

**Submission
No 86**

**INQUIRY INTO INTEGRITY, EFFICACY AND VALUE FOR
MONEY OF NSW GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAMS**

Name: Mr Jonathan Zwartz

Date Received: 23 August 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

I am an ARIA award winning freelance musician, composer, arranger, producer, and live music consultant living in Sydney. I am also currently a writer/director on the board of the APRA and a staunch advocate for Australian Content on TV and mainstream media.

I am writing in support of SIMA's submission to you.

SIMA is a small but brilliant organisation that really is the spiritual heart of the jazz (and where jazz intersects with contemporary music) scene in NSW.

SIMA provides an invaluable service to a huge amount of musicians engaging in creative practice, whether it be facilitating creative projects, commissions, digital content, marketing and promotional assistance, touring assistance in Sydney or regional areas of the state.

SIMA also brings international artists to Australia to collaborate with local artists, and will often work with other state bodies to really exploit the creative potential and financial benefit to the sector nationally as well as locally/regionally.

SIMA are a huge part of the ecology of the jazz and new music scene, and have been tirelessly supporting the creation and production and performance of Australian work for more than 20 years.

I would like to point out that it is this ecology that feeds musicians into the pop and indie music scene, people that play for Missy Higgins, Gotye and Sarah Blasko through to Ngairé and Don Walker. These are highly trained musicians with considerable musical dexterity and a wide knowledge of musical styles who when they are not performing with such stars, are honing their skills at smaller venues, often curated and produced by SIMA.

SIMA is agile too, able to readjust to external situations like Covid-19, bringing much needed performance opportunities and creative commissions to musicians whose entire livelihoods were put under such extreme pressure from March onwards.

Therefore, the value of this organisation in my mind, is clearly crucially important to our Australian music and its artists.

It is concerning to me that they have been denied their multi year funding and now have to revert to annual funding which takes the people that work for SIMA away from doing their much needed work. I think transparency around how the decision making processes are an absolute necessity.

I would further like to point out that SIMA is doing a job that no one else is doing in this state, and it is now having to battle for its survival.

We need this organisation now, more than ever before, not only for our scene and its wider ecology, but also for the clear benefits that music brings to the mental health of this state, and indeed, the nation.

Thank you for your time reading this submission.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Zwartz