



TASMANIAN FARM SHEDS CELEBRATED IN NATIONAL AWARD

Last night at the Plaza Ballroom in Melbourne, the lives and sounds of Tasmania's farm sheds were honoured in the prestigious national **APRA/AMCOs Art Music Award** with Big hART's much-loved **Acoustic Life of Sheds** taking out the top award for 'Excellence in a Regional Area'.

"We are delighted to win this national award", said Producer Andrew Viney. "This is not just a win for Big hART but a win for Tasmania and our farming families and young people. The intention of the Acoustic Life of Sheds was not only to create a widely accessible music event which showcases the North-West Coast of Tasmania, but also to connect people to the changing rural culture on family farms. Big hART is privileged to work with regional communities across Australia, creating art that reflects their invisible stories."

Created by Big hART in 2015, and featured in the 2015 and 2017 Ten Days on the Island festival, The Acoustic Life of Sheds is an extremely unique music event – which sees farm sheds transform into concert halls with Australia's finest musicians. Free to the public, audiences are taken on an unforgettable journey of audio delights across 5 farm sheds through NW Tasmania, experiencing 5 concerts with music written specifically for each shed in a 4 hour 50km round trip. In 2017 audiences encountered energetic power pop in a calving shed, the collision of opera and music theatre in an old Stables and got in the groove with some steel guitar in a shearing shed amongst the tulips. Artists featured were Lucky Oceans, Ensemble Offspring's Claire Edwardes and the Art Orchestra's Peter Knight, Nate Gilkes, James Milsom, Madeleine Flynn, Tim Humphrey and Melbourne sensation The Twoks.

The Acoustic Life of Sheds in 2017 was presented by 30 young people from Big hART's 20+20 initiative, who worked with professional mentors and performing artists to produce the 40 concerts over two weekends, honing skills in site management, digital storytelling, artist liaison, paddock to plate hospitality training, and venue hosting.

The Art Music Awards are presented each year by the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) and the Australian Music Centre to recognise achievement in the composition, performance, education and presentation of Australian music. They consist of 11 national awards and state awards covering composition, performance, and outstanding contributions by individuals and organisations in Australian music, music education, experimental music, jazz and regional music.

Big hART would also like to take this opportunity to commend all the other winners and finalists of the Art Music Awards, with special commendation to the other finalists in our category – the Moorambilla Voices, the Orpheus Club String Quartet and the Tyalgum Music Festival.

Big hART is currently under discussion to present a new Acoustic Life of Sheds at the 2019 Ten Days on the Island, and there has also been interest interstate and from international festivals. Founded in NW Tasmania 25 years ago, Big hART is Australia's leading campaigning arts organisation and has now worked with over 50 communities in regional, remote and suburban Australia and won over 45 awards.



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