

THE MUSE KEEPS KNOCKING FOR KING

Winning major awards is becoming a regular thing for one of Australia's finest musicians and songwriters.

Guitarist and vocalist supremo Tony King has been awarded Australian Songwriter of the year 2020 by the Australian Songwriters Association and APRA. He also won this award in 2009.

The highly respected Australian musician has now been awarded Best Song eight times during his career.

The 2020 awards, which were delayed until this month due to Covid-19, saw King win Best Lyrics for his "A Library Burns" and Best Comedy Song for "The Day the Queen Smoked a Joint".

He was also a finalist in two other categories for his piece "The Tide Will Come In".

King lives and creates on the far south coast of NSW at Bermagui and says he doesn't need the big city to drive his imagination.

"The tranquil rural setting cuts out the constant static that can prove distracting in Sydney," says King. "So living in Bermagui is no impediment to the muse knocking on the door."

This year, the Australian Songwriting Awards invited nominations from international writers, proving that Australia is home to some of the best musical writers in the world.

King has also made his mark on the international stage.

In 2014 he was awarded Best Lyrics at the International Songwriting Awards, judged by Tom Waits and Bernie Taupin, and last year was runner up in the UK Songwriting Awards for Best Jazz Song with "Is That Jazz?"

However the good news about his awards comes at an extremely difficult time for the entertainment industry, he says.

"The last year has been really tough on the music industry. COVID has been gruesome for entertainers. There have been virtually no gigs and income.

"I was determined to find a silver lining, so with my partner Nina Vox, who has kept me inspired and sound of mind during the last year, we decided to up-skill, learning to make music videos and doing a lot of writing.

"It made us feel like we weren't just treading water," he says.

There is a link at the bottom of this release to a film King and Vox created for “A Library Burns”, one of the songs that led to King winning Australian Songwriter of the Year.

King also shared some thoughts regarding modern music distribution and sales.

“Streaming services like Spotify have decimated income for songwriters,” he says.

“I can provide an example of just how grim it is. Over the last year, total income from all streaming services combined for my entire catalogue, adding up to tens of thousands of streams, was a miserly \$100.

“As a result, songwriters have been forced to rely on organisations like Patreon, which offers subscriptions to your favourite artists so they can keep making music.

“Bandcamp has also become a favourite site for musicians to sell their music,” he added.

Here are the links to those sites for Tony King’s band *Beautifully Mad*.

<https://www.patreon.com/beautifullymad>

<https://beautifullymad.bandcamp.com>

A Library Burns link: <https://youtu.be/e0j5Msf3x64>

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