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Q award winners revel in the harmony

- Amy Winehouse fails to show for best album gong
- Tony Wilson gets 'hero' award posthumously

Owen Gibson, media correspondent
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In previous years it has been the arena for some memorable rock'n'roll spats. But yesterday's Q Awards was more of mutual love-in, between winning musical legends like Sir Paul McCartney and former Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr, and those to whom they have provided inspiration such as Arctic Monkeys and Muse.

Radiohead guitarist Ed O'Brien paid tribute to Marr, who won the lifetime achievement award, for inspiring him to pick up a guitar, while KT Tunstall said of Billy Bragg, recipient of the classic songwriter prize: "I wish he was my history teacher, I wish he was my big brother and I wish I could vote for him."

Former Stone Roses frontman Ian Brown, who won the Q Legend award, even paid tribute to Peter Hook, the former New Order bass guitarist who was there to present the Q Hero prize posthumously to Factory Records founder Anthony Wilson, for lending him a studio in 1986.

Wilson, who died in August aged 57 following a battle with cancer, received the biggest standing ovation for his part in creating an enduring Manchester musical legacy. His voice cracking, Hook said: "This is very difficult for me. He always said to me, when you want me I won't be there but when you need me I will be. I truly believe that."

Wilson's award was collected by his children Oliver and Isobel, who said: "We miss him and it's really nice to know other people do too."

Arctic Monkeys were named best act in the world today. After surprising fans by turning up at two recent awards shows, Amy Winehouse failed to show to collect the best album prize for *Back to Black*.

Coventry band The Enemy, who acknowledge their debt to the Jam, were named best new act, and Kate Nash, who topped the charts with her debut album, won the breakthrough award.

The awards, some voted for by Q readers and others decided by the magazine's staff, typically attract a raucous and star-studded guest list. Some of the winners appeared unsure as to how their category differed from others. Kylie Minogue, who won the Q Idol prize, said: "Just don't ask me what it means, but I'm very grateful and honoured to be receiving this."

Minogue, in her first appearance at an awards ceremony since winning her battle with breast cancer, said: "It's my first day back at work like this so it's very exciting and slightly nerve-racking."

Sir Paul McCartney was named Q Icon. Damon Albarn and Bragg were given the Q Inspiration prize and the Classic Songwriter award respectively.

The former Beatle paid tribute to bandmates "John, George and Ringo", his late wife Linda and his "beautiful family". "I've been doing this since I was a little bairn and it's still the same for me now - the same magic, the same thrill, the same emotion," he said.

The winners

Best Track Your Love Alone Is Not Enough, Manic Street Preachers

Breakthrough Artist Kate Nash

Best New Act The Enemy

Best Video Ruby, Kaiser Chiefs

Q Legend Ian Brown

Q Classic Songwriter Billy Bragg

Q Inspiration Award Damon Albarn

Q Classic Song Local Boy In The Photograph, Stereophonics

Q Classic Album Urban Hymns, The Verve

Q Innovation in Sound Sigur Rós

Q Lifetime Achievement Johnny Marr

Q Merit Award Ryan Adams

Q Hero Anthony H Wilson

Q Idol Kylie Minogue

Q Icon Paul McCartney

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