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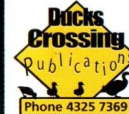
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COVID-19 claims the life of the great John Prine

One of our most prolific song writers has passed away on April 7, as a result of complications from the Covid-19 virus which emanated out of China some months ago.

The Tennessean News called John Price the Mark Twain of modern songwriting.

Not only was John Prine's songwriting prolific, it was mocking of life and always perceptive.

His songs were often delivered as deep and vivid stories through observations on life.

John Prine died on Tuesday in Nashville and his death was confirmed by his publicist, on behalf of his family.

Prine was born on October 10, 1946.

His parents were from Paradise, Kentucky, a place that later reflected in the song Paradise, a reflective story on the destructive results of coal mining on a small country town.

And daddy won't you take me back to Muhlenberg County

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by Greg McGrath, Australian Bluegrass.com and Ian Courtney, Celebrity Access
Down by the Green River where Paradise lay

Well, I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking

Mister Peabody's coal train has hauled it away

Ian Courtney from Celebrity Access added: John Prine, the doyen of American roots and country folk music, who was widely considered to be one of the most influential songwriters of his generation, died at Vanderbilt University Medical Centre in Nashville, Tennessee at the age of 73.

His family told the New York Times that the cause of death was complications from COVID-19.

Prine was hospitalised on March 26 after testing positive with coronavirus symptoms after returning home from a European tour and was placed in intensive care for 13 days as his situation became more serious.

His wife, Fiona Whelen Prine, was also diagnosed with COVID-19, but successfully recovered.

Prine was raised in Maywood,

Ill., a blue collar suburb of Chicago, as part of a musical family, and started playing guitar at 14 before attending Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music.

After a stint in the U.S. Army, he returned to Chicago, where he began performing at open mic nights at music venues such as the Fifth Peg, where film critic, Roger Ebert, provided his first review.

The strength of Prine's performances made him a central figure in Chicago's folk revival, alongside figures including Steve Goodman and Tom Dundee, and he went on to release his debut album in 1971 on Atlantic, after being signed by recording industry legend, Jerry Wexler.

In 1981, Prine launched his own label, Oh Boy Records, a fan-supported endeavour that served as a refutation of the recording industry that Prine felt served the interests of the labels rather than recording artists.

The label would go on to serve as a platform for artists such as Lorrie Morgan, Roy Acuff, Bill Anderson, Merle Haggard, Janis Ian, and Kris Kristofferson.

He was inducted into the Songwriters' Hall of Fame in 2019 and was the first singer/songwriter to read and perform at the Library of Congress.

Prine was named winner of the PEN/Song Lyrics Award in 2016 and was lauded by Bob Dylan, who in a 2008 interview, stated that Prine was one of his favourite songwriters.



John Prine 1946 – 2020

most recently to Fiona Whelen Prine, who also served as his manager.

John Prine

The Illinois-born artist was scheduled to embark on his first Australian tour since 1993 in April, however the trip was called off in February "following the advice of his doctors regarding an existing hip injury".

As well as headline shows around the country, he was also set to perform at the now-cancelled 2020 Bluesfest event.

Prine has been described as the "songwriter's songwriter", with everyone from Bruce Springsteen, John Denver and Johnny Cash to Norah Jones, Ben Harper and Bette Midler recording from his extensive back catalogue or performing alongside him.

Closer to home, Prine has been a huge influence on the likes of Vance Joy and Marlon Williams, with Vance Joy saying that "John Prine finds the beauty

"A true national treasure and a songwriter for the ages.

"We send our love and prayers to his family", Springsteen concluded.

Bonnie Raitt said: "Words can't even come close.

"I'm crushed by the loss of my dear friend, John.

"My heart and love go out to Fiona and all the family.

"For all of us whose hearts are breaking, we will keep singing his songs and holding him near." – Bonnie Raitt

Maggie Rogers said: "I'll never forget hearing 'Angel from Montgomery' for the first time when I was 13.

"I've never fallen in love faster.

"This man's work has changed my life, has changed my art, has been there for me on and off stage and brought me so much comfort and warmth.

"Absolutely heartbroken this morning, thinking about his family and the giant community of musicians in mourning this

songs will live on." – Sheryl Crow

"John Prine is as good as it gets, an honour to be alive during his time making work." – Jack Antonoff

"I have enjoyed John's music for many years.

"He was a truly gifted man and he will be missed.

"My prayers go out to his family." – Charley Pride

"All of The Oak Ridge Boys are saddened by the loss of John Prine.

"The man was a genius songwriter!

"I have been listening to his music and praying for him since he got sick, and to be honest, I didn't really know John personally but my heart is heavy nonetheless." – Joe Bonsall / Oak Ridge Boys

"Nashville has lost another legendary artist.

"John Prine will always be remembered for his great music.

"I will always remember John's wonderful smile and

how nice and caring he was.

"Sending lots of love to his family." – Crystal Gayle

"With a heavy heart, but deep love and gratitude for his gift he gave us all- Goodbye, John Prine." – Stephen Colbert

"So sad to see another great music legend leave us.

"My family sends prayers to John Prine's family." – Lee Greenwood

"So sorry to hear about the passing of John Prine.

Singer, performer and songwriter extraordinaire.

"Rest in Peace, sir, you will be remembered and missed." – Charlie Daniels

"I was so sorry to hear of John Prine's passing.

"He certainly will be missed in our community.

"John was a brilliant singer-songwriter that could always make you feel like you were right there in the place he was singing about.

"In an industry of big bands, John didn't need that.

"He was the band!

"John and his guitar could entertain thousands at a time, a rare quality in any generation.

"John, Rest in Peace!

"We know what an indelible mark you made on the music we all love." – Ricky Skaggs

"John Prine was a master poet.

"He was a hand-skilled carpenter of songs.

"We've lost yet another great American treasure. Rest easy, John." – John Anderson

"It was 1973 in Chicago, during a taping of Soundstage, that my favourite songwriter, Kris Kristofferson, introduced me to his favourite songwriter, John Prine.

"He very soon, later that

night in fact, became one of my favourite songwriters too, as John, Kris and I sat in the floor of Kris' room at The Palmer House and traded songs until daylight.

"I think Stevie Goodman was there too.

"John was a true craftsman and a humble, wonderful man.

"Rest in Peace, 'Johnny.'" – Larry Gatlin

"John Prine was a giant when it came to songwriters.

"He never wasted a word in his songs, and he kept the music simple and accessible to us all.

"If Hank Williams, Bobby Dylan and Johnny Cash morphed into one being, it was John Prine. RIP." – Billy Dean

"John Prine was a national treasure.

"I used to go hear him play at the Bluebird Cafe back in the day.

"What an amazing songwriter and storyteller he was.

"Honestly, John was a genuine and affable guy with such a humble nature.

"If you met him it really wasn't surprising that he had such a well of stories inside of him.

"So deeply talented and a true musical pioneer.

"This is yet another heart wrenching loss for our music community.

"Restless Heart sends our condolences and prayers of peace to his beloved wife and family, friends and fans as the entire world mourns this loss." – Dave Innis, Restless Heart

"God bless John Prine.

"We have lost another true legend and national treasure. RIP." – Sammy Kershaw

"Last night, yet again, we lost another music legend.

"John Prine has passed.

"One of the greatest songwriters ever.

"His work, songs like 'Paradise,' 'Sam Stone,' 'Please Don't Bury Me,' and so many others will remain a part of American music folklore, never to be forgotten.

"I only met him once, in Sun Valley, Idaho, and he was very kind to me.

"May God be with his family and loved ones. Godspeed, John Prine." – Collin Raye

"John Prine's passing leaves a huge void in the songwriting department of our business.

