The Australian Songwriter

Issue 149, September 2020

First published 1979

The Magazine of The Australian Songwriters Association Inc.

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Chairman's Message

Hi Everybody,

Well, it certainly has been a strange few months for Songwriters, Musicians, and everyone in the Entertainment Industry. However, it is my pleasure to report that the 2020 Australian Songwriting Contest has garnered the best response ever from our Members, and Songwriters in general. We have had the greatest number of entries in every genre. What a phenomenal effort from one and all.

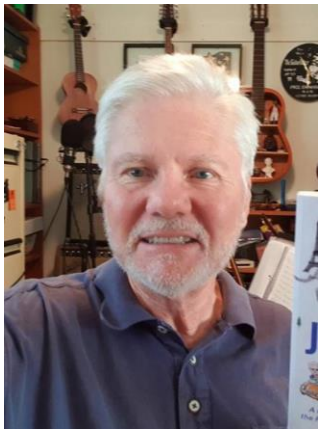
Your Board has been closely monitoring the situation regarding the ASA's ability to hold our 2020 National Songwriting Awards evening this year. However, we have received news from our preferred venue, Canterbury Hurlstone-Park RSL in Sydney, that they will not be hosting any functions until next year. With that in mind, along with the fact of closed borders all over Australia at the moment, we have made a decision to defer our signature night until early 2021.

Judging for this year's contest is underway as we speak, but due to the overwhelming amount of submissions this time around, combined with the deferral of the 'Awards Night', the procedure is taking a little more time than usual. Expect to see 'Short Lists' and 'Top Thirties' sometime in October. Also keep an eye on the ASA Website for further developments.

In the meantime, our intrepid Vice Chairman, Editor and Award-Winning Dee Jay Alan Gilmour, has compiled a most interesting eNewsletter to peruse. In these bizarre times, it helps Songwriters to keep faith that the world of music still exists. On behalf of the ASA Board, I would like to wish everyone a safe time ahead, until we can all get together again.

Denny Burgess
Chairman

Editor's Message



Hi Everyone,

With your Board now busy judging the 2020 Australian Songwriting Contest, we've found just a little time to produce the September edition of The Australian Songwriter, to keep members up to date with all things ASA. We have an interview for you with 2019 Spiritual Category winner, **Jacques Gentil**, a profile on 2019 Rudy Brandsma Award winner, **Tiffany Gow** and an ASA Member Profile on Sydney-based singer/songwriter, **Lucie Tiger**. And, of course, **Mark Cawley** joins us once again with his monthly songwriters' blog.

Take care and stay safe,

Alan Gilmour,
Editor and Vice Chairman

Important Announcements

Judging is well underway in the 2020 Australian Songwriting Contest.

The 2020 contest has received a record number of entries and the judging has confirmed the level of achievement increasing every year.

The creation of the new Comedy/Novelty Category has also produced some amazing entries.

Once the first round of judging is completed, entrants will be notified if they have reached the short list. Short-listed entries will then go on to the second round of judging from which the Top 30 songs in each category will be chosen and the finalists notified. The Top 30 songs will be placed on the ASA website and will be published in this magazine.

Further judging will select the Top 10 songs in each category as well as the Category Winners. The Top 10 songs will be announced at the 2020 National Songwriting Awards. Winners will receive their trophies and prizes and will perform their winning songs to the awards audience.

As in the past, the 2020 APRA/ASA Songwriter of the Year will be announced from among the Category Winners.

The 2020 winner of The Rudy Brandsma Award for Songwriting Excellence will be announced from the ASA member entrants who are present at the 2020 National Songwriting Awards. If the live event is unable to go ahead due to the current health crisis, the winner will be selected from all ASA member entrants in the contest.

ASA Wax Lyricals

Check with your local ASA Regional Co-Ordinator about the monthly Wax Lyrical events in your area. Most live events are on hold due to the current health crisis, but some have continued with strict social distancing in place.

Some ASA Regional Co-Ordinators are holding virtual Wax Lyricals over the internet.

2020 National Songwriting Awards

Ongoing venue restrictions at the Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club have meant that the 2020 National Songwriting Awards, which were scheduled for Wednesday 28 October 2020, have been deferred until a date in February 2021, yet to be fixed.

The ASA is working towards this new date, but due to the current health crisis, the situation is subject to ongoing review.

If the health crisis has not resolved by year's end, the ASA will investigate the viability of doing an online virtual awards presentation.

Jacques Gentil: 2019 Winner Of The Spiritual Category

Photo: Jacques Gentil with presenters, Dinah Lee (left) and Francesca de Valence (right)

Jacques Gentil was the winner of the Spiritual category in the 2019 contest with his song Blinded Mind (Bartimaeus' Song). We caught up with him at the 2019 awards for a chat. Jacques has won this category five times out of the last seven years, a mammoth effort on his part and it shows the depth of his song writing.

