



Speech by

Simon Finn

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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Q SONG AWARDS

Mr FINN (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (9.53 pm): Queensland has produced some of the finest songwriters of Australia's contemporary music as the names Grant McLennan, Keith Urban, Pete Murray and Powderfinger attest. These artists are household names across Australia and have recognition across the world. Last week I attended the Q Song Awards at the Tivoli Theatre, which recognise and award unpublished songwriters in 22 categories across the spectrum of contemporary music. Q Song is a program that is supported indirectly by Arts Queensland through its support for Q Music, Queensland's music industry development association. What I saw last week on the awards night was a showcasing of Queensland's emerging song-writing and contemporary talent. Along with the award presentations, the crowd was entertained by emerging artists like North Queensland's reggae and roots band Zennith, The Hungry Kids of Hungary—Brisbane's emerging indie four piece—Q Song Award winner James Grehan, Brisbane's alt country duo Texas Tea, up and comers The Boat People, and previous Q Song Award winner Jazz D'arcy, who won the primary school award last year and who showcased her continued artistic development this year.

One of the highlights of the award ceremony came early in the night with the announcement of the primary school award winner, Romany Elmas. Romany is a 10-year-old who lives in Tolga on the Atherton Tablelands and who won the award for her song *Country Outback Girl*. Romany's acceptance speech showcased a young person of maturity and grace with a strong awareness that success for emerging artists arises from the personal support of family and friends and industry support by sponsors and mentors. Other winners on the night included Andrew Redford, Bec Shuker, Lucas Proudfoot, Adrian Brim, 8 Ball Aitken—you have to see him—Claire Whiting and the people's choice winners, Mexico City. These artists will be well known to all keen followers of emerging contemporary music over the next few years.

There were two major announcements on the night that I also acknowledge—the awarding of the Billy Thorpe Scholarship to Alan Boyle, a scholarship that provides \$10,000 to an emerging artist to establish their professional career, and the announcement of the Grant McLennan Lifetime Achievement Award to the Bee Gees. The contemporary music scene is alive and well in Brisbane and across Queensland. One of the big events on the calendar for Arts Queensland is Big Sound. Big Sound combines an industry event showcasing emerging talent and will be on show in Valley venues from 9 to 11 September. Big Sound is an important international conference that brings together people in the music industry during the day and then spends the night showcasing emerging talents. There will be 120 acts in the Valley during this time and I encourage all members of parliament to get out and enjoy some of the contemporary music that is at the forefront of the Brisbane music culture.