"He truly was one of the kindest and most talented people that ever put pen to paper.

"My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and fans at this difficult time when another one of our great musical talents has gone silent.

"He will be deeply missed." – T.G. Sheppard

"Like all good literature, art and music, he's leaving us with a lot to think about and he had the kindness to serve it up with humour and irony, the very essence of kindness.

"There's no end to our gratitude for John Prine. It hurts." – Pam Tillis

"John Prine was a genius.

"He wrote some of the most poignant songs ever.

"'Paradise' was one of the first songs I ever learned to play on the guitar.

"We will miss you old friend and your magical craft." – Darryl Worley

"John was a sweet genius who always had time for conversation with me and as a songwriter, he was untouchable." – T. Graham Brown

"John Prine was a treasure! "He inspired every singer/songwriter who has ever lived.

"He has survived several health challenges and I was praying that he would survive this.

"There was only one John Prine.

"Everyone looked up to him and he will be missed by not only Nashville, but around the world. We love you, John." – Deborah Allen

"I first met John Prine in the 70's, backstage at the Grand Ole Opry.

"He was perhaps one of the nicest guys I've ever had the honour to meet.

"No star attitude whatsoever, he was just an average guy who loved words, and he became one of the greatest wordsmiths of our time.

"His lyrics are pure poetry.

"He never worried about making his songs commercial.

"He wrote from the heart and the gut.

"Ironically, I was in the studio last month and recorded one of his songs that I've loved for years called "Blue Umbrella".

"John would say in three minutes what an author would say in 256 pages. What a talent!" – Tim Atwood

"John Prine was one of the most beloved and well-versed songwriters in the business, and his passing is a huge loss to songwriters and fans alike.

"The mark he made on the americana/folk/country music industry was remarkable – one that no one else could ever dream of accomplishing.

"His songwriting will be deeply missed, but even more than that, is his infectious smile and sweet spirit.

"My thoughts and prayers go out to all of John's family and friends, as well as all the fans he has made over the years.

"There will truly never be another John Prine." – Paige King Johnson

"Prior to starting CelebrityAccess, 22 years ago, I was a concert promoter for 25 years.

"One of my great joys was promoting John Prine.

"We got to know each other fairly well over the years and he was always the consummate gentleman and incredible performer.

"I was lucky enough to

experience his great sense of wit, humour, and joy for life.

"He will be greatly missed. My love goes out to his wife and family." – Marc Gentilella, President CelebrityAccess

"Roger Ebert left a movie because the popcorn was too salty, walked into a Chicago bar for a cold beer and found himself listening to a mailman singing songs.

"He was so struck he wrote this review that launched John Prine's career." – John Anderson

Roger Ebert introduces that moment: "Through no wisdom of

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my own but out of sheer blind luck, I walked into the Fifth Peg, a folk club on West Armitage, one night in 1970, and heard a mailman from Westchester singing.

This was John Prine. He sang his own songs.

That night I heard "Sam Stone," one of the great songs of the century, and "Angel from Montgomery", and others.

I wasn't the music critic for the Chicago Sun-Times, but I went to the office and wrote an article, and that, as fate decreed, was the first review Prine ever received.

From the Chicago Sun-Times, Friday, Oct. 9, 1970:

SINGING MAILMAN WHO DELIVERS A POWERFUL MESSAGE IN A FEW WORDS

by Roger Ebert

While "digesting Reader's Digest" in a dirty book

store, John Prine tells us in one of his songs, a patriotic citizen came across one of those little American flag decals.

He stuck it on his windshield and liked it so much that he added flags from the gas station, the bank and the supermarket, until one day he blindly drove off the road and killed himself.

St. Peter broke the news: "Your flag decal won't get you into heaven anymore, It's already overcrowded from your dirty little war."

Lyrics like this are earning John Prine one of the hottest underground reputations in Chicago these days.

He's only been performing professionally since July, he sings at the out-of-the-way Fifth Peg, 858 W. Armitage, and country-folk singers aren't exactly putting rock out of business, but Prine is good.

He appears on stage with such modesty he almost seems

to be backing into the spotlight.

He sings rather quietly, and his guitar work is good, but he doesn't show off.

He starts slow.

But after a song or two, even the drunks in the room begin to listen to his lyrics, and then he has you.

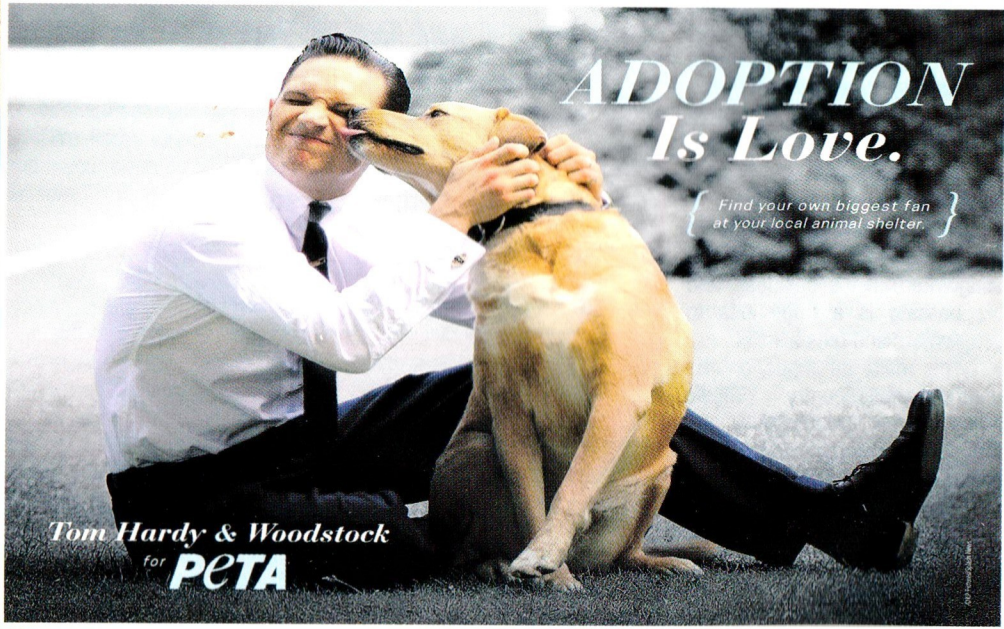
He does a song called "The Great Society Conflict Veteran's Blues," for example, that says more about the last 20 years in America than any dozen adolescent acid-rock peace dirges.

It's about a guy named Sam Stone who fought in Korea and got some shrapnel in his knee.

But the morphine eased the pain, and Sam Stone came home "with a Purple Heart and a monkey on his back".

That's Sam Stone's story, but the tragedy doesn't end there.

In the chorus, Prine reverses the point of view with an image of stunning power.



Major promoters doubt we'll see overseas acts back in 2020

by Neil Griffiths Courtesy: The Music

Some of Australia's biggest music promoters have weighed in on discussion that fans shouldn't expect international acts to tour the country until 2021 at the earliest due to the impact of the COVID pandemic.

Following comments made by Mushroom Group Chairman, Michael Gudinski, who told the Herald Sun that he predicts mass gathering restrictions won't be lifted "before late February, March or even April", fellow industry legend, Michael Chugg, has echoed that belief.

"We definitely won't see any international acts here until next year.

"It'll probably be a year, at least," Chugg tells The Music.

"Personally, I can't see any borders being opened here for at least a year to any countries.

"My prediction is by the end of the year, New Zealand and Australia will be open to New Zealanders and Australians.

"Why would you let people in when they've still got the problem?"

