

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing The Newlin Music Prize, New Award to Recognize Richmond-based Excellence in Music

CONTACT

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Newlin MUSIC PRIZE

RICHMOND, VA (Feb. 4, 2022) - The Newlin Music Prize is a new award launching in 2022 to recognize the best album from Richmond, Virginia area musicians. This project is a collaborative effort from numerous members of Richmond's music community. Voting is underway now on the short list of 20 albums released in the previous year that are in consideration for this award.

Named after musical prodigy, VCU professor, and performer Dika Newlin (1923-2006), the Newlin Music Prize will be awarded to the best full-length album from the Richmond, Virginia metropolitan area based solely on artistic merit without regard to style or popularity, as decided upon by members of the local music scene and fans.

The winner will be revealed on March 7, 2022, with the winning artist receiving a cash prize of \$1,000.

Modeled after similar music prizes such as Canada's Polaris Music Prize and the United Kingdom's Mercury Prize, the goal of this award is to raise awareness of the diverse music scene in Richmond, Virginia and to encourage more great musical works to come out of the area.

The albums that comprise the inaugural Newlin Music Prize short list are:

- [Abby Huston - AH HA](#)
- [Angélica Garcia - Echo Eléctrico](#)
- [Ant The Symbol - Ant Hasn't Heard Of You, Either](#)
- [Big Fundamental - Hyperbeam](#)
- [Book Of Wyrms - Occult New Age](#)
- [Caro - From My Room](#)
- [DJ Harrison - Tales From The Old Dominion](#)
- [Frames - Every Room](#)
- [Giant - Big Talk](#)
- [Gnawing - You Freak Me Out](#)
- [Illa Styles - IllaVeRs](#)
- [Jewell Booker - Love Sick 2020](#)
- [Junnie Mac x NameBrand - Peace, Mercy & Blessings](#)
- [Matthew E. White - K. Bay](#)

- [McKinley Dixon - For My Mama And Anyone Who Look Like Her](#)
- [Prabir Trio - Haanji](#)
- [Tennishu - 2021](#)
- [Terminal Bliss - Brute Err/ata](#)
- [Tiara & Andrew - Roller Skates](#)
- [WKNDR - Rising](#)

The short list was chosen from albums released by artists in the Richmond-Petersburg metropolitan area in 2021 that exceeded 25 minutes in length or contained at least five songs. All albums released under these parameters were considered for the award. There was no submission process or entry fee required from local musicians, labels, or studios.

A jury of more than 50 members of the Richmond music scene, including musicians, journalists, artists, photographers, and activists, created the short list of 20 albums. This jury will review each of the 20 albums and submit ranked ballots that will decide the winner.

There is also a public fan vote open from February 4 to March 4, 2022 at NewlinMusicPrize.com, valid for one vote per e-mail address. Results from the fan vote will count as one ballot towards the total result.

This year will mark the first award with subsequent awards being announced and awarded in the first quarter of each year. In the future, the non-profit organization behind this prize will partner with other local organizations and charities to continue spreading awareness for local music.

For more information on the Newlin Music Prize and each nominated album, please visit NewlinMusicPrize.com.

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