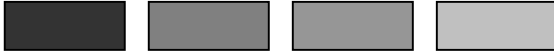




ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



SOUNDING-OUT **PROJECTS 2002**

**An Australia Council
Music Board
initiative**

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
FRIDAY 30 AUGUST 2002

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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ABOUT THIS REPORT

November 2002

This report provides a context to the assessment of proposals submitted to the Australia Council at the 30 August 2002 closing date for **Sounding-out**, an initiative to support contemporary Australian musical instrument building. It provides details of the results of the assessment and more general comments made by the five-member Assessment panel during the assessment of proposals.

The Assessment meeting for this initiative was held on **Friday 22 November 2002**. Recommendations made by the five-member panel were then formally endorsed by the Music Board.

ATTENDANCE

The Assessment panel were representatives of the Music Board assisted by three participating advisers.

Nathan Waks (Chair, Music Board) (NSW), is Principal cellist of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and former Managing Director of Symphony Australia. Areas of artform expertise include classical/contemporary, orchestral music, chamber music, youth music and conducting.

Lucky Oceans (member, Music Board) (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.

Dr Ros Bandt (Participating Adviser) (Vic) is a sound designer, sound sculptor, composer, performer and the Director of the Australian Sound Design Project, the Australia Centre, University of Melbourne.

Philip Samartzis (Participating Adviser) (Vic) is a musician, researcher and Co-ordinator/lecturer in Sound, Media Arts, School of Art & Culture, RMIT University, Melbourne. He is currently engaged in research into surround sound and immersive environments for installation art.

Wayne Stuart (Participating Adviser) (NSW) is a piano designer and maker and the director of Stuart & Sons, piano makers of Newcastle.

The following Australia Council staff attended this meeting:

Peta Williams	Manager, Music
Vanessa Chalker	Senior Program Officer, Music
Margaret Leask	Assistant Program Officer, Music
Kurt Olofsson	Program Officer, Music
Maria Crealey	Youth Music Officer
Colleen Davies	Administrator, Music
Claudia Kearns	Administrative Assistant, Music



ASSESSMENT PROCESS

With an emphasis on sustainability and partnerships, *Sounding-out - Projects 2002* sought proposals which will assist contemporary Australian instrument building. 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 promotes awareness of contemporary Australian instrument building;
- the project involves the development of a performance practice for contemporary Australian instrument building.

39 applications were received at the closing date and assessed by the panel on Friday 22 November 2002. The assessment panel looked at all the proposals and accompanying supporting material in relation to the selection criteria:

- the extent to which the project responds to any of the above aims, 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 applications were ranked from the highest score down. Applications which were approved were those that ranked highest against these criteria.

In considering the applications and accompanying supporting material, the assessment panel was also informed by a range of commissioned assessments from specialist practitioners in the field.

A list of successful applicants and the projects funded is attached to this report.

Sounding-out - Projects 2002 Outcomes

Proposals received	Proposals approved	Success rate	Amount requested	Amount approved
39	16	41%	\$1,014,869.00	\$151,900.00

FEEDBACK

Sounding-out – Projects 2002 was a special initiative of the Music Board to assist contemporary Australian musical instrument building. The Board recognises that the field of Australian instrument design and building is possibly the least understood and publicised of contemporary musical culture and practice. There are many areas of musical, cultural, technological and social fields in which instrument building and sound interface practices occur. It is diverse, dynamic, intersecting, and ever changing. This was borne out in the extraordinary range of imaginative proposals submitted by instrument makers and sound builders throughout Australia.

There were 12 applications from NSW, 11 from Victoria, 8 from Queensland, 3 each from



Tasmania and the ACT and 2 from Western Australia.

The panel commented that this was a strong field of applicants. The panel members were pleased with the different and creative ways that applicants responded to the criteria and how partnerships had been initiated to widen the scope and resources of projects. However, some applicants did not demonstrate clearly enough in their applications the following –

- an understanding of budget presentation and a realistic approach to project management;
- an understanding of the significance of quality support material in the assessment process;
- an awareness of the potential of partnerships and the sustainability of their proposals, (particularly important for proposals with a commercial component or potential);
- the importance of sonic qualities, and not just visual aspects of instruments, in contemporary performance practice.