A number of international tours have been rescheduled for late 2020, and Splendour In The Grass, is currently slated to go ahead in October with big names like The Strokes and Tyler, The Creator announced on the bill.

Though he thinks there may be a chance public gathering restrictions will be loosened by October, Chugg is not confident

that will include an opening of Australian borders.

"We might see Australian bands touring, we might see a few festivals coming back over the summer using all-Australian line-ups, but I definitely can't see any international acts getting in here within a year."

Chugg, like all promoters in the country, remains hopeful that the global pandemic will end sooner rather than later, as even he has Elton John scheduled to return to New Zealand in January after being forced to cancel some shows on his recent tour of the country and Australia.

"We've got tours still slated.

"We've all got international acts still coming and hopefully they're all gonna come, but you've got to be real about it. We're all hopeful," he says.

"They could open the borders in October, but how many international acts are going to want to come and do two weeks in quarantine?"

Fellow local industry heavyweights, TEG CEO Geoff Jones, and Good Things festival promoter, Chris O'Brien, as well as Shadow Minister for the Arts, Tony Burke, have also spoken to The Music on April 16 about the chances of Australian audiences being visited by international artists.

Jones told The Music: "It is too early to predict when various restrictions on gatherings will be lifted, and restrictions

on international travel and quarantine measures may be among the last to be removed.

"We are focusing hard on continuing to support Australian acts as we believe there will be pent up demand from fans wanting to get out and see great shows and support local acts.

"When they will be allowed to, remains anyone's guess for now.

"What we do know is that this will ultimately pass and we will all want to see great live entertainment again when it does.

"At this stage, it is looking likely that international tours to Australia won't be resuming until 2021," O'Brien added.

"There is certainly no definitive end date to this pandemic globally, which makes it incredibly difficult to plan into the future.

"In regards to Good Things Festival, it is going ahead as planned, but if the situation changes, as we suspect it might, then we have plans in action for it."

Meanwhile Minister Burke stated: "This is a reminder that the health advice is likely to lead to restrictions for a long time.

"This underlines why it is so essential for the Government to provide a rescue package for the arts and entertainment sector.

"It was the first industry to be shut down and will be one of the last to emerge from this crisis."

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you can also listen for the following week on finemusicFM.com
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Attention Radio Presenters

Trad&Now is the longest running and only national magazine that regularly includes folk, blues, roots, bluegrass and world music radio broadcast information to enable audiences to locate the music and live programs that they want to hear anywhere in Australia.

It has done this in the past in a comprehensive National Club, Dance and Radio Network Directory at the back of the magazine.

However, we are now looking to expand the Directory and to make it a bespoke radio directory to include a great deal more information about each program and to ensure that the information is kept up to date by having it checked regularly by the contributing radio presenters.

By doing this, it is expected that more people will become aware of what radio programs are available and become a regular listener, thus improving this important but loose network around Australia.

If you are a radio presenter and would like your additional information included in the new expanded radio directory, please complete the form on page 22-23 or on our website at www.duckscrossing.org/tan/Trad_directory.pdf and return it to us, ideally by email to info@tradandnow.com or to the address on page 3, and we will include the information in the next available edition.

Entries in the expanded directory are completely free but we require someone from each program listed to be a subscriber to the magazine to ensure that the information is kept up to date.

The entry will remain in the directory for as long as the subscription remains current and a subscription still only costs \$55 for 11 editions.

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Vale - Kenny Rogers

Photo: SKH Music



Kenny Rogers has passed away, aged 81.

The news was announced in a statement from the much loved US artist's family on March 20, sharing that he had passed "away peacefully at home from natural causes under the care of hospice and surrounded by his family".

"His songs have endeared music lovers and touched the lives of millions around the world."

Rogers hit mainstream success with his track Lucille in 1977, and was best known for his hit song The Gambler.

In 1983, Rogers collaborated

with Dolly Parton for the Bee Gee's penned track, Islands In The Stream, which went on to become a #1 hit around the world, including Australia.

Rogers also collaborated on hits Don't Fall In Love With A Dreamer with Kim Carnes and We've Got Tonight with Sheena Easton.

Prior to his solo career, Rogers found success with his band The First Edition, known for songs like Just Dropped In (To See What Condition My Condition Was In), Ruby, Don't Take Your Love To Town, Reuben James and Something's Burning.

Rogers, with twenty-four number-one hits, was a Country

Music Hall of Fame member, six-time CMA Awards winner, three-time GRAMMY® Award winner, recipient of the CMA Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013, CMT Artist of a Lifetime Award honoree in 2015 and has been voted the "Favourite Singer of All Time" in a joint poll by readers of both USA Today and People.

The family had a small private service at this time out of concern for the national COVID-19 emergency.

They look forward to celebrating Kenny's life publicly with his friends and fans at a later date.

Autumn, 2020 - Message from the bunker

by Mona Finley

We are living in "interesting times," to borrow a phrase from the well-known Chinese curse.

Those of us of a certain age may be recalling the tales that parents or grandparents used to roll out: 'You don't know what it was like back in the Depression; you've had everything handed to you on a plate.....' etc.

And the next verse would be about wartime rationing, or something like that.

Now, memories are being laid down for a new generation who will one day be able to drone on about the Time of the Virus (or whatever name history will give this era).

This year, some of us may have found ourselves observing Lent, even if inadvertently, rather more strictly than in the past too, with restrained meals that some may consider appropriate to the season.

A certain amount of scrabbling through the freezer may have taken place, while hoping to avoid a trip to the

shops just a little longer.

Times of stress and deprivation seem to give rise to new songs, and parodies of old ones, relating to current events.

These have a limited life expectancy, most being so topical that in a short time they will seem irrelevant, not nearly so witty or 'spot-on'.

The recent phenomenon of panic buying of loo paper has inspired 'Crackpot Jackpot' by Pete Denahy, and Daniel Kelly has brought forth 'The Ballad of Ned Smelly,' concerning the heist of a load of that same commodity ('White gold, white gold.....').

Grant Luhrs presents a Saturday morning program on ABC Riverina, a program that is to be commended for regularly giving air-time to local artists.

Recently, he featured a line-up of recent parodies, including the one based on the well-known Kenny Rogers song --- 'Ru-u-uby, don't take yer bug to town'.

Some lyrics just seem to be asking to be parodied, when the

right moment comes.

My attention was drawn to a newly worded rendition of the Irish traditional tune, 'Lannigan's Ball', named in this instance, 'COVID -19 at Lannigan's Ball'.

Regrettably, I have not yet been able to find the identity of the performer, but he delivers the up-tempo, witty, sometimes ribald, lyrics with a straight face and word perfectly.

On the theme of self-isolation, Piers Crawley makes the point emphatically with 'Stay at Home'.

One comment on Youtube declared this 'an anthem for the times'.

By the way, good old Youtube.

It was not so many years back that songs like these, satire or commentary on current events, would be unlikely to ever see the light of day unless they happened to be worked into a satirical revue playing at the time.

The journalist and television presenter, Julia Baird, wrote recently that '.....daftness, kindness, irrepressible creative energy, laughter and joy.....' is what enables us to survive.

In the hiatus created by the cancellation of festivals and live concerts, I have observed, by way of the internet, how creative energy is manifesting itself in delightful ways.

A proverbial silver lining is being sought and found by some, and pointed out to others.

Examples such as the greatly improved atmosphere due to decreased motor traffic and air traffic, and cleaner water in the canals of Venice.

On a more individual basis, poet and children's author, Caroline Tuohy, a fellow resident of the Murrumbidgee region, occasionally posts about the small pleasures of life - roses from the garden, new lambs, toasted choc-chip buns, hearing her daughter compose a piece for flute,.....

