

## OPEN LETTER FROM ACADEMICS FOR THE ARTS IN AUSTRALIA

### Request For Immediate Crisis Support For The Arts, Live Music And Events Industries

We are academics whose background in the arts as both practitioners and educators unites us in our common concern for the plight of the many freelance artists and musicians around this country now desperately striving to survive in the gig economy. We are writing to ask that the Morrison Government take urgent action to mitigate the direct negative impacts the arts sector is experiencing as a result of its necessary and important response to the COVID-19 crisis.

For example, in the week between Saturday 14 and 21 March, [I Lost My Gig](#) recorded over \$280 million of lost income for creative industry businesses and workers. This represents 255,000 gig/event cancellations, impacting 500,000 people: just a fraction of the domino impact of COVID-19.

Significant and immediate support is now needed to protect the livelihoods of the hundreds of thousands of artists, managers, agents, crews, venues, contract and casual workers that rely on these industries. We are asking for immediate Government funding of a dedicated Covid-19 Live Performance Industry Package of \$750 million. This package will provide, among other items, the following essential relief. This is only a portion of what is now needed, but it will help our freelance sector directly.

- \$20m to [Support Act](#) for hardship payments and mental health crisis assistance
- A wage subsidy scheme for casuals, sole traders, and self employed arts workers
- Extension of all current government funding arrangements for organisations
- \$25,000 grants for venues to keep them afloat in the coming months

Australia's cultural future is now as much at stake as the livelihoods of its artists and musicians. The Australian music, arts and live events industries have been among the first to feel the immediate impacts from the Coronavirus pandemic; these industries are also the first to bring joy, music and art into the lives of Australians, and to give hope and a sense of community in times of crisis. It is time to give back.

Sincerely,

Academics for the Arts in Australia

Facilitator and co-signatory:

1. Dr Felicity Wilcox, Lecturer in Music and Sound Design, University of Technology Sydney

Co-signatories:

2. Professor Vanessa Tomlinson, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University
3. Professor Julian Knowles, Music, Macquarie University
4. Professor Liam Viney, Head of School of Music, University of Queensland
5. Professor Cat Hope, Head of Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, Monash University
6. Professor Garth Paine, Digital Sound and Interactive Media, Arizona State University, USA (Australian Citizen)
7. Professor Stephen Emmerson, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University
8. Professor Paul Draper, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University
9. Professor Hart Cohen, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, Western Sydney University
10. Adjunct Professor Philip Hayward, University of Technology Sydney
11. Associate Professor James Wierzbicki, Musicology, University of Sydney
12. Associate Professor Linda Kouvaras, Associate Director Research & Research Training, Lecturer in Musicology and Music Language Studies, Conservatorium of Music, Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, University of Melbourne
13. Associate Professor Grayson Cooke, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Southern Cross University
14. Associate Professor Maria Grenfell, Head, Conservatorium of Music, University of Tasmania
15. Associate Professor Jon Drummond, Deputy Head of School, Program Convenor, Music School of Creative Industries, Faculty of Education and Arts, University of Newcastle
16. Associate Professor Stuart Medley, Design, School of Arts & Humanities, Edith Cowan University
17. Associate Professor Stewart Smith, Associate Dean, WAAPA
18. Associate Professor Rob Garbutt, Deputy Head of School (Teaching and Learning), School of Arts and Social Sciences, Southern Cross University
19. Associate Professor Abby Mellick Lopes, School of Design, University of Technology, Sydney
20. Adjunct Associate Professor, Andi Spark, Griffith Film School, Griffith University
21. Dr Chris Caines, Senior Lecturer, Media Arts and Production, University of Technology, Sydney
22. Dr Eve Klein, School of Music, University of Queensland
23. Dr John Ferguson, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University
24. Dr Brent Keogh, Lecturer in Music and Sound Design, University of Technology Sydney
25. Dr Tim Bruniges, Lecturer in Music, University of Wollongong
26. Dr Benjamin Carey, Lecturer in Composition and Music Technology, Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney
27. Dr Donna Hewitt, Senior Lecturer in Music, University of New England
28. Dr Daniel Rojas, Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader for Composition, Music Technology and Creative Industries, Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney

29. Dr John Napier, Senior Lecturer and Convenor of Music Programs, School of the Arts and Media, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of New South Wales
30. Dr Ivan Zavada, Senior Lecturer in Composition and Music Technology, Digital Music and Media, Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney
31. Dr Mark Oliveira, Academic Lecturer in Composition and Music Production, Australian Institute of Music
32. Dr Terumi Narushima, Senior Lecturer in Music, University of Wollongong
33. Dr Phillip Johnston, Academic Lecturer in Graduate Studies, Australian Institute of Music
34. Dr Robert Sazdov, Senior Lecturer and Head of Music and Sound Design, University of Technology Sydney
35. Dr Yantra de Vilder, Composer and Artistic Director, Five Lands Walk Festival
36. Dr Katy Abbott, Senior Lecturer in Composition, Conservatorium of Music, Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, University of Melbourne
37. Dr Alistair Noble, Academic Dean, Australian Institute of Music
38. Dr Louise Devenish, Senior Research Fellow, Monash University
39. Dr Catherine Strong, Senior Lecturer, BA (Music Industry), RMIT
40. Dr Timothy Laurie, Lecturer, Music and Sound Design, University of Technology Sydney
41. Dr Liz Giuffre, Senior Lecturer, Music and Sound Design, University of Technology Sydney
42. Dr Damien Ricketson, Senior Lecturer, Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney
43. Dr Anna Broinowski Screen Arts lecturer, School of Literature, Arts and Media, University of Sydney
44. Dr Richard Jones, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, University of New England
45. Dr Jadey O'Regan, Lecturer in Contemporary Music, Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney
46. Dr Alison Gill, Director of Academic Program, Design, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, Western Sydney University
47. Dr Christina Green, Doctor of Creative Arts, Western Sydney University, Registered Music Therapist
48. Dr Rachel Bentley, Head, Digital Content, Western Sydney University
49. Dr Wendy Chandler, Area Convenor Media Arts Production, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, Western Sydney University
50. Dr Joanna Drimatis, Head of Strings, MLC School, Sydney
51. Dr Leah Barclay, Lecturer in Design, University of the Sunshine Coast
52. Dr Barry Hill, Senior Lecturer Contemporary Music, Southern Cross University
53. Dr David Cashman, Adjunct Associate Professor, Southern Cross University
54. Dr Lisa Dethridge, School of Media and Communication, RMIT University
55. Dr. Michelle Catanzaro, Senior lecturer, Design (Visual communication), Western Sydney University
56. Dr Alon Ilisar, Researcher in Music, Technology, Health and Well-being, SensiLab, Monash University

