

Submission  
No 112

## INQUIRY INTO ARTS AND MUSIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**Organisation:** Pacific Opera, Turner Theatre and Short and Sweet

**Date Received:** 1 August 2024

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# Submission for Joint Select Committee on Arts and Music Education and Training in New South Wales

## Section 1: Turner Theatre and The Garden

**Introduction:** Turner Theatre is excited to announce an ambitious program set to launch in 2025, aimed at integrating arts education with real-world performance opportunities. This initiative will include a season of works and workshops specifically designed for talented young artists, with a focus on identifying and developing high school students with musical and vocal talent. This initiative will foster a seamless transition from school to professional arts careers, ensuring that young artists receive the training, exposure, and experience necessary to succeed.

**Showcasing New Australian Musicals:** Turner Theatre's music education plan for 2025 and beyond includes showcasing three new Australian-written musicals annually. Each musical will work with emerging artists—actors, singers, dancers, musicians, and choreographers—by leveraging relationships with TAFE NSW, NIDA, Sydney Conservatorium, and private training companies like Actors Centre Australia and the Australian Institute of Music. The crew and will also feature technical and creative talents from these institutes. (see attached links)

From 2026, Short+Sweet will present a program of Short+Sweet 10-minute musicals. This program is a perfect training ground for artists who will go on to create full-length works and includes new work that might be opera or light opera. These initiatives support entrepreneurial skills and industry experience for students (addressing point a.ix).

From 2027 Short+Sweet will present a touring version of the 10 minute musicals program. This will be a fully professional touring program featuring 6 artists and funded through existing programs like Arts on Tour and Playing Australia. Short+Sweet has done this on 4 occasions; three featuring plays and once with a dance program. Each touring company provided free masterclasses in each town and city on the tour. (see attached links)

**The Garden: An Outdoor Performance Space:** It is envisaged that The Garden, an outdoor performance space for 200, will be established and ready for use by January 2026. This will involve building a removable outdoor stage and installing lighting and sound equipment. This new venue will be perfect for music concerts of many different styles, including showcases of new opera and musical theatre as well as jazz and classical styles, especially focusing on the work of student and emerging performers and musicians. We will need some support from the government to make this happen. This space will provide additional performance opportunities and foster vibrant community engagement (addressing points a.v, a.viii).

### **Community Engagement: a.iv, a.vi, a.viii**

Engaging the community is a core component of the Turner Theatre and The Garden initiative. This engagement ensures that arts education is not only accessible but also resonates with a broad audience, fostering a culture of creativity and appreciation for the arts.

### **Community Involvement in Programs:**

- **Accessible and Inclusive Events:**
  - Ensure that events are accessible to all members of the community, including those with disabilities and those from diverse cultural backgrounds.
  - Provide free or subsidized tickets to ensure that cost is not a barrier to participation (addressing point a.viii).

### **Engagement Through The Garden:**

- **Outdoor Community Events:**
  - Utilize The Garden as a venue for community events, including music concerts, theatre performances, and cultural festivals.
  - Host events that celebrate local talent and provide a platform for emerging artists (addressing points a.iv, a.viii).
- **Interactive and Educational Programs:**
  - Offer interactive programs that involve the community in the creative process, such as open rehearsals, Q&A sessions with artists, and hands-on workshops.
  - Develop educational programs that provide insight into the creative industries and inspire community members to pursue their own creative projects (addressing point a.vi).

### **Support Needed from Government: a.iii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.vii, a.viii, a.ix, a.x**

**Introduction:** To achieve the ambitious goals of the Turner Theatre and The Garden initiative, support from the government is essential. This support will ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of these programs, benefiting students, emerging artists, and the broader community.

### **Areas of Support:**

- **Funding for Specialized Programs:**
  - Provide funding to expand and enhance the musical and theatrical training initiatives.

- Support the development of new curriculum options and the integration of arts education within school programs (addressing points a.iii, a.v).
- **Infrastructure Development:**
  - Support the construction and maintenance of The Garden, including the removable outdoor stage, lighting, and sound equipment.
  - Ensure that Turner Theatre and the new theatre hub have the necessary facilities to support rehearsals, performances, and educational activities (addressing points a.v, a.vi).
- **Support for Regional Programs:**
  - Develop initiatives to ensure that students in regional and remote areas have access to high-quality arts education and training.
  - Provide resources for virtual masterclasses, touring performances, and mentorship programs to reach regional schools across NSW (addressing points a.vii, a.viii).
- **Professional Development and Training:**
  - Support professional development programs for teachers to equip them with skills to teach music and arts using modern methods.
  - Fund workshops and training sessions for educators and students, ensuring they have access to the latest techniques and resources (addressing points a.iii, a.iv, a.vi, a.viii).
- **Entrepreneurial Skills and Industry Experience:**
  - Develop programs that provide students with opportunities to gain industry experience and develop entrepreneurial skills.
  - Support initiatives like the Short+Sweet 10-minute musicals program, which serves as a training ground for future artists (addressing points a.ix, a.x).