Among those who have been entertaining me has been Warren Fahey, with traditional bush songs, like 'The Broken down Squatter,' 'A Sailor's Life,' and 'Two Black Crows,' which he performs against a background of a delightful lush garden view.

Jason and Chloe Roweth have put together a series of sixteen Isolation Tapes (I think? Not yet certain of the number when completed), among

them being 'Darwin String Band Tunes,' 'Grandpa was a Carpenter,' and the country flavoured 'Thoughts of Home'.

Their well-filled bookcases are the setting chosen by this talented couple, as background to their home performances.

Having heard a discussion on radio about the One World; Together at Home concert, I know I am not the only one to be intrigued by the backgrounds, the domestic settings where various artists choose to be shown.

Song writer, Bruce Watson, appears in the setting of an actual music room (Oh, how I wish!).

Bruce had set himself quite a challenge, to write thirty songs in thirty days.

Each day I eagerly check, and find that he continues to meet his target without fail.

At the time of writing, he is still only part-way toward his

goal.

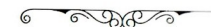
Impossible to pick a favourite, but one I have returned to, and heard a couple of more times, is called 'My Charango' - the charango being the Andean instrument with which Bruce accompanies himself.

The tune and its tempo take me back to strolling around Sydney's Circular Quay and hearing Bolivian buskers there.

The German Cultural Minister, Monika Grütters, recently made the statement: 'Artists are not only indispensable, but also vital, especially now'.

You couldn't put it better than that.

Now, back to scrabbling in the freezer: Fish fillets (only one piece remaining), breadcrumbs (why so many bread-crumbs?), home-made pasta sauce dated January, 2016. Hmmmm.....



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Assistance Dogs Australia
PO Box 503, Surry Hills,
NSW 2010
www.assistedogs.org.au

The Songwriting Society of Australia

The Songwriting Society of Australia was incorporated in 1989 to be a voluntary, independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to helping songwriters in all genres of music and all levels of songwriting. It provides a support network for members with functions like Monthly Concerts, Darling Harbour Showcases, Newsletters, Workshops, Song Competitions, etc. Membership costs \$45 per year.

Email: songsoc@ozemail.com.au for information/applications

Venues Directory

NSW - Bush Music Club Inc

Founded 1954 to promote Australian folk tradition through collecting and popularising songs, dances, music and folklore.

Contemporary compositions encouraged. Beecroft Bush Dance - 1st Saturday each. Pennant Hills Dance Workshop - each Monday night.

Concert party & music workshop - Monday night (Marrickville NSW)

www.bushmusic.org.au
bmcmail1954@gmail.com

NSW - Newport Fiddle + Folk Club

Locally based club which has numerous ongoing musical groups and runs a range of monthly and annual events - with a focus on participation. We are a membership based organisation with an elected committee.

Various sessions most Friday nights, plus annual bush dance / 3 day festival and xmas carols show

www.nffc.org.au
infor@nffc.org.au

NSW - Toongabbie Music Club

Welcomes all from beginners to professionals. Musicians, Singers, Poets and yarn spinners. Since 1983 performed at festivals, charities, etc.

Meet 2nd & 4th Friday (except Jan) at Scout's Hall Northmead NSW,

7:30pm - 11:30pm. Cost \$7

allendavis@iprimus.com.au

NSW - Wagga Acoustic Session

Last Sunday each month, Commercial club, Gurwood St. Wagga Wagga NSW. 2:30pm - 5pm

0431 246 023

Hootwhistle@gmail.com

NSW - Wise folk

Keeping folk music alive and well in the western suburbs of Sydney. Musicians, poets, singers and audience all welcome. Meet last Wednesday of the month (except Dec) at Toongabbie bowling club. Station Rd Toongabbie NSW, Free

Sonia 0423 162 205

SA - Pirie Folk Club

New members always

welcome, practices on second and fourth Thursdays of month at Anglican Church, Port Pirie SA 5540. We play acoustically, mostly Celtic music, for fun, and to perform at community events as a club, not a band.

0434085269

owen_d_lewis@hotmail.com

TAS - Kunanyi Folk Club

Monthly folk club event with featured act and floorspots, Normally 1st Saturday of each month. 7.30pm Fern Tree Tavern, 680 Ituon Rd, Ferntree TAS

Facebook@kunanyifolkclub

kfc@tasfolk.org

WA - Jackadder's Music Club

The West Australian Folk Federation presents entertainment for the whole family at the Community of Christ, Cnr Lombardy St and Elmwood Ave, Woodlands. Features a special guest artist plus quality support acts. Meet's on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 2.30pm - 5.00pm

0412777061

carmel@carmelcharlton.com

Attention all Music Venues and Folk Clubs

Trad&Now is the longest running and only national magazine that regularly includes folk, blues, roots, bluegrass and world music and festival contact information to enable audiences to locate the live music events that they may want to attend anywhere in Australia.

It has done this in the past in its news and festival pages, in the Gig Guide, and in the National Club, Dance and Radio Network Directory at the back of the magazine.

However, we are now looking to expand the Directory to make it a bespoke Venues directory and to include a great deal more information about each venue, and to ensure that the information is kept up to date by having it checked regularly by the contributing venues.

By doing this, it is expected that more people will become aware

of what live music is available and when, thus helping to save live music around Australia by helping to make venues and clubs more profitable.

If you run a live music venue or are a folk club organiser and would like your additional information included in the new expanded directory, please complete the form on page 22-23 or on our website at www.ducksrossing.org/tan/Trad_directory.pdf and return it to us, ideally by email to info@tradandnow.com or to the address on page 3, and we will include the information in the next available edition.

Entries in the new expanded directory are completely free but we require someone from each venue or club listed to be a subscriber to the magazine to ensure that the information is kept up to date. The entry will remain in the directory for as long as the subscription remains current and a subscription still only costs \$55 for 11 editions.

Folk club has many innovations to suit a COVID-19 world

The NSW Central Coast based Troubadour Folk Club has issued the first of a series of newsletters to help members and friends stay in touch.

Club President, Michael Fine, said: "The world is filled with hope and fear in almost equal measure.

"The strategy to get us through this global virus threat is called social isolation, but it is definitely NOT a withdrawal from social connection.

"It is an act of collective responsibility.

"Doing our social duty, sitting on the couch in front of the TV for weeks and months on end, we are isolated - together with everyone else.

"It is an experience we share with our neighbours, family, friends and with people across the world.

"Our concern for own health and survival in the time of COVID19 is also our way of showing concern for others, of finding a lasting solution to the threat that uncontrolled infection brings to all.

"While we all live for the moment in something like a scary rehearsal for the future, taking up the challenge at home to learn how to login and to use Zoom and other science fiction solutions to keep in touch with family members and loved ones, the MUSIC goes on, especially at the Troubadour.

"We hope that you are using the opportunity to practice



playing your instrument, learn a new one, improve your singing, master some of the old classic folk songs or write new ones.

"At the Troubadour, we're busy finding new ways to keep making music, and to make sure you are part of it at home or wherever else you are.

"This newsletter tells you about some of the things we're up to, online concerts, weekly sessions, virtual floor spots and planning for the future", Michael said.

The first is the introduction of live on-line concerts and the first of those will be with Chloe and Jason Roweth on Saturday, May 2nd.

Chloë & Jason Roweth are not just amazingly popular whenever they've played at the Troubadour, they are true national treasures, the most well recognised and highly awarded performers of Australian traditional and folk music.