57. Dr Ian Stevenson, Senior Lecturer, Music and Sound Design, University of Technology Sydney
58. Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler, Western Sydney University Chaplain, Adjunct Faculty Flinders University, Adjunct Faculty Tabor College, Adjunct Faculty Charles Sturt University, Visiting Lecturer Hillsong College
59. Dr Nicole Canham, Wind Coordinator, Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, Monash University
60. Dr Anna McMichael, String Coordinator, Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, Monash University.
61. Dr Amanda Cole, Sessional lecturer in composition, Sydney University
62. Dr Gregory Ferris, Lecturer, Media Arts and Production, FASS, UTS
63. Dr Heather Graham, Sessional lecturer, Southern Cross University
64. Dr. Louise Denson, Senior Lecturer in Jazz Studies, Griffith University Queensland Conservatorium
65. Dr David Larkin, Senior Lecturer in Musicology, Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney
66. Dr Josephine Browne, Adjunct, Griffith University Centre for Social and Cultural Research/Sessional Academic, Southern Cross University
67. Dr Ainslie Meiklejohn, Sessional academic, Sociology, Griffith University
68. Dr Rachel Bentley Head, Digital Content, Western Sydney University
69. Dr Milissa Deitz, Senior Lecturer, Communication, Western Sydney University
70. Dr Greg Hughes, Lecturer Design (Visual Communication), Western Sydney University
71. Dr Nicole Bridges, Lecturer, Public Relations, Western Sydney University
72. Dr. Nicole Carroll, Lecturer in Digital Composition, University of Newcastle, NSW
73. Dr Bhuvan Narayan, Senior Lecturer, IKM and Digital Studies Program, University of Technology Sydney
74. Dr Oliver Bown, Senior Lecturer, digital artist and electronic music producer, UNSW
75. Dr John Janson-Moore, Media Arts Production, University of Technology Sydney
76. Natasha Vlassenko, pianist Head of Keyboard, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University
77. Graeme Jennings, Senior Lecturer in Violin, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University
78. Alison Cole, Lecturer Composition for Creative Industries, Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney
79. Daniel de Borah, Head of Chamber Music, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University
80. Roman Ponomarev, Classical Convenor, Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, Monash University
81. Katrina Sandbach, Lecturer (Design), Western Sydney University
82. Roman Goik, Lecturer, Design (Visual Communication), Western Sydney University
83. Jessica Wells, Lecturer in Music Notation and Publishing, Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney

84. Linda Barcan, Lecturer in Music (Voice), Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne
85. Lewis Cornwell, Lecturer in Musicology, Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney
86. Martin White, Recording Engineer and Producer, School of Audio Engineering
87. John Mackey, Music Lecturer, Australian National University
88. Fiona Hill, PhD candidate in Composition, Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney
89. David Goldman Clinical Psychologist, PhD candidate, University of Technology Sydney
90. Noel Burgess, PhD candidate, Western Sydney University, Director, National Trust of Australia
91. Nicole Forsyth, PhD Candidate, Historical Performance Division, Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney, and Lead Educator, Australian Chamber Orchestra Foundations Program
92. Aidan Charles Rosa, Casual Lecturer, Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney
93. Jasmine Guffond, freelance composer/musician and PhD candidate, UNSW
94. Richard Hundy, Senior lecturer in music production, Australian Institute of Music
95. Janet Saunders, Associate lecturer, Visual Communications Design, Western Sydney University
96. Enrico Scotece, Lecturer Design (Visual Communication), Western Sydney University
97. Vincent Tay, Associate Lecturer Media Arts Production, Western Sydney University
98. Julia Park Graphic Designer/Sessional Lecturer JMC Academy Sydney
99. Monica Rouvellas, Sessional Academic in Business, Law and Media Arts Production at Macquarie University, University of Sydney, University of NSW, and University of Technology, Sydney, Solicitor of the Supreme Court NSW
100. Katia Beaugeais, Vandoren Paris & Selmer Sax Artist, International Saxophonist, Composer, Researcher, PhD Candidate, Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney
101. Aura Go, Piano Coordinator, Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, Monash University
102. Sarah Waterson Senior Lecturer Design, Western Sydney University

Non-academic co-signatories:

1. Claire Edwardes, Percussionist and Artistic Director, Ensemble Offspring
2. Richard Johnson, Director, Curator, Producer, SoundOut Festival
3. Stephen Adams, Australian Music Producer, ABC Classic
4. Paul Gough - Broadcaster, Podcaster, Radio Producer, Presenter (ABC RN)
5. Sarah Miller AM, who has worked with arts workers for more than thirty years and believes that 'their essential contribution to the life and spirit of our nation, the intrinsic and extrinsic value they create is fundamental and extraordinary. They have our support, but they need yours.'