



2022 FREEDMAN JAZZ FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

CONCERT ON SALE NOW

TOM AVGENICOS (Trumpet), FLORA CARBO (Saxophone), HOLLY CONNER (Drums)

Saturday 3 September - 8.00pm | The Studio - Sydney Opera House

[Book Tickets here](#)

After a competitive search for Australia's most exciting young jazz talent, The Music Trust's **Freedman Jazz Fellowship** finalists have been announced for 2022. **Tom Avgenicos, Flora Carbo** and **Holly Conner** will go before esteemed judges, Virna Sanzone, Andrew Robson and Steven Barry in a live concert finale on September 3rd, at the iconic **Sydney Opera House** for the chance to take home the \$21, 000 award.

The judges noted, *"This year's nominees demonstrate the continually expanding possibilities of contemporary jazz. In a climate still challenging for artists, the judges were thrilled to see an explosion of innovative music-making demonstrated in the distinctive creative voices of these three finalists."*

Following a two-year hiatus due to Covid, the Freedman Jazz Final is back at The Studio in the Sydney Opera House, cementing its place as one of the premier jazz events of the year. As is now the tradition, a Freedman Jazz Fellow, leading saxophonist Julien Wilson (2006) will be the special guest artist, along with a former Freedman judge, legendary Australian jazz pianist Mike Nock. ABC's James Valentine will MC the event and give insights into the three finalists' projects.

The Fellowship starts with nine leading jazz musicians from around Australia each nominating a jazz musician aged 35 or less whom they believe is among the best in the country. Each of the sixteen nominees submits a recording of their musical performance and a project they will carry out with the prize money, should they be chosen as winner. Three esteemed judges then evaluate the submissions and choose three musicians to complete on the final stage

Download finalist Images [here](#)

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Dr Richard Letts, Director of the Music Trust and the Fellowships commented, *“Once again the Freedman nominees from across Australia exemplify how superb, diverse and fresh imaginative our nation’s improvised music is. This year’s finalists are unafraid to push boundaries, and that’s what jazz is about.”*

THE FINALISTS

Tom Avgenicos is a trumpeter/composer based in Sydney, who has established himself as a distinctive innovator in the Australian jazz scene. As a bandleader, his unique improvisational approach is at the forefront of Delay 45, whose music flows seamlessly through structure and spontaneity.

If successful on September 3rd, Tom will develop two multidisciplinary works for his long-standing quartet while collaborating with Ensemble Apex String Quartet, contemporary dancer/choreographer Reina Takeuchi and motion graphics artist Jordan East.

Flora Carbo is a Melbourne based alto saxophonist and composer. Her work utilises the vocal quality of the alto, while her improvisatory language and compositions push boundaries between genres. Flora has studied with Julien Wilson, Melissa Aldana, Jim Denley and Scott McConnachie. If Flora takes home the award this year, she’ll take part in *'Residency in Motion'*, a four-month international program travelling by bicycle in Europe and the UK - facilitating intensive development of her solo creative practice through mentorships, network building and collaboration.

Holly Conner is a Sydney-based drummer, percussionist and electronic music producer who has worked across the fields of contemporary improvised, jazz, free jazz, and experimental music. If she wins, Holly will produce an album of new percussive works under the moniker 'ilex' – in collaboration with a diverse range of creatives, from electronic music producers, art-pop songwriters, sound artists, multi-instrumentalists and contemporary classical musicians. The resulting album would be released with visual accompaniment created by local graphic designers, 3D animators, and film-makers.

THE FREEDMAN FELLOWSHIPS

The Freedman Jazz Fellowships began in 2002, and have contributed to the careers of Australia’s most distinguished jazz artists. Past Fellows include luminaries such as Andrea Keller, Julien Wilson, James Muller, Matt Keegan, Phil Slater, Novak Manojlovic, Hilary Geddes and Kristin Berardi.

The Freedman Fellowships were conceived by **Laurence Freedman AM** and **Dr Richard Letts AM**, are managed by **The Music Trust**, administered and produced by **SIMA**. They’re funded by the **Freedman Foundation** which was founded by Laurence Freedman AM and Kathy Freedman AM. The **Freedman Fellowships** are a life-changing award offered annually to Australian classical & jazz musicians aged up to 35 years.