

Mbox awarded to talented Jaxter prize winner

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Graeme Pillemer, working under the stage name Earl Gray, has **won the 3rd Annual Jaxter Artist Award's major prize** for best musical entry for his undeniably groove-infused composition 'Bad Luck'. His prize consists of an Mbox, \$5,000 cash and membership to The Can, a website which allows artists to sell their music online directly to consumers without the need for record companies.

Held in Sydney, the Jaxter Artist Awards received approximately 300 entries, 50% more than in 2004. Initially the entries were cut down to 50, before working towards the final decisions. All entries receive feedback and the judges were noticeably impressed with the overall increase in quality, which made judging a very difficult process. The top 15 or so entries will be included on a finalist CD to be released soon.

"I am continually being surprised by the creative possibilities of the MBox. I was excited, initially, by simply the software update that came with the package. Now what excites me most about the MBox is its portability. Recording is no longer confined to my basement. The beauty of this is that I will be able to use it as a composing and arranging tool when I am away from home, which is usually, the time I write my best music," says Graeme.

Graeme performs regularly at Nells Bar in Manly, Sydney and cites Jimi Hendrix as a major influence. He says that this achievement has re-inspired his solo ambitions and that his plan now is to put the money towards his debut album.

"Bad Luck is based on a riff that had been kicking around for a few years. After seeing Mykal Rose and Black Uhuru one night, the chorus just came out. Looking back the lyrics definitely reflect a stage of my life where I felt trapped by the expectations that were coming from forces outside myself." says Graeme.

To listen to 'Bad Luck' and read a full transcript of our interview with Graeme please visit the Jaxter Awards website at [Jaxter Awards](#)

