

Creative State 2020+

Jazz - talking points (working document)

What is jazz?

It is more than a style... it is a process, it is something that connects, inspires, breathes, develops and lives. It is a conversation that invites all to participate equally and respectfully. The same spirit of expressive freedom is found in the best dixieland jazz as much as in the latest cutting edge contemporary jazz.

- Jazz is a feeder into all styles of music
- Jazz is an integral part of contemporary music
- Jazz requires learning skills to create/improvise
- Jazz can be a model for a new society - opportunity for creative and personal individual expression within a communal context

Current issues

- visibility/invisibility
- lack of organisational support and infrastructure
- image
- gender diversity
- lack of accessibility for lower socio-economic communities
- lack of cooperation/coordination within the jazz community
- lack of skilled professionals at all levels of jazz industry - too much is done pro bono by non-experts

Strengths

- jazz musicians are active throughout the entire music ecology
- coming together of different parties in united cause - Port Fairy Jazz Fest producing Victoria's Jazz Industry Strategic Action Plan, in consultation with broad range of partners
- Image... shift thinking from what jazz is, to what jazz does...
- jazz brings together generations and can be a leading example of how to embrace diversity without losing one's personal voice
- the next generation are already coming - across all styles of jazz there are young musicians performing at high calibre
- Victoria is the lead state for live music, including jazz - with highly regarded educational institutions, strong support for live music especially in Melbourne, with many musicians relocating to Melbourne due to the performance opportunities available.

What we need

- equality of access - Jazz needs to be recognised as for its integral role in the whole music sector as contemporary music and have access to the same resources and support for developing as an industry
- organisational infrastructure - a jazz industry platform/peak body to connect, support, research and advocate on behalf of the wider sector

- develop education curriculum to increase accessibility and participation, especially to address issues of gender imbalance and diversity
- engage in meaningful dialogue with First People communities
- annual jazz showcase/symposium celebrating whole of Victoria's jazz festivals, clubs and musicians
- career pathways into the wider jazz supported and made visible
- visibility and acknowledgement of Victoria's jazz heritage - support for Australian Jazz Museum to contribute to fleshing out the story of Australian music at the new Australian Music Vault
- wellbeing support for organisations and artists that are often working under high pressure
- support the establishment of a national youth jazz orchestra based in Victoria