

## First Nations Artist in Residence

*Melbourne International Jazz Festival and the Australian Art Orchestra respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our festival and activities take place, the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, as well as to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the wider Melbourne community and beyond. We are honoured to contribute to the over 60,000 years of music making and story telling that has taken place on this land.*

### Program Overview

The First Nations Artist in Residence Program is a new artistic and professional development initiative presented in partnership with the Melbourne International Jazz Festival (MIJF) and the Australian Art Orchestra (AAO). The program supports the career development of an emerging First Nations musician with a practice in jazz, improvisation or contemporary art music and its composition.

The successful candidate will receive:

- A \$5,000 cash bursary from MIJF to support the development of a new work
- A major festival performance outcome at the Melbourne International Jazz Festival 2021, including an additional performance fee
- A paid part-time position with the Australian Art Orchestra (August – October, 0.4 EFT, \$50,000 pro rata)
- A personalised professional development program with AAO, based on the experience, needs and aspirations of the artist in residence
- Participation in the AAO's Creative Music Intensive, a 10-day annual residency held in Tarraleah, Tasmania (October 10-20), including flights and accommodation
- Producing support from MIJF staff to develop and present the work
- Ticketing package for MIJF 2021 and artistic/industry networking opportunities

### About Melbourne International Jazz Festival

Now in its 24th year, the Melbourne International Jazz Festival is Australia's leading platform for the promotion of jazz and improvised music. Over ten days in October, the Festival's annual program features over 100 events showcasing 500 international and local artists and attracting over 45,000 attendees. Alongside a bold artistic program of commissioned works, world premieres, and cross-cultural collaborations, the Festival delivers a year-round sector development program aimed at fostering the next generation of Australian talent. The First Nations Artist in Residence Program will sit within the organisation's broader [Artist Development Program](#), which seeks to promote diversity and inclusion in jazz and improvised music.

### About Australian Art Orchestra

Founded by Paul Grabowsky AO in 1994, the AAO is one of Australia's leading contemporary ensembles. Now led by daring composer/trumpeter/sound artist Peter Knight, its work constantly seeks to stretch genres and break down the barriers separating disciplines, forms and cultures. It explores the interstices between the avant-garde and the traditional, between art and popular music, between electronic and acoustic approaches, and creates music that traverse the continuum between improvised and notated forms. The First Nations Artist in Residence Program sits within the organisation's broader [Pathfinders – Music Leadership Program](#) and

builds on more than 15 years of close collaboration with First Nations artists, including the Wilfred family from Ngukurr (NT), Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter.

#### **Part One: Paid Position with the Australian Art Orchestra**

The Artist in Residence will be awarded a three-month, part-time contract with the Australian Art Orchestra. This role is designed to provide an opportunity to gain insight into what is required to run a successful music ensemble, and to gain experience and skills to prepare the Artist in Residence for future artistic leadership roles. This component of the Artist in Residence opportunity will be co-designed with the selected artist with the intent to build their capacity and confidence in aspects of arts administration, such as grant writing, producing programs, and industry networking.

The Artist in Residence will then participate in the AAO's *Creative Music Intensive*, a 10-day annual residency held in Tarraleah, Tasmania (October 10-20), where the Artist will work closely with Yolngu songmen, David and Daniel Wilfred from Ngukurr in Arnhem Land, who are long-time members of the AAO and who co-lead the residency.

In addition to this part-time paid position with the AAO, the artist in residence will also develop a new work under the mentorship of the AAO to be premiered at the Melbourne International Jazz Festival (see below).

#### **Part Two: Commission and Performance at Melbourne International Jazz Festival**

The Artist in Residence will receive a commissioning fee to develop and present a new work at the 2021 Melbourne International Jazz Festival in October. The performance will be featured as part of the Festival's National Industry Summit Showcase - *Australian Jazz Congress*. The event will be attended by a range of industry delegates including Festival Directors and Programmers from across Australia, to facilitate ongoing touring and presentation outcomes. MIJF will also provide producing support to the selected artist to develop and perform the new work, as well as facilitate professional networking opportunities with artists and industry members across the sector.

#### **Who can apply?**

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander musicians currently residing in Australia are eligible to apply. The program is open to a broad range of musical genres, including but not limited to jazz, soul, hip hop, and art music, with the aim to support experimentation and improvisation within and across genres.

