

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 where we announced our intention to organise a song writing event to continue Alistair's legacy by encouraging the writing of songs with social justice themes. The first Award was announced at the 2012 National.

We are proud to invite entries each year for the Alistair Hulett Songs for Social Justice Award, organised by the Australian Memorial Fund and supported by the National Folk Festival.

In the UK, an award with the same name and goals is organised by the Memorial Trust.

Songs for Social Justice

- Songwriters are encouraged to enter an appropriate song for consideration in the Award.
- The Award is open to songwriters and musicians based in Australia for songs focused on promoting equality and social justice, broadly defined (see following bullet point).
- The AHMF has 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.
- To help maintain the momentum for this songwriting event, the annual Award will again be announced at the high profile National Folk Festival in Canberra 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.
- Songs need not be limited to 'folk music' genres.

How to enter

- The closing date for entries to be considered for the Award is 31 December of each year, for judging and awarding by April of the following year.
- Entries should include a recording of the song in a SoundCloud or MP3 format, and an accompanying lyrics sheet, and should be submitted via any file transfer site (we recommend the free transfer site at <https://www.wetransfer.com>) to ahmf@me.com. Don't forget to include your contact details, including email and phone number. It would also be appreciated if you could include some information about the social justice issue that inspired you to write your song.
- If you have any issues in transferring your files please email ahmf@me.com for further instructions.
- 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 have been subject to commercial release before the Award's closing date for entries (31 December).

How is the Award decided?

- The AHMF appoints a select panel of judges from among accomplished songwriters and singers. 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: performance of the song at the National Folk Festival, held in Canberra over the Easter long weekend, to give the song profile; summary feedback from the judges for short-listed entries; a monetary grant to a maximum of \$1000 to the award-winner(s) for use in further disseminating the song, such as recording expenses; and a framed certificate to mark the Award.
- Where appropriate the Award-winning song can be performed by the entrant(s) at the National 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/alistair-hulett-memorial-fund/songs-for-social-justice-award-aus/> – 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.

Happy songwriting!