

The Black Arm Band

2009 Sidney Myer Performing Arts Awards announced

The Black Arm Band is proud to accept the Group Award in the 2009 Sidney Myer Performing Arts Awards.

On March 5th 2010, the Sidney Myer Performing Arts Awards were presented in a ceremony at Adelaide's Tandanya National Aboriginal Culture Institute for the 2009 Individual, Group and Facilitators Awards.

Proudly alongside Individual Award winner, stage legend Julie Forsyth and Aboriginal musician Mandawuy Yunupingu and Melbourne's Footscray Community Arts Centre for the shared Facilitator's Prize, The Black Arm Band was recognised with the 2009 Group Award for an outstanding achievement in performing arts.

Created in 1984 to celebrate the late Sidney Myer's love of performing arts, the award is a major event on the Australian arts calendar and is presented in a different Australian city each year. Previous winners include arts heavyweights such as Geoffrey Rush, Paul Grabowsky, Neil Armfield, Archie Roach and the late Ruby Hunter whose passing was sadly and honourably felt by all.

Carrillo Gantner, Chairman of Trustees of the Sidney Myer Fund, said he was very proud of the awards' excellent reputation amongst the performing arts community. "Each year the judges face a daunting job of choosing winners from a diverse field of wonderful performing artists in this country. Choosing the winners is always a real challenge," Mr Gantner said.

"Black Arm Band has produced wonderful works with musicians and singers from all walks of life, and, most importantly, irrespective of race and colour. They bring reconciliation alive in song, and Demand for their unique and earthy sound is growing, both in Australia and overseas."

The Sidney Myer Group Award, presented annually and decided by a national Judging Committee, intend to enhance the status of performing arts in Australia and recognise outstanding achievements in dance, comedy, music, opera, circus and puppetry.

In a speech delivered on behalf of Steven Richardson for The Black Arm Band, The Myer Foundation was gratefully acknowledged for "enabling The Black Arm Band to do important social and health work in communities all across the country - through workshops and performances of The Black Arm Band in remote Aboriginal communities.

The future of The Black Arm Band combines amazing Australian musical talent - we are not a racially segregated organisation, but a united one where blackfellas and whitefellas work together in a spirit of reconciliation and a model for good race relations, doing important social and health related work in remote communities and presenting the music of the Indigenous Australian experience across the world."

The Black Arm Band proudly accepts the award on behalf of all past and present featured artists, musicians, guest artists and collaborators including community and cultural partners The Fred Hollows Foundation.

www.sidneymyerperformingartsawards.org.au