#### **Artist Requirements**

The successful applicant must:

- Commit to the development of a new work for performance as part of the 2021 MIJF program
- Be available to perform at MIJF on 23rd October 2021, for which you will be paid a performance fee
- Commit to attending the AAO Creative Music Intensive from 10 – 20 October 2021
- Commit to working with the AAO 1-2 days per week in the period August – October 2021
- Commit to being available for media/promotional opportunities as reasonably requested from time-to-time by MIJF and/or AAO
- Be willing to adhere to all relevant workplace policies and procedures

#### **Timeline**

31 May 2021 – 5pm: Applications close

June – October 2021: Project development - new work, and professional development

August – October 2021: Part-time position with AAO

10-20 October 2021: AAO Creative Music Intensive

23rd October 2021: Performance as part of Melbourne International Jazz Festival (exact time TBC)

### **Application Process**

Please submit the following application materials via our online form by 5.00pm AEST on Monday 31 May 2021.

- Short answers to the following questions:
  - a) Provide a brief summary of your experience as a musician and/or composer.
  - b) What is your proposal/concept for the development of a new work for your MIJF performance?
  - c) What would you like to achieve from participating in this program? For example, leadership skills, increased confidence writing new music, professional networks, arts admin skills etc...
  
- Up to 3 representative audio/video samples of your performance work (online links preferred – i.e. Bandcamp, Soundcloud, Dropbox, YouTube, Vimeo, please provide passwords where necessary)

Shortlisted applicants may be contacted by MIJF to arrange a short in-person interview.

[Click here to apply.](#)

If you require any help completing this application form and would like to discuss alternative application methods, including video or phone applications, please get in touch with Tom or Rosemary on the details below.

For any questions or assistance with your application please don't hesitate to contact us on:

**Tom Browne**, MIJF Senior Producer on [tom@melbournejazz.com](mailto:tom@melbournejazz.com) or by calling (03) 9001 1388

**Rosemary Willink**, AAO Executive Producer on [rosemary@ao.com.au](mailto:rosemary@ao.com.au) or by calling (03) 9005 8439

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Do I need to be a jazz musician to apply?**

Nope! The program is open to a broad range of genres – if you're unsure, get in touch with us and we can chat about the kind of music you make.

### **I can only commit to working one day a week between Aug-Oct with the AAO – is that okay?**

To get the most out of the program you'll want to spend at least a day per week in the AAO office, but two is ideal. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your availability, get in touch with Rosemary at AAO to chat.

### **Will I be working on my commission during my hours at AAO?**

While the AAO like to keep things fluid in terms of discussing artistic and administrative decisions, the MIJF commission should be developed outside of the hours you are working at AAO (the \$5,000 bursary from MIJF is to allow for this). That being said, there will be structured mentoring sessions during which the selected artist and a member of the AAO could workshop the commission.

### **I have never worked at an Arts Organisation before – what will be expected of me?**

No problem – previous experience working in an arts organisation is not a requirement. The successful artist in residence will show an interest and enthusiasm for developing their skills within the context of an arts organisation, and learning about what happens on a day-to-day basis.

Examples of the kinds of activities undertaken by the artist in residence (with guidance from AAO employees) may include:

- Shadowing the Artistic Director or Executive Producer at rehearsals/meetings/events
- Assisting with writing grant applications
- Co-producing programs/events
- Preparing reports for funding bodies
- Developing social media campaigns for various events/programs
- Writing media releases
- Preparing and monitoring project budgets

Don't worry if you've never done any of this before – all you need is a willingness to learn and you'll be great.

### **Is the program open to emerging artists?**

It sure is – the Artist in Residence program is aimed at emerging to mid-career artists, to assist in propelling you into the next stage of your career.

### **Do I need to be a composer?**

You do not need to identify as a composer. If you are a creator or producer of music, then we are keen to hear from you.

That said, you will need to feel confident communicating your musical ideas with other musicians so that you can present your commission at MIJF alongside members of the AAO. You don't necessarily need to have training as a composer or use traditional methods of writing music.

**I am based outside of Melbourne – can I apply?**

Unfortunately, we can't cover transport or accommodation expenses. If the successful applicant is an artist located outside of Melbourne, they would need to re-locate at their own expense, or travel to Melbourne at their own cost.

**Where can I find more info about MIJF and the AAO?**

Previous Melbourne International Jazz Festival programs can be found here:

<https://www.melbournejazz.com/about-us/festival-archive/>

And here are a few of projects to give you a better idea of who the Australian Art Orchestra are and the wide range of work they've commissioned and performed:

[Meeting Points Series: im/modesty](#)

[Hand to Earth](#)

[The Plains](#)

[Creative Music Intensive](#)