



Winning Photographers Veronica McLaughlin / Doug Peters

AOTEAROA MUSIC PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD - WINNERS ANNOUNCED!!!

The **Auckland Festival of Photography and Auckland UNESCO City of Music Aotearoa Music Photography Award / Whakaahua Puoro Toa** competition are proud to announce the 2021 Award winning image of Kiwi musician Delaney Davidson, by photographer **Veronica McLaughlin**, with **Doug Peters** taking out second place with his image of UK musician Florence Welch (Florence + The Machine).

Veronica McLaughlin, a native-born New Yorker, moved to Auckland in 1994 and made Aotearoa her home. A freelance photographer, writer and co-owner/publisher of the [13th Floor](#) website, Veronica began her professional photography career shooting music with an Elvis Costello concert at the Civic in 2013. She has since captured tens of thousands of music images, from hundreds of big shows such as Mt Smart Stadium and Spark Arena, to first-timers in tiny K' Rd clubs. Along the way, she discovered that she prefers the smaller venues;

"...the intimacy with the artists, getting right up to the stage, immersing myself in the show. Of course the light is always terrible in these places, and I found myself pushing the ISO higher and higher in order to keep up my speed. Then trying to process the photographs into 'proper' concert photos – impossible. That's how I discovered my photographic voice. Music, art, life isn't pretty, clean and clear. It's often dark, dirty, gritty and mysterious. I embraced that. Shooting the Delaney Davidson show was a perfect match – he brought the dark gritty moment and I was there to capture it. Kismet!"

Two-time Aotearoa Music Award winner **Delaney Davidson** is pleased that the image of him performing at The Wine Cellar, Auckland helped Veronica win the \$1500 cash first prize for the inaugural Music Photography Award, although he adds that he no longer practices burning sage on reflection that it is a rite of indigenous people (of the Americas) who burn it in traditional ceremony, and due to exhaustive commercial harvesting by non-natives, the sacred herb is now endangered.

The runner up winner of the [Master & Dynamic 0.95 MW65 Leica Edition Wireless Headphones \(RRP \\$769\)](#) went to photographer **Doug Peters**. Doug has been shooting live music for over 20 years, and is the founder of music website [Ambient Light](#) where he also works part-time as an editor and sometimes photographer for some of the biggest names in music, including Elton John, U2, Billie Eilish, Iron Maiden, Coldplay and the Foo Fighters to name but a few.

By day, he works in the television industry, and in his spare time dabbles in fashion photography, shooting for website [thisismeagankerr.com](#). Doug is a staunch Canon DSLR user with various lenses for all his live music photography, and has just invested in the Leica medium format digital system for his portrait and fashion work.

Award judges **Mark Roach & Maryanne Bilham** said *"We were blown away by the outstanding quality of the photography entered. It was no easy task to whittle down over 600 entries into a long-list let alone select a winning shot, and we want to commend everyone who entered. After a lot of consideration and debate, we settled on the incredibly evocative shot of **Delaney Davidson** by **Veronica McLaughlin**. Both her winning shot, and the runner-up image of **Florence Welch** by **Doug Peters**, were selected because of the stories they weave. The photographs also have a high degree of technical skill and perfectly judged artistry.*

The shots are, in a manner of speaking, two sides of the same coin. Both shows depicted are in Auckland, with Davidson in beloved grassroots venue, The Wine Cellar; Welch in the far more cavernous Spark Arena. The Welch show is set in a pre-Covid international touring world, whereas Davidson's is in a post-first lockdown emergence. Yet despite the differences of time and scale, there is an innate similarity captured here; of artists captured in a sacred space, seemingly invoking the muse, lost in the magic. Our heartiest congratulations to Veronica on winning the inaugural Aotearoa Music Photography Award, and we look forward to seeing more of her work in the future"

The competition was open to all New Zealand based professional and community photographers, with the theme of music and the event is part of the public projects of the 2021 [Auckland Festival of Photography](#) programme, which is free to attend and hosted in various locations around **Auckland from 3 – 20 June**.

Wrapping up NZ Music Month, the Awards Prizegiving function was held in Auckland on Friday 28 May at [STUDIO SPACE](#) (STUDIO 58) / [Scott Lawrie Gallery](#) (thanks to Stephen Tilley, Caroline Brown and Scott Lawrie) with refreshments provided thanks to [ParrotDog](#) and [Paritua](#). Special thanks to major sponsors [Auckland UNESCO City of Music](#), and [AudioCulture](#), event partners and contributors (details below) and to all those that entered.



