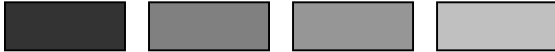




## ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



# SOUNDING OUT – PROJECTS 2003

**An Australia Council  
*Music Board*  
initiative**

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE  
MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2003

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL  
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## ABOUT THIS REPORT

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### November 2003

This report provides a context to the assessment of proposals submitted to the Australia Council at the 15 September 2003 closing date for the **Sounding-out** initiative supporting Australian musical instrument building. It provides details of the results of the assessment and more general comments made by the six-member Assessment panel during the assessment of proposals.

The Assessment meeting for this initiative was held on **Monday 24 November 2003** by teleconference. Decisions made by the six-member panel were then formally endorsed by the Music Board.

## ATTENDANCE

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The Assessment panel comprised representatives of the Music Board assisted by three participating advisers:

### *Music Board members*

**Dr Graeme Koehne** (Chair) (SA) is Head of Composition at the Elder School of Music, University of Adelaide. He has been commissioned by some of the major performing arts companies in Australia, including the Australian Ballet, Queensland Ballet, Sydney Dance Company, Musica Viva Australia and the State symphony orchestras.

**Jennifer Newsome** (SA) is the Board's community interest representative. She is a lecturer, administrator and performer (flautist), with expertise in Indigenous contemporary music and classical and contemporary classical music. She is the co-ordinator of Academic Programs for the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music (CASM) in Adelaide.

**Lucky Oceans** (WA) is a musician, songwriter, radio programmer and presenter for the ABC Radio National and ABC Television programs, *The Planet*, with expertise in contemporary rock, popular, country and world music, and special interests in folk, jazz, country and culturally diverse music.

### *Participating advisers*

**Professor Michael Atherton** (NSW) is a composer, multi-instrument performer and academic who is committed to the enhancement of Australian music. He is a professor of music at the University of Western Sydney where he has also served as founding head of the School of Contemporary Arts, and as Director of Research, Management and Training in the College of Arts, Education and Social Sciences. His publication 'Australian Made.... Australian Played', documented Australian musical instrument making. Michael recently curated a special edition on Australian instrument building *Sounds Unlimited: building the instruments* for the Australian Music Centre's *Sounds Australian* journal.

**Graham Caldersmith** (regional NSW) is a full-time luthier who makes both guitars and violins as well as undertaking more experimental work. He created the 'Australian guitar family' (a baritone guitar, bass guitar and treble guitar) for the Australian ensemble Guitar Trek, in an effort to broaden the voice quality and size of the instrument while maintaining the classical sound.

**Dr Greg Schiemer** (NSW) is a composer, artist, academic, improviser and systems developer whose purpose-built interactive electronic music instrument designs are part of the early history of Australian electronic music. He is currently focusing on developing new instruments suitable for composing and playing music in just intonation tuning



The following Australia Council staff attended this meeting:

Peta Williams	Manager, Music
Vanessa Chalker	Senior Program Officer, Music
Colleen Davies	Administrator, Music

## ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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*Sounding-Out* Projects 2003 once again placed an emphasis on sustainability and partnerships, seeking proposals that would assist contemporary Australian instrument design and building across the broad range of practice, including acoustic, electro-acoustic, electronic, virtual, interactive, automated, software, intermedia instruments, and interfaces. Proposals were required to respond to one of the following aims:

- the project has a medium to long-term outlook
- the project benefits a group or community of Australian instrument builders
- the project enhances awareness of contemporary Australian instrument building
- the project involves the development of the sonic and performance qualities of new or evolving contemporary Australian instruments.

15 applications were received at the closing date. The assessment panel considered all the proposals including the supporting material in relation to the selection criteria:

- the extent to which the project responds to the aims and objectives above, and the innovation of the project's ideas
- the quality of the key personnel involved
- the potential benefits for the development of the contemporary Australian instrument building field
- the extent to which the project is well planned and makes effective use of available resources.

The panel ranked applications from the highest score down and recommended funding for projects that ranked highest against these criteria. A list of successful applicants and the projects funded is attached to this report.

