must also be elected APRA members

For the non- artist categories - Best Producer, Best Music Video and Best Pacific Song:

- The nomination must be submitted by the artist and/or their representative
- The artist and recording being submitted must comply with all the entry conditions and eligibility criteria
- Both the artist and the producer/video director/songwriter(s) will be acknowledged as finalists and winners for each of these categories

### 3. ELIGIBILITY

All entries will be reviewed for eligibility by the Eligibility Sub-Committee of the Pacific Music Awards Trust, which reserves the right to make final judgment on category, recording and nominee eligibility. The Eligibility Sub-Committee will provide notice citing reasons for any entries being deemed ineligible. The nominator will have five (5) days from such notice to respond, at which time the Eligibility Sub-committee will review the entry and make a final decision.

### 4. JUDGING

The Pacific Music Awards Trust selects and confirms an independent panel of judges, to judge all the entered categories. The judging panel is comprised of representatives from the music industry – and may include artist, producers, songwriters, industry representatives, music media representatives: radio/TV/online. The identity of the judges will remain confidential. Please note the Pacific Music Awards Trustees are not part of the judging panel.

The details submitted for each nominated artist via the online entry system, will be provided to the judging panel. The panel will be asked to consider a number of elements in the judging process, with emphasis placed on artistic merit, use of Pacific language, content, ethnicity and originality. The collated individual judging results from the full judging panel, will determine the finalists and winners for all the entered categories.

## DEFINITIONS: ENTERED AWARD CATEGORIES

### BEST PACIFIC FEMALE ARTIST

Single, EP or album recordings are eligible and must have been released within the eligible period. Solo female artists working primarily in, but not limited to, the Pacific Island genre of music are eligible. If the recording packaging refers to an individual and a group, the nominator must advise whether the artist is to be deemed a solo or group artist for the Pacific Music Awards.

### BEST PACIFIC MALE ARTIST

Single, EP or album recordings are eligible and must have been released within the eligible period. Solo male artists working primarily in, but not limited to, the Pacific Island genre of music are eligible. If the recording packaging refers to an individual and a group, the nominator must advise whether the artist is to be deemed a solo or group artist for the Pacific Music Awards.

### **BEST PACIFIC GROUP**

Single, EP or album recordings are eligible and must have been released within the eligible period. A group comprises two or more people. Artists working primarily in, but not limited to, the Pacific Island genre of music are eligible. If the recording packaging refers to an individual and a group, the nominator must advise whether the artist is to be deemed a solo or group artist for the Pacific Music Awards.

### **BEST PACIFIC LANGUAGE**

Single, EP or album recordings released by solo artists or groups are eligible and must have been released within the eligible period. Nominations must be in respect of an individual song or album, with lyrics primarily in Pacific languages being eligible.

### **BEST PACIFIC GOSPEL ARTIST**

Single, EP or album recordings released by solo artists or groups are eligible and must have been released within the eligible period. Artists working primarily within the genre of gospel/Christian/worship music, from any denomination or religion, are eligible.

### **BEST PACIFIC HIP HOP ARTIST**

Single, EP or album recordings released by solo artists or groups are eligible and must have been released within the eligible period. Artists working primarily within the genre of Hip Hop genre are eligible.

### **BEST PACIFIC SOUL/RnB ARTIST**

Single, EP or album recordings released by solo artists or groups are eligible and must have been released within the eligible period. Artists working primarily within the genre of Soul/RnB are eligible.

### **BEST PACIFIC ROOTS/REGGAE ARTIST**

Single, EP or album recordings released by solo artists or groups are eligible and must have been released within the eligible period. Artists working primarily within the genre of Roots/Reggae are eligible.

### **BEST PACIFIC SONG**

Songs released by solo artists or groups and composed by eligible songwriters are eligible. The recording must have been released within the eligible period. Artists working primarily in, but not limited to, the Pacific Island genre of music are eligible. The artist and recording being submitted must comply with all the entry conditions and eligibility criteria for the song to be nominated for this category. This award will acknowledge the songwriting/composition skills of the individual songwriters and composers, as credited for the song.