Delaney Davidson at The Wine Cellar / Atmospheric show - as much magic as music / by **Veronica McLaughlin**



Florence + the Machine 2015 / Florence Welch lost in the music while performing live at Spark Arena, Auckland / by **Doug Peters**

For high resolution images for print (please credit the photographers) and the full list of finalists please [click here](#)

For more information please contact: [Leesa Tilley - \[Publicity-machine@orcon.net.nz\]\(mailto:Leesa.Tilley@orcon.net.nz\)](mailto:Leesa.Tilley@orcon.net.nz) / +64 21 243 6899



The **Auckland Festival of Photography** is a city-wide contemporary art and cultural event which takes place within Auckland's major galleries, project spaces, non-gallery venues and public sites during June each year. The programme includes a mix of emerging and established artists and comprises existing works and creation of new work. The annual Festival is produced by the Auckland Festival of Photography Trust. The Trust is a not for profit charitable trust working to further the presence and awareness of photography in Auckland through joint programming, audience development and profile raising activities.

To find out more about the festival see photographyfestival.org.nz



About Auckland UNESCO City of Music | Tāmaki Makaurau Pā Puoro:

Auckland was designated by UNESCO as a Creative City of Music in 2017 part of the global **UNESCO Creative Cities Network**. The governance of the City of Music is comprised of stakeholder organisations from the music sector and Council organisations, and endorsed by the Council's Mayor and Governing Body. By joining the network Auckland is acknowledging its long and rich musical history and its commitment to sharing best practice developing partnerships that promote creativity and strengthening participation in cultural life. *Download the Auckland Music Strategy and find out more at aucklandcityofmusic.nz*

AUDIOCULTURE IWI WAIATA

AudioCulture is "the noisy library of New Zealand music." It is an online celebration of the people who have created the music, the scenes they shaped, and the audiences they played to. AudioCulture works with artists, historians and music industry people to tell the stories of nearly one hundred years of New Zealand popular music culture, AudioCulture is for everyone with an interest in New Zealand popular music, whether they are a music fan looking for entertaining information, an academic looking for facts, or a nostalgia buff going on a trip down memory lane.

The site is funded by NZ On Air and run by the Digital Media Trust.

audioculture.co.nz

Publicity ✖ Agent

Publicity + is a boutique public relations and marketing company, specialising in tailored strategic campaigns for the entertainment industry. Publicity + is part of Agentx Ltd, which is the music and entertainment consultancy, booking agency and artist management leg of the business. Director **Leesa Tilley** works with many high profile names in entertainment and has toured shows for Fleetwood Mac, The Who, Bryan Ferry, Joan Armatrading, David Byrne, Crosby Stills Nash, Simple Minds, Snoop Dogg, Ice Cube, The Beach Boys, Motorhead and Def Leppard, amongst many others, and was a co-founder of the Raggamuffin Music Festival. She was a writer and photographer for Rip It Up and London based international music magazine Audience, has a degree in and has worked as an Audio Engineer, and is currently the Digital Producer for the Auckland Festival of Photography and Event Manager and Publicist for this years' Music Photography Awards.

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The legendary status of the **Leica** brand is founded on a long tradition of excellence in the construction of lenses and optical devices. And today, in combination with innovative technologies, Leica products continue to guarantee better pictures in all situations in the worlds of visualisation and perception. Innovative products have been the driving force behind the company's positive development in recent years. Leica have contributed a second prize of Master & Dynamic 0.95 MW65 Leica Edition Wireless Headphones (RRP \$769)

For more inspiration at www.leica-store.co.nz

STUDIO SPACE [STUDIO 58]

STUDIO SPACE is a unique industrial character space situated in Grey Lynn, featuring an expansive 200m², including three defined areas. The space features a high stud, polished concrete floors, white walls (Aalto Paint, Gallery White), steel window frames, and a generous inlet of natural light throughout. The space lends itself to photography, videography [studio | location], events [product launches, media, corporate | private]. CONTACT — Caroline Brown, Caroline@thestudiospace.nz
[STUDIO SPACE](#) | [@STUDIO_SPACE](#)

SCOTT LAWRIE GALLERY is a contemporary art gallery that aims to connect hearts and minds.
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Parrot dog was conceived in 2011 out of a love for good beer by three guys called Matt. From their brewery in Lyall Bay, Wellington, they're continuing to do what they started back then: making approachable, award winning beer. Quality and simplicity form the basis for their mantra in keeping things uncomplicated. Their range is a diverse cast of characters, with something to suit every one of you, and every one of us.
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PARITUA

Paritua vineyard is in the heart of the wine region of Hawke's Bay. Wines bearing the boutique label Paritua are produced only in outstanding vintages, whilst our Stone Paddock selection of wines are made every year. Every bottle of Paritua wine comes from grapes grown on this special, single vineyard, organically farmed site. paritua.com



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photography
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Cordially invite you to the

AOTEAROA
MUSIC PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD
WHAKAAHUA PUORO TOA
2021

AWARD PRIZEGIVING
FRIDAY 28 MAY



6:00 - 8:00pm

STUDIO SPACE [STUDIO 58] | SCOTT LAWRIE GALLERY
2 Murdoch Road, Grey Lynn

Please RSVP by reply email by 5pm Thursday 27 May



AUDIOCULTURE
IWI WAIATA



PARITUA