Proposals received	Proposals approved	Success rate	Amount requested	Amount approved
15	5	33.3%	\$211,007.00	\$63,695.00

## FEEDBACK

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*Sounding-out* – Projects 2003 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of a special initiative of the Music Board that began in 2002 to assist contemporary Australian instrument design and building. The initiative encouraged imaginative proposals from sound builders and instrument makers that extended practice through the creation of new or evolving contemporary Australian instruments, demonstrated benefits to a group or community of Australian instrument builders or created greater awareness of this little understood and publicised field of Australian musical cultural and practice.



This round offered a stimulating mix of projects including professional and artform development, internet publishing, interactive sound design, hybrid acoustic instrument development, and virtual instrument development. Electro-acoustic projects predominated. Overall, the panel was disappointed with the limited number of quality applications responding to the *Sounding-Out* brief, compared to the previous year and the limited response from acoustic makers. However, successful proposals clearly demonstrated potential to advance and enhance awareness on Australian instrument design nationally, and in some cases, internationally.

There were 6 applications submitted from NSW, 6 from Victoria, 2 from Queensland and 1 from WA. Applications approved were well reasoned in terms of processes to be used, and cogently expressed what the applicant wished to do in a well presented format. Some applications clearly demonstrated conceptual merit and potential but lacked essential detail about the rationale for the project's development and implementation. The panel also considered that other applicants did not demonstrate clearly enough in their applications the following –

- how the project addressed the aims and objectives of the *Sounding-Out 2003* initiative
- how the support material submitted in the assessment process linked to the project proposal or provided a sound/visual context for the application
- sufficient detail about the role of the creative team involved, processes and implementation methods to be used and budget in order to support the artistic vision
- an awareness of the potential of partnerships and the sustainability of their proposals.

Thank you to those who submitted proposals to *Sounding-Out 2003*. Please check our website or contact music staff in the new year to discuss support for your activity on (tel) 02 9215 9104 or 1800 22 6912 (toll free) or by email: [music@ozco.gov.au](mailto:music@ozco.gov.au)

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

There are opportunities for artists to apply for assistance through the Australia Council's main grant categories, which can be found on our web-site [www.ozco.gov.au](http://www.ozco.gov.au). All the Boards of Council, including the Music, New Media Arts and Visual Arts/Craft Board, offer assistance for the creation, development and presentation of artistic work. Please refer to individual artform sections of the Handbook.

Applications are accepted from individuals, groups or legally constituted organisations, but you also need to check the specific eligibility criteria for each grant category.

The Boards also offer a range of special initiatives from time to time, so please also check our web-site for What's New.

### Useful web-site addresses

Australia Council  
[www.ozco.gov.au](http://www.ozco.gov.au)

Australia Council Audience & Market Development Division – publications and resources  
[www.ozco.gov.au/audience/index.htm](http://www.ozco.gov.au/audience/index.htm)

For arts marketing tools and ideas  
[www.fuel4arts.com](http://www.fuel4arts.com)

Australian Music Centre (AMC)  
[www.amcoz.com.au](http://www.amcoz.com.au)

The AMC has produced a special edition of its *Sounds Australian* journal devoted to Australian instrument makers - *Sounds Unlimited: building the instruments (Number 62 2003)*

Music Council of Australia (MCA)  
[www.mca.org.au](http://www.mca.org.au)  
To support the advance of Australian musical life in all its aspects.



**APPROVED GRANTS LIST**  
**Music Board**  
**SOUNDING-OUT Projects 2003**  
 Closing date 15 September 2003

<b>Client Name</b>	<b>Application title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Granted</b>
Biffin, Peter	intensive development of a new stringed instrument, the Tarhu and showcasing of constructed instruments in Crete, in partnership with Labyrinth	NSW	\$10,000.00
Tuned Percussion Instrument	a contribution to prototype development, to refine and evaluate new harmonic bell, gong, xylophone, metalophone and tubular chime designs	VIC	\$25,000.00
Fraietta, Angelo	the development of a sensor interface device, the Control Voltage to Open Sound Control convertor as an alternative to MIDI	NSW	\$11,470.00
Paine, Garth	prototype development for 'MeteroSonic', an internet-based instrument that will be 'played' in realtime by weather data	VIC	\$7,725.00
Australian Digital Leather Instrument Project	Garry Greenwood, Stuart Favilla, Joanne Cannon to construct a new hybrid digital leather wind instrument	VIC	\$9,500.00
<b>Total No. of Grants: 5</b>		<b>Approved</b>	<b>\$63,695.00</b>

