

Alt-J, The xx, Enter Shikari and Netsky do battle for IMPALA award

European independent music trade body IMPALA has revealed the shortlist for its prestigious annual album prize.

The IMPALA European Independent Album of the Year Award is back for its third edition, with voting now taking place on an 18-album shortlist to decide this year's winner.

This European Mercury-style award celebrates the musical talent and diversity of independent European releases. The trade body says that the competition "promotes exceptional artists and the independent sector alike".

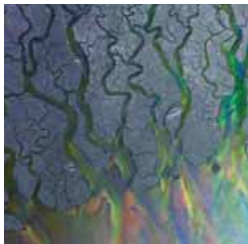
The winner will be selected by a jury of IMPALA Board

members, who have four weeks to vote. Adele won the 2012 award with her album 21.

Helen Smith, executive chair, IMPALA commented: "The shortlist demonstrates the diversity of independent music throughout Europe. The judges, using entirely open criteria, will choose quite simply the album they believe is the most exceptional of the year."

The 'European Independent Album of The Year' award was launched in 2011, together with the annual 'Outstanding Contribution to European Music' award, to mark the 10th anniversary of IMPALA.

IMPALA has once again



teamed up with Spotify to compile a nominees playlist, available on its website.

This year's nominated albums are (listed in alphabetical order by artist / name of the album / record label):

Afterhours – Padania (Germi)

Alt-J – An Awesome Wave (Infectious)

Compact Disco – Sound Of Our Hearts (CLS)

Cro – Raop (Chimperator)

Django Django – Django Django (Because Music)

El Perro Del Mar – Pale Fire (Ingrid)

Enter Shikari – A Flash Flood of Colour (Ambush Reality)

First Aid Kit – The Lion's Roar (Wichita)

Frankie – Troyanac (Menart)

John Talabot – fIN (Permanent Vacation)

Jukka Poika – Yhdestä puusta (Suomen Musiikki)

Kaizers Orchestra – Violeta Violeta Vol. III (Petroleum Records)

The Kytteman Orchestra – The Kytteman Orchestra (Kytopia)

Libar – Libar (Menart)

Netsky – 2 (Hospital Records)

Norberto Lobo – Mel Azul (Mbari)

Shaka Ponk – The Geeks and The Jerkin' Socks (Tôt ou Tard / Wagram)

The xx – Coexist (XL)