In this Troubadour premier

online concert, they will be performing live, with stories and poetry, as well as presenting a selection of the songs from their upcoming CD 'Phonograph Jack', as well as a few of their other favourites.

Tickets are: Free (for those who can't or don't wish to pay); \$5 'reserved seats' for individual viewers; \$10 'luxury seats' for households; and, \$15 'sponsorship tickets', with all money collected going to the performers.

If enough people book and the performance is successful, we will extend the season of online performances.

Negotiations have already commenced for online concerts from other amazing performers.

The club is also introducing Troubadour's Virtual Floor Spots.

Club members are invited to do a Troubadour Floor Spot on the Troubadour Facebook page.

"We've already got a number of really interesting performances on there already," Mike said.

"We want to see you too!

"We're not looking for pre-recorded and edited videos, or videos done for promotional purposes, just use your phone, video camera or laptop.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for people to participate and we're looking for genuine performances with no backing tracks, unless you play it yourself.

The club is also offering an invitation to Troubadour Sessions every Sunday afternoon.



Chloë & Jason Roweth

"Troubadour Sessions are now weekly and online, and while we can't play together like we usually do, and the sound isn't hi-fi, it's still nice to see people and play songs for each other for an hour or two," Troubadour session organiser, Hugh Worrall, said.

People can use their computers or their telephones to participate.

Another club innovation is to encourage members to Sing A Long at Home.

Some of the best singers and choir directors in the Australian folk scene have started regular online singing sessions.

"Why not join them? We all

know that singing is good for you and it's great fun," club President, Michael Fine said.

"Learn new songs or just sing the ones you know.

"All the best songs have great choruses, and sound better with harmony.

Here are a few good links to follow from your tablet or computer.

Massive Singlets run by Stephen Taberner

The brilliant musician and all round fun guy behind the Spooky Mens' Chorale.

In a Massive Singlet, you'll join participants worldwide in warmups, the learning and singing of a song (or two), a little drink break, and then a

bit of sharing: thoughts, knitted things, flags, or snippets of music from you, possibly finishing with a dance track.

www.massivesinglet.com/

Linda Marr has been making videos for her choirs to keep enjoying singing at home.

Here is a link which will teach you how to sing a beautiful Maori lullaby in four part harmony.

Look for Linda Marr's Youtube channel.

Choir on Wire Run by Christine Mimmocchi, this choir meets every Monday night for the next 9 weeks to sing Leonard Cohen songs.

<https://www.northsydneycentre.com.au/courses/24/CLS109584/music-dance/choir-on-a-wire-leonard-cohen-online>

Pub Choir - Couch Choir Hugely popular from Brisbane, Couch Choir is their Pub Choir adapted for online.

They are doing amazing community singing videos: <https://www.pubchoir.com.au/>



Shadow Minister calls for NSW stimulus package to include impacted festivals and venues

On March 16, John Graham, NSW Shadow Minister for Music & the Night Time Economy announced that new figures underline why music festivals and venues must get stimulus.

NSW Labor called for any State Government stimulus package to include impacted festivals and venues.

This follows news from the "I lost my gig" website which is tracking the impact of new restrictions on public gatherings of over 500 people.

The tally on March 15 had the reported lost income from cancelled events at \$25M.

As at 10am on April 7, this rose to over \$330M.

The organisers said that 'the cancellation of over 10,000 events has impacted the livelihoods of 84,318 Australians, and the figures are climbing by the minute.'

John Graham said: "These figures confirm what we knew, that the \$2.5B live performance industry will be one of the key industries affected by this pandemic.

"In NSW, festivals and venues had already survived a government war on music and a brutal bushfire season.

"These are important public health measures designed to slow the spread of COVID 19, but there is no hiding that they will be a significant hit on the music

scene.

"When the NSW Government drafts a COVID-19 financial assistance package, affected music venues and festivals must be eligible.

"The Government should immediately convene the NSW Music Festival roundtable in order to discuss implementation of these health measures, and assistance for affected businesses," Graham said.

The NSW Music Festival roundtable has met once last year and is due to next meet on March 27.

The roundtable was a legislated requirement insisted upon by the Parliament to ensure that there was improved consultation with the music industry.

Last Monday, March 9, the senior public servant responsible for the festival consultation was questioned at budget estimates.

Rose Webb, Deputy Secretary of the Better Regulation Division, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, agreed that the legislated music festival roundtable would be a good forum to consult with industry leaders if government measures are to be considered.

Graham said: "Yes, but I am asking about the festival roundtable.

"Would you use that forum to consult with industry if government measures are considered?"

Webb said: "Yes, that would be a good forum."

I Lost My Gig Australia (ILMG) is an initiative of the Australian Festivals Association (AFA) and the Australian Music Industry Network (AMIN).

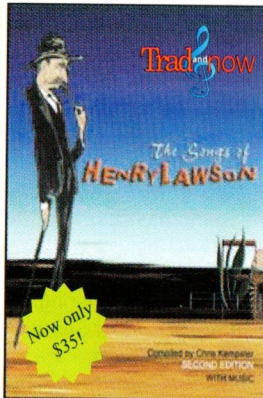
ILMG was established as a short-term quick response data capture project to quantify the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Australia's live event and entertainment industries.

A statement published on the website about it reads: "It was clear early on that this worldwide emergency was going to hit arts and events workers especially hard.

"These are people working across a number of interlocking industries, largely sole traders, casuals and contractors, who often live gig-to-gig and rely on bringing people together for their livelihoods.

"They include artists, managers, production crew, technical workers, venue operators and workers, festival operators, booking and ticketing agencies, marketing and promotions companies, music press outlets and a broad range of other related businesses and sole traders.

"Now our live event communities are staring down their toughest ever challenge, and we are here to help make sure that this challenge is not ignored by governments'



The Songs of Henry Lawson

The Folk Federation of NSW has published a second edition of "The Songs of Henry Lawson", Originally published in 1989 by Chris Kempster.

The new edition adds 45 new settings for a total of 275 tunes. Australian folk songs have developed alongside our national identity.

This collection reflects the truth that the song making tradition lives on and that Lawson's poetry expresses timeless ideas.

This new edition is designed with the needs of performers, teachers and students in mind, being spiral-bound and easy to prop on your music stand and now ONLY \$35! Singers and musicians will find in it inspiration for their own performance and composition.

To order a copy go to www.tradandnow.com or jam.org.au or call 02 9939 8802

crisis responses", the home page statement reads.

"Inspired by the Austin, Texas, initiative of the same name, ILMG seeks to bring together the hard data and thousands of stories of live events workers suddenly set adrift, and to take them to governments to press for action.

"ILMG also aims to ensure that relevant, up-to-date information and resources are widely available for impacted people and businesses.

"While ILMG may have started as a live music sector initiative, it became obvious very quickly that the struggles faced

by the music industry are shared by so many others in the creative industries and those who work across industries, so we opened it up to make sure that no one was falling through the cracks."

What are we at ILMG doing?

We are tallying the total income lost, the number of jobs lost and the number of live event and entertainment industry workers impacted.

We are collecting and sharing the stories behind the numbers, the individual hardships that together paint a picture of a community in crisis.

These accounts and statistics will be vital as we continue to

press the case for government intervention.

We are calling on Federal and State Governments to put in place immediate and direct financial support measures for the events and live performance industries.

I Lost My Gig Australia is also a hub for resources, support and information that can help you navigate this brave new world we find ourselves in.

From template letters to send to your MPs to mutual aid, courses and FAQs to government stimulus overviews, this will be a living collection connecting you to the help you need.

sound of silence

Sending out an SOS

CAMPAIGN LAUNCH: SOS - Sound of Silence

On **March 20**, representatives from the music industry launched an SOS campaign called **Sound of Silence**.