### Summary of Points of Relevance to the Enquiry:

- **Key Activities and Programs:** a.i, a.ii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.viii, a.ix, a.x
- **Innovative Education Programs:** a.i, a.ii, a.iv, a.vi
- **Work-Integrated Learning:** a.v, a.viii
- **Cultural Preservation and Expression:** a.iv, a.vi
- **Community Engagement:** a.iv, a.vi, a.viii
- **Entrepreneurial Skills and Industry Experience:** a.ix
- **Support Needed from Government:** a.iii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.vii, a.viii, a.ix, a.x
- **Professional Development:** a.iii, a.iv, a.vi

**Conclusion:** Turner Theatre and The Garden are committed to nurturing the next generation of performers and contributing to the vibrant cultural landscape of New South Wales. We urge the Joint Select Committee to consider the importance of specialized training programs and support initiatives that enhance arts education and training across the state. Our initiative represents an effective approach for the arts and creative industries to coordinate with the education system, supporting the development of

creative skills and providing invaluable industry experience (addressing points a.viii and a.ix).

## **Section 2: Pacific Opera and Turner Theatre Collaboration**

**Introduction:** Pacific Opera, in collaboration with Turner Theatre, is pleased to present an innovative and comprehensive arts initiative designed to nurture the next generation of Australian opera singers and performers. This initiative leverages the strengths of both institutions to bridge the gap between education and professional work, creating a sustainable platform for artistic development and cultural preservation.

**The Role of Pacific Opera in Arts Education:** Pacific Opera has a significant role in arts education by providing advanced training and professional development opportunities for young opera singers. Our program is designed to complement tertiary education and address the gap between academic learning and professional practice. This collaboration fills a crucial gap in formal arts education, particularly for opera and classical music, at the secondary and tertiary levels (addressing point a.ii).

**Program Structure and Impact:** The Young Artist Program at Pacific Opera includes:

- **Vocal Coaching and Masterclasses:** Intensive sessions with leading industry professionals to hone technical skills and artistic expression.
- **Performance Opportunities:** Regular performances in concerts, recitals, and fully staged operas, providing real-world experience.
- **Career Development:** Workshops on audition techniques, stagecraft, and career management to equip young artists with the tools needed for professional success.

The program's structure is based on industry best practices and evidence-based approaches to arts education, particularly in vocal training and performance (addressing point a.iii). We measure success through specific metrics such as professional engagements, competition wins, and career progression of our participants (addressing point a.x).

**Collaboration with Educational Institutions:** Pacific Opera collaborates with tertiary institutions to identify and support talented students. These partnerships ensure a seamless transition from academic study to professional engagement, fostering a pipeline of skilled opera singers.

**The Pacific Opera Studio International Scholarship:** In memory of Taryn Fiebig, and generously funded by Loz Copley, this award provides an alumnus of Pacific Opera Studio the opportunity to receive a scholarship valued at \$50,000. This scholarship enables them to travel to the UK, engage professionally with Diva Opera UK, and perform a role with them. It also funds a study plan and professional development while in the UK and Europe,

covering flights, visas, and a small stipend for living expenses. This collaboration brings international best practices to NSW arts education (addressing point a.xii) and significantly influences students' decisions to pursue further music education (addressing point b.x).

### **Proposed Enhancements to Arts Education and Training:**

- **Increased Funding for Specialized Programs:** Additional funding would enable programs like Pacific Opera's Young Artist Program to expand and enhance their offerings, reaching more aspiring artists.
- **Integration with School Curricula:** Embedding elements of opera and classical music training within school curricula to cultivate an early interest and appreciation for the arts.
- **Support for Regional Programs:** Developing outreach initiatives to ensure that students in regional areas have access to high-quality arts education and training. These initiatives could include virtual masterclasses, touring performances, and mentorship programs to ensure an inclusive approach for regional schools across NSW (addressing point b.vi).

### **Community Engagement: a.iv, a.vi, a.viii**

**Introduction:** Engaging the community is a core component of the Pacific Opera and Turner Theatre collaboration. This engagement ensures that arts education is not only accessible but also resonates with a broad audience, fostering a culture of creativity and appreciation for the arts.