Some proposals also had great merit but were not fully developed – the artistic vision was there, but not the rationale for its development and implementation. The panel was supportive of proposals which demonstrated a methodology or approach which would be compatible with the available technology as well as with contemporary performance practice. The panel also recognised the need, in this field, for research and the dissemination of information through exhibitions, workshops, publication and promotion.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

There are ongoing opportunities for instrument makers and sound builders to apply for assistance through the Australia Council's main grant categories, which can be found on our web-site

www.ozco.gov.au. Opportunities exist for activities that may include: a creative project (New Work); professional skills development, including mentorships or the wider development of a particular practice (Skills & Arts Development), and promotional or marketing initiatives or publications (Presentation & Promotion). Please refer to the Music Section sections of the Handbook. The next closing date is 1 June 2003.

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

It is likely that Sounding-out will continue in 2003 so please check our website for updated information and guidelines or contact Music Board staff in the new year.

Useful web-site addresses

Australia Council
www.ozco.gov.au

Australia Council Audience & Market Development Division – publications and resources
www.ozco.gov.au/audience/index.htm



APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Music Board
SOUNDING OUT
Grant Round Id 12585 Closing Date 30-AUG-2002

Client Name	Application Title	State	Amount
Aphids Events Inc	a contribution towards Instrument Building exhibition, workshops, lectures and concerts in Melbourne, December 2003.	VIC	\$15,000
Brisbane Powerhouse Pty Ltd	a contribution towards an audit of experimental musical instrument making, 'Real, Electronic and Virtual', leading to REV 2004.	QLD	\$6,000
Brown, Andrew	a contribution towards the development of an online tutorial resource supporting emerging digital instrument developers.	QLD	\$8,000
Burnie City Council	a contribution towards an exhibition, workshops and recitals of work by Tasmanian instrument designers and builders, April 2004.	TAS	\$15,000
Castaldi, Damian	a contribution towards a partnership with IRCAM in Paris to research, design and make a prototype wireless, analog to MIDI digitiser.	NSW	\$5,000
Cook, Michael	a contribution towards the purchase of an Infusion Systems I-Cube-X for the creation of new instruments.	VIC	\$2,000
Cooper, Rodney	a contribution towards the design and construction of a prototype metallic sound sculpture musical instrument in stainless steel.	VIC	\$10,000
Favilla, Stuart	a contribution towards the establishment and development of an ensemble, Blisters, of computer music instrument builders and players.	VIC	\$10,000
Hewitt, Donna	to build a hardware interface instrument for voice and electronic processing and to compose and perform a series of works using this instrument.	NSW	\$9,750
Marty, Simon	a contribution towards the development and perfection of an amplifier for acoustical stringed instruments.	NSW	\$10,000
McDonald, Graham	a contribution towards the publication of a book on the construction of instruments of the Irish bouzouki/cittern/octave mandolin family.	ACT	\$6,000
McGee, Terry	a contribution towards the creation of a computer model for woodwind makers to make improvements to instruments, initially the flute.	ACT	\$15,000
Norman, Anne	for the construction of two different power pole bell mounting structures for different performance practices.	VIC	\$6,400
Queensland Biennial Festival of Music PTY LTD	a contribution towards the presentation of Sound Builders Instrument Makers Exhibition 2003 for makers and performers.	QLD	\$15,000
Queensland Biennial Festival of Music PTY LTD	William Barton to make, compose for, perform and conduct workshops for didgeridoo and the activity to be recorded in a film documentary.	QLD	\$10,000
Vervest, Rob	for the presentation of Playmakers 2003 workshops, exhibition and a concert to promote awareness of instrument builders.	WA	\$8,750
Total Number of Grants 16		Total Amount Approved	\$151,900