

MEDIA RELEASE

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American Music Prize Reveals 2017 Finalists

The 2nd **American Music Prize** for Best Debut Album (AMP) winner will be announced in March 8 and the winning artist awarded the \$25,000 prize money. In the lead up to that announcement, we can now reveal the twelve albums to have made the Shortlist.

After the 16 judges listened to over 250 eligible albums (released between August 1st, 2015 and July 31st, 2016) they produced and announced (December 16) a Longlist of 55. We now have the 2nd **AMP Shortlist Finalists**:

Big Thief - 'Masterpiece'
Bob Moses - 'Days Gone By'
case/lang/veirs - 'case/lang/veirs'
EL VY - 'Return To The Moon'
Empress Of - 'Me'
Fantastic Negrito - 'The Last Days of Oakland'
Gallant - 'Ology'
Julien Baker - 'Sprained Ankle'
Margaret Glaspy - 'Emotions and Math'
Margo Price - 'Midwest Farmer's Daughter'
Son Little - 'Son Little'
Whitney - 'Light Upon the Lake'

The judges continue to listen in order to come to a consensus as to which debut album will be crowned The Best for the period.

The aim of **The American Music Prize** for Best Debut Album is to discover,

reward and promote new music of excellence. The prize celebrates the album format and was inspired by the UK's Mercury Music Prize, Canada's Polaris Music Prize and The Australian Music Prize. Eligible albums are judged by a panel of hand-picked, independent, expert judges who agree to only take into account the music they hear - commercial success (or lack of) and live performance measures are not relevant.

Judge **Matt Nathanson** told Billboard today, ""It is an amazing time for new music. The gatekeepers are gone, the barriers between genres are down and the floodgates are open. That's what makes the AMP prize so exciting and so unique, it's an award that shines a light on emerging artists and their art, at the very beginning of their careers. Artists from every genre are eligible and being short-listed for the AMP gives them a chance to cast a wider net and have their music heard by a larger audience."

Founded by the Australian Music Prize pioneer **Scott Murphy** in 2016, the winner of the inaugural AMP was **Kamasi Washington** for his debut album 'The Epic'.

Read more on The AMP 2017 Finalists on Billboard [here](#).

The judges of The American Music Prize are Andy Langer (freelance journalist and TV booker, Austin), Ariana Morgenstern (KCRW, Los Angeles), Ben Lee (recording artist, Los Angeles), Britt Julious (freelance journalist, Chicago), Craig Shelburne (freelance journalist, Nashville), Daniel Kohn (Music Critic, Los Angeles), David Fricke (Rolling Stone, New York City), Dennis Herring (Producer, Oxford, Mississippi), Dan Plunkett (End Of An Ear, Austin), Jewly Hight (Music Critic, Nashville), Josh Madell (Other Music, New York City), Jody Rosen (New York Times, New York City), Kristin Kurtis (KGSR, Austin), Melissa Locker (Music Critic, New York City), Matt Nathanson (recording artist, San Francisco), Pat McGuire (Flood Magazine, Los Angeles), Rebecca Haithcoat (freelance journalist, Los Angeles), and Steve Lillywhite (Producer, Los Angeles).

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