### **Community Involvement in Programs:**

- **Accessible and Inclusive Events:**
  - Ensure that events are accessible to all members of the community, including those with disabilities and those from diverse cultural backgrounds.
  - Provide free or subsidized tickets to ensure that cost is not a barrier to participation (addressing point a.viii).

### **Engagement Through Performances:**

- **Community Events:**
  - Utilize performances and workshops as venues for community events, including music concerts, theatre performances, and cultural festivals.
  - Host events that celebrate local talent and provide a platform for emerging artists (addressing points a.iv, a.viii).
- **Interactive and Educational Programs:**

- Offer interactive programs that involve the community in the creative process, such as open rehearsals, Q&A sessions with artists, and hands-on workshops.
- Develop educational programs that provide insight into the creative industries and inspire community members to pursue their own creative projects (addressing point a.vi).

**Support Needed from Government: a.iii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.vii, a.viii, a.ix, a.x**

**Introduction:** To achieve the ambitious goals of the Pacific Opera and Turner Theatre collaboration, support from the government is essential. This support will ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of these programs, benefiting students, emerging artists, and the broader community.

**Areas of Support:**

- **Funding for Specialized Programs:**
  - Provide funding to expand and enhance the Young Artist Program and other specialized training initiatives.
  - Support the development of new curriculum options and the integration of arts education within school programs (addressing points a.iii, a.v).
- **Infrastructure Development:**
  - Ensure that Turner Theatre and the new theatre hub have the necessary facilities to support rehearsals, performances, and educational activities (addressing points a.v, a.vi).
- **Support for Regional Programs:**
  - Develop initiatives to ensure that students in regional and remote areas have access to high-quality arts education and training.
  - Provide resources for virtual masterclasses, touring performances, and mentorship programs to reach regional schools across NSW (addressing points a.vii, a.viii).
- **Professional Development and Training:**
  - Support professional development programs for teachers to equip them with skills to teach music and arts using modern methods.
  - Fund workshops and training sessions for educators and students, ensuring they have access to the latest techniques and resources (addressing points a.iii, a.iv, a.vi, a.viii).
- **Entrepreneurial Skills and Industry Experience:**
  - Develop programs that provide students with opportunities to gain industry experience and develop entrepreneurial skills.
  - Support initiatives like the Short+Sweet 10-minute musicals program, which serves as a training ground for future artists (addressing points a.ix, a.x).

## Summary of Points of Relevance to the Enquiry:

- **Key Activities and Programs:** a.i, a.ii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.viii, a.ix, a.x, b.v, b.vi, b.viii
- **Innovative Education Programs:** a.i, a.ii, a.iv, a.vi, b.v, b.vi
- **Work-Integrated Learning:** a.v, a.viii
- **Cultural Preservation and Expression:** a.iv, a.vi, b.vi, b.viii
- **Community Engagement:** a.iv, a.vi, a.viii
- **Entrepreneurial Skills and Industry Experience:** a.ix, b.viii
- **Support Needed from Government:** a.iii, a.iv, a.v, a.vi, a.vii, a.viii, a.ix, a.x
- **Professional Development:** a.iii, a.iv, a.vi

**Conclusion:** Pacific Opera and Turner Theatre are committed to nurturing the next generation of opera singers and contributing to the vibrant cultural landscape of New South Wales. We urge the Joint Select Committee to consider the importance of specialized training programs and support initiatives that enhance arts education and training across the state. Our collaboration represents an effective approach for the arts and creative industries to coordinate with the education system, supporting the development of creative skills and providing invaluable industry experience (addressing points a.viii and a.ix).



## Turner Theatre Music submission

### LINKS

#### Short+Sweet 10 minute musicals first act:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwGnd1z7QPJNOFkNWxKcGN0eFk/view?usp=sharing&resourcekey=0-I3AEGuapv\\_ZN3cCZeBmJ-A](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwGnd1z7QPJNOFkNWxKcGN0eFk/view?usp=sharing&resourcekey=0-I3AEGuapv_ZN3cCZeBmJ-A)

#### Short+Sweet 10 minute musicals second act:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwGnd1z7QPJNTGxiQi1pc1FPUIU/view?usp=sharing&resourcekey=0-pJmeV\\_BN7wiecWsBcLdBXg](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwGnd1z7QPJNTGxiQi1pc1FPUIU/view?usp=sharing&resourcekey=0-pJmeV_BN7wiecWsBcLdBXg)

#### Shorter+Sweeter Touring Show:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Udc7YUVpJTmDpqcOclmJd8r3ttCZxGib/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Udc7YUVpJTmDpqcOclmJd8r3ttCZxGib/view?usp=drive_link)