

## GIVE THE DRUMMER SOME

Australia's most prestigious jazz instrumental competition, the **National Jazz Awards**, will put the spotlight on Australia's leading young jazz drummers this year. Drummers up to the age of 35 will be vying for a spot in the final 10, who will compete at this year's Wangaratta Jazz Festival in October.

The winner will receive \$8,000, the runner-up \$5000, and the third place getter \$2000. In addition to these cash prizes, the winner will be invited to record in the ABC studios for ABC Classic FM's 'Jazztrack with Mal Stanley', and to perform in the 2012 Stonnington Jazz Festival.

The National Jazz Awards have been an integral part of Australia's premier Jazz Festival since Wangaratta Jazz began in 1990. This year will be the first time that drums have been featured since 2004, when the first prize was awarded to Felix Bloxsom.

Renowned jazz pianist Mike Nock will again serve as chairman of judges for the Awards this year. He will be joined by Melbourne drummer-bandleader Allan Browne and another veteran bandleader and drummer, Ted Vining, who moved from Melbourne to Hobart last year.

Entrants must be no older than 35, as at 1 November 2011. The closing date for entries is **30 June**.

The Festival's artistic director, Adrian Jackson, said, "I'm sure there will be plenty of drum solos, but the focus won't be simply on that aspect. The real challenge for the drummers will be to show what they can do within the context of the band. A great drummer knows how to make the rest of the band sound good, so I'm sure that's what the judges will be looking for."

The judging panel will assess the recordings submitted on a blindfold basis. The ten highest-ranked entrants will then be invited to participate in the finals at the 2011 Wangaratta Jazz Festival, on the weekend of 28 - 31 October. They will perform with a stellar band, featuring saxophonist Dale Barlow, pianist Matt McMahon (winner of the National Jazz Awards in 1999) and bassist Ben Waples.

The finals, on Sunday 30 October, will be broadcast live to air nationally on 'Jazztrack with Mal Stanley', on ABC Classic FM, from 5.00pm.

Entry forms can be downloaded from the festival's website  
[www.wangarattajazz.com](http://www.wangarattajazz.com)

For further information, contact the Festival's artistic director, Adrian Jackson, on 0417 585 508 ; or publicist, Prue Bassett on 0419 559 040.