In their campaign statement they said: "The hard-working people who provide the soundtrack to Australian life need your help, right now.

"Australian artist crew and music workers are among some of the most vulnerable

with regards to job stability and mental wellbeing.

"Almost overnight, COVID19 has devastated the industry, leading to the cancellation of thousands of events and threatening the livelihood of an entire sector.

"These people have lost income that cannot be replaced.

"The music world has historically banded together to donate time and money to those in need, as seen recently with bushfire relief.

"Now they need the

Australian music-loving public to do the same.

"This is a real and present crisis, and this is a very real SOS.

"If we don't act now, and soon, the only sound we'll hear in future is silence."

What can you do?

Donate to Support Act

If you are in a position to do so, please donate to Support Act.

This vital music charity provides crisis relief services to artists, roadies and music workers directly affected during this difficult time.

Performers' Directory

Alanna and Alicia

Twin sisters Alanna and Alicia sing original folk, jazz songs. Known for their fine songwriting and sweet harmonies they regularly perform around the festival circuit.

0416546410

maudeesmail@inet.net.au

Ben Palumbo

Singer - 4 octave range, baritone to soprano (flute voice), French chanson exponent, performance art. Performances at Claire's Kitchen - Salon Dada

www.benpalumbo.com.au

urbanex@togs.com.au

BluesAngels

3,4- or 5-piece blues/folk/jazz/soul/hokum band, plugged or unplugged, comprising over 20 instruments and over 5 sets of originals/covers. Based on Central Coast NSW.

02 4787 5689

tomflood@hotmail.com

Bruce Watson

Multi-award winning singer/songwriter whose performances are highly entertaining as well as moving. Bruce is a regular at

festivals and is a folk icon?

0407 898 168

jandbwatson@gmail.com

Glenys Anderson Duo

Glenys is an award-winning singer-songwriter. She is warm & witty with a great voice. Her songs will either move you to tears or make you laugh.

0428 329 926

glenys@gil.com.au

Hallett Flood

NSW Blue Mountains acoustic roots duo covering songster greats 50s-70s and beyond, plus originals on guitars, harmonica fx, 5-string banjo.

02 4787 5689

tomflood@hotmail.com

Hither and Yon

Acoustic duo singing original songs plus interesting & exciting arrangement of Aussie & Celtic folk standards, based near Canberra

Lthorburn@vira.com.au

Joni Mitchell Tribute duo

Husband and wife duo, Grant and Mary McLean, pay tribute to musical genius Joni Mitchell, presenting a cross section of Joni's music over four decades, intertwined with stories of her life.

mary_mclean@optusnet.com.au

Jeff and DeeJ

Original ballads and traditional blues: vocal, blues-harps, wooden and resonator guitar duo - Dorothy-Jane 'DJ' 'Deej' Gosper and Jeff Prime.

Jeffdeej@gmail.com

The Swing Beans

Are a 4-piece acoustic swing and western swing band with 2 acoustic archtop guitars, fiddle & double bass & harmony vocals. Playing regularly around Brisbane, SE QLD.

0402 504 099

Julie.witney@bigpond.com

Attention Musicians

Trad&Now is the longest running and only national magazine that regularly includes folk, blues, roots, alternative, bluegrass and world music, poetry, festival and dance news and contact information to enable everyone to locate what interests them anywhere in Australia.

It does this in news pages and regularly set aside sections within the magazine. Until now, we have not had a directory for musicians to be able to have their availability publicised.

Clubs, venues, festivals and special event organisers are often looking for musicians to perform, but until now, they have not had a single directory to go to for that information.

Similarly, bands, musicians, performers often have their act ready to perform

but not enough gigs and, until now, nowhere to list themselves to promote their availability.

If you would like your information included in the new musicians' directory to be published in Trad&Now, please complete the form on page 22-23 or on our website at www.duckscrossing.org/tan/Trad_directory.pdf and return it to us, ideally by email to info@tradandnow.com or to the address on page 3, and we will include the information in the next available edition.

Entries in the Musicians' Directory are completely free but we require someone from each act listed to be a subscriber to the magazine to ensure that the information is kept up to date. The entry will remain in the directory

for as long as the subscription remains current and a subscription still only costs \$55 for 11 editions.

Trad&Now also has the world's largest catalogue of Australian "folk" music on sale world wide on its website www.tradandnow.com and in stock at its offices.

If you would like your CD or DVD added to this catalogue, please complete the consignment form available on the website and send it to us with five copies of your CD, and if you wish, a review copy for one of our reviewers.

This is also a free service and while you're at it, send us your gig information for inclusion in the Gig Guide

A message from the Folk Alliance Executive Committee

Keith Preston, John McAuslan, Ruby Hudson, Linda Bull and Cherie Harvey

Greetings.... We wish everyone in the folk community well through this challenging period.

We wish you all a happy and strange Easter.

It is unusual for many of us not to be celebrating together with friends in Canberra at the National Folk Festival this year.

We express our concern and support for the many festivals, events and gigs that have been cancelled in such a short period.

To say that it has had an impact is an understatement.

This is an unprecedented experience for all of us around the world.

Over 30 folk festivals have been directly affected, which has had a huge flow on effect into the many regional and cultural communities.

Folk Alliance Australia (FAA) has of course likewise been affected with all of our planned 2020 projects cancelled or postponed.

We will now have to focus on new strategies for FAA and how we can respond as an organisation and play a part for the support of the Australian folk scene.

Impact on folk festivals survey

As the impact of cancellations became a reality, FAA participated in a Folk Festivals Teleconference and Survey of Impact, hosted by Chloe Goodyear from Woodford FF

23 organisations completed the survey form, from a total of 53 opportunities (festivals or tour concerts).

In summary the minimum financial impact asserted by these festivals is: \$18,373,266.

This is excluding broader economic impact (local tourism etc).

10 festival events have been cancelled for 2020 with an economic impact on their own income of \$3,347,899.

If the remaining festivals/events cancel over the next 12 months, the impact would be a further \$15,025,367.

Of the 23, at least 14 are under threat for 2021.

We do not have data for the other 30 folk-based festivals/major events, so overall impact can only be extrapolated approximately as an additional 130% on top of this.

The survey further indicates that artists/suppliers/staff impacted is in the region of 18,000 people.

As the shutdown of arts/music occurred in March, FAA initially responded to the need for advocacy and had input into several submissions to the Federal Government and to the Australia Council.

As many other sectors of the music/arts industry were likewise affected, we felt it best to propose to Government that there was a need to support the loss of income by small and independent artists and artsworkers.

We are pleased to note this has been part of the Government packages offered immediately and urge our members to seek assistance through MyGov/CentreLink programs as well as the new funds made available from the various State Arts bodies.

Where possible, we will continue to highlight the impact on our festivals and the unique nature of folk culture/festivals as embedded in the community.

Folk music is more than a gig. While the folk community is resilient and connected, we recognise that many people are vulnerable to illness so please look after yourselves both physically and mentally.

Keep your music, dance and culture going in whatever way you can because as folk artists and supporters it is our culture, our traditions and is part of us collectively.

Stay in touch and support each other where you can.

FAA Programs

With the cancellation of the National Folk Festival our successful FAA Young Artist of Year Awards & Showcase has been cancelled.

Finalists had already been selected, however it looks unlikely that we can re-stage this event in 2020.

Similarly, our Annual General Meeting, which is normally held at the National Folk Festival in Canberra, has been cancelled and we will look at options to hold this at a later date,

possibly by video conference.

