

FLINDERS QUARTET INC. & COVID-19

17 March 2020

After extensive discussions with the quartet over the past two days, this document outlines our proposed plans for the next 6 months:

- Salary implications (we may get the “Boosting Cashflow for Employers” credit)
- Postponement/cancellation of activity and possible continuation of rehearsals
- Grant implications and relevant obligations to funding already received
- Fundraising

Salary implications and continuation of employment with COVID-19

- If all members are healthy and in agreement, rehearsals may continue within safe guidelines.
- Using the funding we have now for 2020 activity to keep paying salaries may mean more workload in 2021 to make up promised activity (when postponed projects/programs are finally undertaken).
- Members of FQ will continue to be paid as long as finances permit. At an appropriate time, the organisation may look at ways of remaining solvent until the crisis is over.
- FQ may be eligible for the ATO’s “Boosting Cashflow for Employers” measure, which would provide a credit to the value of 50% of PAYG withheld on the BAS for the three quarters.

Postponement/cancellation of activity (up to Sept 2020)

Return to Sender

- Canberra has been cancelled and that period of “extra” employment (paid at a casual rate) won’t go ahead.
- Dandenong and Romsey performances in early May will be cancelled.
- FQ will look for an opportunity to present Return to Sender at a later date; possibilities include the 2021 Canberra Festival or Melbourne festival. Funds raised for the 2020 development and performance will be reallocated to that time.
- Potential opportunity to use a new initiative (Melbourne Digital Concert Hall) to facilitate a digital premiere of Return to Sender. In which case, money set aside for the development of Return to Sender would be used in 2020.

Program 2 (May/June 2020)

- This period will likely be compromised; current thoughts are to use MRC cancellation of that period as a trigger point for cancellation of other planned concerts.
- Woodend Winter Arts Festival has cancelled
- Loss of ticket revenue

JNQP

- Live activity will be rescheduled as much as possible to the end of the year and early 2021, and online activity to go ahead as planned
- Members can continue remote/online mentoring and be paid out of regular salary (rather than as extra casual work).

July Program 3 development and regional concerts

- This period is to be reassessed mid-April

Composer Development Program (August)

- Rehearsals, workshops, recording and performance could go ahead using video conferencing and live streaming, with no public attendance at workshops or concerts (if safe for members of FQ to be in a venue together, along with any required tech support personnel)
- If Program 2 / June activity cancelled, there may be a possibility to incorporate the Cheetham "Bungaree" development and premier digital performance into this period

Monash Residency (August)

- Monash will determine if and when this is cancelled. Work was extra to the salary agreement, so minimal impact on budget
- Doyle concert / Ella recording may be rescheduled

Other activity

- Zoe's research trip to AMC (Sydney) for Sutherland project to be postponed
- 2021 photoshoot pencilled for June 18, to be rescheduled to late July/early August if June activity cancelled

Grants

- Conversations with funding bodies to be initiated about implications of activity cancellation/postponement, extension of funding periods/acquittals

Fundraising

- Messaging: acknowledgment of challenges presented to the arts and our organisation with COVID-19 and how we're adapting