



The Alistair Hulett 'Songs for Social Justice' Award

Following the untimely death of Alistair Hulett on 28 January 2010, two memorial funds were established in his name; one in the UK and one in Australia. Both funds were established with the aim of honouring and upholding Alistair's legacy of actively campaigning through his music and his songwriting on behalf of the poor, the oppressed and the disadvantaged.

Throughout his life, Alistair Hulett provided an eloquent and persuasive voice for those less able to speak out for themselves. He wrote and performed songs that brought attention to injustices past and present across the world, from the plains of Maralinga and the asbestos mines of Wittenoom in Australia, to the copper mines of Bougainville and the highland clearances in Scotland.

Alistair also used words and music to promote racial and religious harmony, to campaign for equality, justice and freedom for all. The Alistair Hulett Memorial Fund in Australia, as in the UK, will continue this legacy by raising money to encourage and support musicians and songwriters whose focus is on social justice issues. The Australian Fund was launched at the 2011 National Folk Festival in Canberra during a tribute concert to Alistair. At this concert, a packed venue was told about our intention to organise a song writing event to continue Alistair's legacy by encouraging writing of songs with social justice themes.

We are proud to announce the annual ***Alistair Hulett Songs for Social Justice Award*** which will be organised by the Australian Memorial Fund and supported by the National Folk Festival. In the UK, an award with the same name and goals was initiated by the Memorial Trust.

Songs for Social Justice

- The songwriting Award is open to songwriters/musicians based in Australia for songs promoting equality and social justice broadly defined.
- Songwriters are encouraged to enter an appropriate song for consideration for the first Award to be announced at the National Folk Festival in Canberra at Easter 2012.
- To build up momentum for this songwriting event, the Fund has decided that, for the foreseeable future, the annual Award will be announced at the National Folk Festival over the Easter long weekend. Alistair was a frequent performer at the National over the years including with his band, The Hooligans, and as a solo performer. This high profile music festival seems an appropriate annual event to support the Award.
- In November 2011, the AHMF received official listing on the Australian Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO) which makes the Fund eligible to receive tax deductible donations. In applying for such recognition, the Fund defined social justice broadly as being anti-discriminatory and egalitarian in seeking to achieve equal rights and opportunities for all people in society, including the poor, the oppressed, the marginalised and excluded.
- Songs need not be limited to 'folk music' genres.



How to enter

- Entries should be recorded on a CD and posted, with an accompanying lyrics sheet, to Alistair Hulett Memorial Fund, PO Box 109, Glebe, NSW 2037. Entrants preferring to send an audio file electronically can get instructions on how to do this by emailing the AHMF at ahmf@me.com. The closing date for entries to be considered for the 2012 Award is **5 March, 2012**.
- The entrant(s) should own the intellectual property in both words and music (unless the music is traditional/non-copyright) and the song should not yet have been recorded for commercial release.

How is the Award decided?

- The AHMF has appointed a small panel of judges drawn from among experienced songwriters and singers and the Trustees will decide the Award based on the panel's advice.
- The Award will be judged on the effectiveness of the song in canvassing its social justice theme rather than on the quality of the recording or performance.

What will the Award involve?

- The Award will include: announcement of the award-winning song at the National Folk Festival in an appropriate event and profiling of the song through its performance at that event; summary feedback from the judging panel to short-listed entries; a monetary grant to a maximum of \$1,000 to award-winner(s) for use in furthering dissemination of the song; and a plaque to mark the Award.
- Where appropriate the award-winning song can be performed by the writer(s) at the Festival or the AHMF can assist in arranging for performance by another artist or band either booked at, or able to attend, the Festival.

Further information

Go to the Alistair Hulett Memorial Fund website at <http://www.alistairhulett.com/the-alistair-hulett-memorial-fund/> -- make sure you follow the Memorial Fund (AU) link at the top of the homepage, not the Memorial Trust (UK). You can also contact the Fund by emailing

ahmf@me.com or by post to:

The Alistair Hulett Memorial Fund
Songs for Social Justice Award
PO Box 109
Glebe NSW 2037.

Happy writing!