Our planned Folk Industry Roundtable for August in conjunction with the Sydney Folk Festival has also been cancelled as this festival is now no longer taking place.

We do see the need for the Australian Folk Music Industry to come together and have dialogue, especially about the new issues facing our sector, and we will engage with stakeholders and festivals in this regard towards sponsoring and holding a Folk Roundtable at a later date.

FAA will be participating as a member of Music Australia at an Australian Music Summit in August in Sydney.

This gives us the opportunity to provide input from the Folk sector into the evolving state of the music industry in Australia.

On March 21, the FAA advised that the Music and Live Performance Industries called on the Government to support a \$750M dedicated relief package to our sector and now we must all follow up.

FOLK ALLIANCE AUSTRALIA is working with Sounds Australia to ensure that the voice of the Folk Music industry is heard.

FAA took part in a teleconference of Australian Folk Festivals on Friday, March 20,

to look at ways we can work together to support each other and move forward into recovery.

We realise that our members are absolutely caught up in the Covid-19 Virus crisis.

It is essential that the government hears from everyone across the music ecosystem, so they understand the significance and depth of just how urgent targeted relief is for our industry, as they are imminently drafting the next stimulus package.

Sounds Australia has provided two letter templates for you to download.

There is one for you to share your personal story and how the coronavirus crisis is directly impacting you or your business, which is the preferred option.

There is also a prepared a ready-to-go version.

While the \$750M package was rejected it still would be beneficial for readers to download one of the letters and complete it as suggested.

PERSONALISED LETTER

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2io00446ofd3tjl/Letter%20to%20Personalise%20-%20Covid-19.docx?dl=0>

READY TO GO LETTER

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ezm2dxo8x8tcphy/Ready%20to%20Go%20Letter%20-%20Covid%2019.docx?dl=0>

Treasurer, Hon Josh Frydenberg MP

Josh.Frydenberg@treasury.gov.au
treasury.gov.au
Specific Coronavirus email: Coronavirusbusinessliaison@treasury.gov.au
(02) 6277 7340
@JoshFrydenberg

The Finance Minister, Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann

senator.cormann@aph.gov.au
(02) 6277 7400
@MathiasCormann

Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, Hon Paul Fletcher MP

Paul.Fletcher.MP@aph.gov.au
(02) 6277 7480
@PaulFletcherMP

Prime Minister's Office

<https://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm> (you will need to cut and paste your letter into this one)
@ScottMorrisonMP

Find your Local MP by postcode:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

lifelinehunter.org.au | 02 4320 7400

Motion to create a stimulus package for arts and entertainment sector defeated

by Jarrad Thessman, change.org

On Wednesday, April 8, Australia's House of Representatives passed the legislation for the JobKeeper wage subsidy scheme after voting down a motion put forward by the opposition Leader of the House, Tony Burke, to provide a stimulus package specific to the arts and entertainment sector.

Advocacy groups, including the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, have also pushed for the government to broaden the JobKeeper criteria to include industry workers who currently fall through the cracks.

Key groups of workers who weren't covered included freelancers who are employed on short-term contracts by a company, and casual workers

who have been employed by a company for less than a year.

To date, the iLostMyGig Australia website has recorded a combined \$330M in lost income from events cancelled due to the bushfires and pandemic.

The website, maintained by the Australian Live Music Industry and Australian Festivals Association, recently called for a \$750M stimulus package tailored directly to the sector.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 47% of Australia's event, entertainment and arts businesses are currently not operating.

Many will struggle to recommence operation after the crisis, without support.

The Government has since announced it is tipping \$17M into providing additional support for Indigenous and regional arts during the coronavirus

pandemic.

\$7M will be delivered under the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program and \$10M will be delivered through Regional Arts Australia's regional arts fund to assist artists and organisations in creating work and exploring new delivery methods.

While this industry support has been welcomed by some, many peak bodies point to the inadequacy of the support both in dollar terms and reach.

There is also no denying that the JobKeeper legislation that has passed parliament will result in thousands of workers from across the event industry being forced onto JobSeeker payments to receive support.

The financial and mental impact of this on individuals will be felt long after the crisis has ended.

The Borderers miss out on being included in the "the year of Scotland"

by Jefferson Lee



The Borderers and well known friends performed at a post Port Fairy festival gig in a Port Fairy local pub.

They were knocked back from the official program which showcased touring Scottish acts during "the year of Scotland".

Some locals performers and punters feel that Australia's premier folk festivals (including Port Fairy), are moving too far from their grass roots origins

and becoming fixated on showcasing international touring acts.

Finding the right balance is a vexing issue for all major festival programmers.

It provoked quite a debate at the Exchange Folk Alliance international conference in the lead up to Port Fairy.

Meanwhile, Melbourne rock acts Russell Morris Band and Joe Camilleri & The Black Sorrows took advantage of the

folk festival's popularity with their own side shows during the weekend.

Festival organisers were a bit peeved as they thought this detracted from their hard work in the face of a declining gate take in the wake of Corona virus and bush fire fallout.

Food for thought for next year?

Feedback welcome on these observations.

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Funding announcement is a game changer for the entire music community

by Greg Phillips

SUPPORTACT

The heart & hand of Australian music

The Board, management and staff of Support Act on April 8 welcomed a \$10M funding package announced by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Michael McCormack, and the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP.

"Since COVID-19 shut down live performances across Australia in March, unprecedented numbers of musicians, road crew and other music workers have been turning to Support Act for crisis assistance," said Chairperson, Sally Howland.

"Despite dozens of online fundraising campaigns by hundreds of artists over recent weeks, the organisation has been stretched to the absolute limit by these cries for help, so today's announcement will be a game changer for the entire music community."

The funding will enable

Support Act to provide crisis relief to artists, crew and music workers who have lost their jobs and income as a result of COVID-19, and to upscale and extend access to the Support Act Wellbeing Helpline to all members of the arts industry.

"We applaud the Government for the assistance packages they have already provided, the JobSeeker and JobKeeper benefits will go a long way to providing a safety net for the majority of people in the music industry affected by the COVID-19 crisis and we encourage all eligible artists, crew and music workers to register for these benefits asap," said Clive Miller, CEO Support Act.

"This additional funding from the Government will enable us to ensure that Support Act can provide short term financial support to those artists, crew and music workers who fall through the cracks for any reason and are unable to access Government Benefits, and those who are injured, unwell or have a mental health issue that is preventing them from being able

to work."

Miller also acknowledged the increasing need for mental health and wellbeing support across the music industry.

The Support Act Wellbeing Helpline is a free, confidential phone counselling service that is available to anyone working in Australian music who is concerned about any aspect of their mental health and wellbeing.

Since its establishment in June, 2018, it has provided more than 1,100 hours of counselling support to people in the music industry, and more recently to performing arts workers in Australia as part of our partnership with Arts Wellbeing Collective.

"An immediate first step as a result of receiving this funding will be to extend access to the Helpline to all members of the arts sector," Miller said.

The Support Act Board met on April 8 to establish an industry task force to help ensure that the funds are administered in a timely and efficient manner.

Festival News & Reviews

Top Half Folk Festival 2020 deferred to 2021



Sad news from Vic Stephens, Secretary of the Top End Folk Club Inc.

Today with regret and sadness we made the difficult decision to cancel the 50th Top Half Folk Festival scheduled for June 2020.

Celebrations will be deferred until June 2021.

We know this is a great disappointment for all those involved, but given the public health directive regarding non-essential gatherings we cannot proceed.

The health of everyone, participants, audiences, and the NT community must come first.

Your willingness to support our humble festival as performers, workshop facilitators, volunteers and audience is an inspiration to us and much appreciated.