### **BEST PACIFIC MUSIC VIDEO**

Videos released by solo artists and groups are eligible and must have been released within the eligible period. Artists working primarily in, but not limited to, the Pacific Island genre of music are eligible. Concept, direction and performance of the video are the major criteria. The artist and video being submitted must comply with all the entry conditions and eligibility criteria. This award will acknowledge the artist and the video director, who has undertaken the role of director and are credited as the video director for the video submitted.

### **BEST PRODUCER**

Single, EP or album recordings released by solo artists or groups are eligible and must have been released within the eligible period. Producers working primarily in, but not limited to, the Pacific Island genre of music are eligible. Technical excellence and expertise of the producer are being recognised. The artist and recording being submitted must comply with all the entry conditions and eligibility criteria. This award will be presented to the individual(s) who undertake the role of producer and are credited as the producer of the audio recording(s) submitted.

### **BEST INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC ARTIST**

Single, EP or album recordings released by solo artists or groups are eligible and must have been released within the eligible period. The artist needs to be a citizen/resident outside of New Zealand, to enter this category. Artists working primarily in, but not limited to, the Pacific Island genre of music are eligible.

### **BEST PACIFIC MUSIC ALBUM (Aotearoa Music Award - Tui)**

Solo artists and groups are eligible. Only album recordings are eligible. Albums can be in an indigenous Pacific Island language, bi-lingual or English. Artists working primarily in the Pacific Island genre of music are eligible.

For all the details in regards to the NZ Music Awards, award categories and entry conditions, please go to: [www.aotearoamusicawards.co.nz](http://www.aotearoamusicawards.co.nz)

### ***DEFINITIONS: OTHER AWARD CATEGORIES PRESENTED***

The following awards will also be presented at the Pacific Music Awards ceremony. The recipients for these award categories are selected by the Pacific Music Awards Trust or are based on statistical data. It is at the discretion of the Pacific Music Awards Trust whether or not each of these categories will be presented.

### **MOST PROMISING PACIFIC ARTIST**

Nominations are not received for this award, with the recipient selected by the Pacific Music Awards Trust. This award recognises an upcoming individual or group and their future potential as an artist.

### PEOPLE'S CHOICE – BEST PACIFIC ARTIST

Nominations are not received for this award, with the recipient determined by the public. All the artist finalists for each of the entered award categories will be eligible for this award, i.e. this does not include the non-artist categories: Best Producer, Best Music Video and Best Pacific Song. A specific voting facility will be created with the winner determined solely by public vote.

### RADIO AIRPLAY AWARD

Nominations are not received for this award, with the recipient being determined by radio data. This award recognises the song by a Pacific artist with the most radio airplay within the current eligible period.

### STREAMING AWARD

Nominations are not received for this award, with the recipient being determined by streaming data. This award recognises the song by a Pacific artist with the most streams within the current eligible period.

### ARCH ANGEL INDEPENDENT MUSIC AWARD

This award is presented in collaboration with Arch Angel Records and will recognise the work and achievements of an independent artist.

### CREATIVE NEW ZEALAND AWARD

This award is presented in collaboration with Creative New Zealand to acknowledge artists who are creating innovative, genre-bending contemporary music. The award comes under Creative New Zealand's Pacific Arts Strategy and the recipient will also receive a financial prize to further support their career.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION – OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

Nominations are not received for this award, with the recipient selected by the Pacific Music Awards Trust. This award recognises the work by an individual or group for a recent outstanding achievement.

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Nominations are not received for this award, with the recipient selected by the Pacific Music Awards Trust. This award recognises the work by an individual or group, and their significant contribution to Pacific Music.



### CONTACT DETAILS: Pacific Music Awards Trust

For any questions about the Pacific Music Awards or the nomination process, please contact the Pacific Music Awards Trust directly.

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