

FLINDERS QUARTET INC. PROGRAMMING REPORT

6 April 2020

2020 PROGRAMMING: COVID-19 REVISIONS

PLANNED ACTIVITY TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO 0.31FTE SALARY

The salary of FQ members encompasses up to 160 calls of work. In recognition of the amount of preparation work needed individually, FQ endeavours to keep the call count to 155 calls (allowing 5 calls annually for individual preparation).

Since borders have been closed and for the safety of the members of the quartet and their families, the members of the quartet have decided not to rehearse together in the same room until at least the end of June, and while NSW social distancing rules continue.

The quartet is investigating options of rehearsing digitally by layering recordings, as documented by an American Quartet that has been rehearsing 50%-75% remotely for a few years. This activity and its results will be proposed to Monash University for presentation as part of their online learning initiative #AloneTogether, and will also form the basis of a funding application to Australia Council (as part of their new Resilience grants).

Our 6 regional mentee ensembles as part of the JNQP program have decided not to rehearse together in the same room until at least the end of April, so FQ members will be delivering group zoom sessions and individual online lessons on their individual parts. (Ironically, this will greatly enhance the public performance and if it is proven as successful as we anticipate, we have decided to include it in future years as a part of our activity.) The quartet will also conduct zoom meetings with the members of the JNQP ensembles together to ensure connectivity within the groups.

FQ members will upload individual videos of their parts to aid rehearsal. (This may also be something that we adopt to keep in future as a valuable resource)

Dependent on the state of the health crisis, FQ will aim to rehearse and perform via live stream Return to Sender. This will be made available free to the public with a donation portal. This project will be attributed to FQ call count in their 0.31FTE salary, not as an extra project, thus relieving the budget. The timing of this will depend on our ability to rehearse and we envisage that not being before mid-July. Preparation for this can be done remotely.

There is the possibility of conducting some development on Deborah's commission with the zoom platform and we will look into that further. This was originally scheduled for 21-22 May and may still go ahead on the original dates via zoom. Sections of this work can also be recorded on the zoom or BandLab platforms for online posting. There is the potential of premiering this piece with an online performance once we are able. This work is also potentially to be included in an online Monash lecture.

If the health crisis persists, the same could be possible with the Ella Macens commission.

The August Composer Development Program will go ahead as much as possible remotely, dependent on the health crisis.

Should the August FQ residency at Monash University proceed, that will be attributed to the FQ call count, not as an additional activity, thus relieving the budget.

Proposed Deborah Cheetham and Ella Macens ABC recordings will be most likely rescheduled as directed by the ABC.

We are currently preparing an application to Australia Council for an adaptation grant in their new Resilience funding stream. This will enable us to allocate time to researching and developing new methods of rehearsing which could be beneficial to FQ post Covid-19.

ONLINE MESSAGING

There is a lot of activity online currently and the risk is that we have little effect by streaming every day. People are also experiencing online fatigue.

We have decided to:

- continue our regular posts and updates
- a package of entertainment once a week: Friday with Flinders has delivered 2 videos so far via social media and email. Friday with Flinders comprises a video of a past performance with a short video introduction from Zoe.
- Because regular emailing may annoy some people, we have invited our database to opt into a special email each week that will deliver this package. That ensures we don't get lost in the social media noise by the people who care about us most. This special list is something we may continue after the crisis. Dependent on demand, the weekly emails/postings will be reduced in frequency once the crisis has passed. There is now a link on our front page to sign up to Friday with Flinders. There are currently 180 emails subscribed to the Friday with Flinders list.
- The quartet will post informal short videos and pictures during the week in addition to the weekly Friday with Flinders segment
- One or two members of the quartet will write contributions for Julian about a day in the life of a musician and what it means for us to have an audience to craft an article about the value of arts in society.