We hope you will be able to attend and participate next year as part of the 50th Celebrations.

We thank you for your ongoing support.

Those who have purchased Weekend Tickets to date will be refunded as soon as possible.

You should contact Mary River Wilderness Retreat as soon as possible regarding accommodation cancellation and refunds – call 08 8978 8877 or email info@maryriverretreat.com.au

Similarly, contact the airlines for changes to flight bookings.

Following discussion with the Central Australian Folk Society it has been agreed that the 50th Festival will be celebrated in the Top End on 11-14 June, 2021, at the Mary River Wilderness Retreat

2020 Sydney Folk Festival Cancelled

The Sydney Folk Festival Team published the following statement.

Following the recent announcements by the Australian Government regarding the actions and possible time frame required to contain the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), our committee has made the very hard but inevitable decision to cancel this year's Sydney Folk Festival.

This decision has been carefully considered and made all the more difficult as this year is the 50th Anniversary of the Folk Federation of NSW and the Festival was to have been the centre piece for those celebrations.

The impact of this health crisis is being hard-felt across all our folk communities, however the health and wellbeing of all involved must come first.

Depending on developments with the containment of COVID-19 over the coming



months, our committee is looking into the possibility of staging a 50th Anniversary celebration towards the end of the year – perhaps a day-long event.

In the meantime, our committee is meeting via Zoom to look at ways we can support our folk communities and help build resilience while we await a post-COVID-19 world.

During this time of social isolation, we will be communicating primarily by

email.

Remember to also check our Facebook page and the website for latest news and updates.

Thank you all for your understanding during these very uncertain times.

An extra special thank you to the artists, volunteers, our venue and sound providers and committee who put their hands up to be part of the 2020 event.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Sydney Folk Festival in 2021.

Attention Festival Organisers

Trad&Now is the longest running and only national magazine that regularly includes festival news and a comprehensive festival calendar to enable festival goers and volunteers to locate festivals that they wish to attend anywhere in Australia. This information is also used by musicians to apply to perform and by stall holders.

We are now looking to expand the Festival Calendar to include a great deal more information and to ensure that the information is kept up to date by having it checked regularly by festival organisers.

By doing this, it is expected that more people will become aware of what festivals are available and what they have to offer to become involved, generally growing festivals and festival attendances around Australia.

If you are a festival or music camp co-ordinator and would like additional information included in the expanded calendar, please complete the form on page 22-23 or on our website at www.duckscrossing.org/tan/Trad_directory.pdf and return it to us, ideally by email to info@tradandnow.com or to the address on page 3, and we will include the information in the next available edition.

Entries in the expanded calendar are completely free but we require someone from each festival listed to be a subscriber to the magazine to ensure that the information is kept up to date.

The entry will remain in the calendar for as long as the subscription remains current and a subscription still only costs \$55 for 11 editions.

Acknowledgement for 2020 National Folk Festival Staff Team & Helpers

National Folk Festival President, Jacqueline Bradley, sent the following letter in the April National Folk Festival News.

"Dear Friends, It feels poignant to be writing to you all at a time when we would usually be packing down the National Folk Festival, after five days in a perfect world.

This year, that was not to be, but the music plays on.

As the Easter week comes to a close, I want to acknowledge the 2020 staff team, who worked so hard to bring the Festival to fruition before COVID-19 intervened.

This year the team included: Ruby Hudson, Pam Merrigan, Jessica Wong, Piya Pattamarangoon, Rebekka Ambroz, Sam Barrett, Amy Whiting, Jess Henderson and Helen Roben.

As well as the dedicated staff, there are many coordinators, volunteers, contractors, performers, stallholders and our partners who are vital to the Festival every year.

I want to salute and thank every one of them from the bottom of my heart for their hard work, their good cheer and their sheer passion for the National.

For the past eight years, Pam Merrigan has brought her



extraordinary knowledge and commitment to folk music to the Festival.

Pam's love for music and the folk community shines through everything she does and her exceptional connections and relationships with performers around the world have been a highlight of her time with us.

We thank her for her dedication, her energy and her

strong belief that more than anything, folk music matters.

Although Pam's tenure as Artistic Director is over, she will continue her valuable involvement as a member of the company and the wider folk community.

With hope in our hearts, we look to the future.

2020 Bluesfest cancelled: 'We are heartbroken'



The 2020 Bluesfest is officially cancelled.

In a statement issued on March 16, Director, Peter Noble, confirmed that the Byron Bay festival will not be going ahead in April.

"It is obvious that we will not be on this Easter.

"We are heartbroken, as we believe that we were presenting one of the best ever bills of talent for you," the statement reads.

"I was in discussions right through last week with every headliner, they all said that they're coming as long as nothing occurred to prevent them from doing so.

"That is the level of commitment that our artists have, and I am proud of that.

"I must now thank every one of you for supporting us.

"The emails and posts are

deeply appreciated at this time.

"We are now working through how to move forward and to give you details."

In an earlier statement on March 13, Noble said: "Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, wants all non-essential gatherings of more than 500 people to be suspended from Monday amid fears about the spread of the COVID-19.

"We are now awaiting the official requirement from Federal and State authorities on Monday and will update you at that time."

This was followed on March 15 by: "Promoters and producers through Live Performance Australia, the Live Entertainment Industry Group, have been in constant communication with both State and Federal Governments since Prime Minister Morrison stated Friday afternoon, March 13, his

Pic by Joseph Mayers

"advice", that all non-essential sporting and entertainment events with audiences above 500 should cancel.

"We have stated in the strongest manner that "advice" was NOT a direction, and we needed the certainty by directive, followed by legislation, as soon as possible, so our entire industry could move forward to act in a responsible manner toward ALL interested parties, the public, ticket buyers, the artists, Bluesfest employees, and all suppliers and contractors.

"The government has now made a definitive statement, and have banned events, and require 14 days of self-isolation for everyone entering Australia.

"This is a matter that will greatly affect both our future at Bluesfest, as well as the entire Entertainment Industry."



Illawarra Folk Festival 2021 plans to go ahead



Amid the COVID-19 doom and gloom for musicians and other performing artists who have seen their livelihoods wrecked, Illawarra Folk Festival Artistic Director David De Santi is offering a small ray of sunshine.

Mr De Santi has announced that artists applications are now open for the 2021 Illawarra Folk Festival, scheduled for Bulli Showground on January 14-17 next year.

"We are, of course, hoping that the COVID-19 pandemic will be under control by then, and that we can proceed with the festival," Mr De Santi said.

"It would be nice to think that by then the crisis will have passed and we will be able to celebrate life returning to

normal, with community events like the Illawarra Folk Festival".

"Even though it seems a long way off, there is a lot of pre-festival planning to do, locking down the performers is an important part of that."

Applications close on April 30, and can be made on-line at www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au

Next year will be the 36th Illawarra Folk Festival, which traditionally features a significant contingent of Illawarra performers as well as national and international acts.

Mr De Santi said he hoped international travel will have returned to normal well before the festival, so that it can have its usual mix of international, national and local acts.

"After 35 years, we are well entrenched on the international and national festival circuit, so

we know that we will be able to attract a strong contingent of performers from overseas and around Australia, assuming that travel is back to normal", Mr De Santi said.

"But we also love having Illawarra performers on our program.

Over the years, we have seen many local acts progress to national and even international prominence, and that is always really gratifying.

So I would really encourage Illawarra acts to apply for the 2021 festival.

Our festival covers a wide range of musical genres.

Apart from traditional folk, we have world, bluegrass, roots, gypsy and Celtic music, as well as comedy, dance and poetry "

For more information, contact David De Santi on 0409 571700