ASA: Welcome back, Jacques. your song is called Blinded Mind. Tell us about your song?

Jacques: I use the story of Bartimaeus from the Bible as a metaphor for the song. It's about being spiritually blind and asking the Lord to open the curtains on my blinded mind.

ASA: What made you write the song. Was there any particular event in your life that gave you the inspiration?

Jacques: Interesting that you ask that. A friend of mine was asked to preach at church and said (to me) you have a lot of songs and did I have something that I would be willing to sing, at the time.

I didn't have a song that would suit, so he asked me to write one. I only had a small time-frame, so I was under pressure, but I sat and wrote the song in about three hours. It was well received and it was suggested I record it which I did and it is a winner.

ASA: And how have you being going with your Magesongs songwriting school?

Jacques: I will give you the background of how we started. I started in 2002, basically coming from the USA. I had visited record labels publishers and songwriters in the US, so I decided to start a publishing business here, but then I couldn't find anything worth using.

I had piles of CDs that people had been sending me, but there was nothing there that I found suitable, so I decided that I would train people how to write good songs, but I found myself learning as I was teaching my new students.

I had a group of twelve in 2002, and it's because of that group that I am still doing this today, because they entered a song in the contest and it won the Youth Category. I didn't think much of it back then, but two years later, I entered myself and got fifth place in the Open Category and that's what made me decide to continue teaching.

There are a lot of people from overseas that are hit songwriters, and been successful, and they come here, but they can never tell you how they really write unless they are teachers themselves. That is why I became a teacher so I could teach students the techniques and give them the tools to write songs the music industry wants to hear.

We are still going strong.

ASA: Thank you for the chat, Jacques

Wax Lyrical Roundup

ASA Cairns QLD, 30 July 2020, Elixir Bar Cairns QLD

Cairns QLD Wax Lyricals are moving to a new home at **Wild Thyme** on Shield Street in the CBD. The first Wax Lyrical at the new venue will be in September and Julia Starr will also be doing a Songwriters Breakfast on Saturday 29 August.

Here are the last of the photos from Elixir Bar:

ASA Newcastle NSW, 19 August 2020, Carrington Bowling Club

ASA Canberra ACT, 23 August 2019, Boardwalk Bar Belconnen ACT

ASA Member Profile: Lucie Tiger

ASA member, **Lucie Tiger**, is a Sydney-based Americana singer/songwriter who has recently released a new EP called Gasoline. We caught up with Lucie for a chat.

ASA: Lucie, you have a new EP out. Tell us a bit about that?

Lucie: Yes, it's called Gasoline and it's a four track EP that I recorded last year over in Muscle Shoals in Alabama at Fame Studios. I am really excited about it I think the songs sound amazing, the musicians we used were phenomenal, I think it really encumbers things that I love about being on the road touring and travelling and finding new places and I am really happy with it.

ASA: You have had your EP launch. How did that go?

Lucie: It was super fun, I got some artists from Sydney and we all complimented each other nicely, we are all good friends and we had a live stream gig from the Mosh Pit in Newtown.

ASA: That's great, what was the reaction to your songs?

Lucie: People are loving them and saying they are energetic and great for listening to in the car and that's exactly what it is written for, so people are responding positively to my music, they are liking the songs and it's cool that others like them because I think they are great so it's nice that others also like them.

ASA: There are four tracks on the EP tell us a bit about each of them?

Lucie: The first track, Greenwood, is written about a place in Mississippi where Robert Johnson is buried, Robert being the blues musician who is said to have sold his soul to the devil for amazing guitar skills. He did the apparent deal in Parkdale Mississippi, but he met his untimely death at age 27 in 1938 in Greenwood and is buried there.

The whole song is about being stuck in Greenwood for a little while, which isn't a bad thing. I have been to his grave a few times. It's actually peaceful and lovely there. Lots of musicians go there and they leave a guitar pick or write a song there, it's a cool place to make a pilgrimage to if you are into blues and Americana music, so that's what the first song is all about.

The second song, Heartbreak, is kind of a classic break up song in the long history of break up songs, but I wanted to write a song with a twist that was about a break up but it wasn't all bad. It's not a "woe, is me" song, its more about "let's go out to a bar and have a drink and party and just forget about it and move on and keep being awesome."

Perfect is the third song and it's a typical love song about loving someone on their good days but also their bad day. You just can't love someone when they are perfect, you have to love them when they are imperfect as well.

The final song is Gasoline and is a classic blues song written about being on the road, staying in funny little motels and rolling down highways and loving being on the road but also wanting to get home to your baby.

ASA: Thanks Lucie for telling us the back stories of your songs. You toured the US last year, what was that experience like for you?

Lucie: It was amazing. I was lucky enough when I was twenty-one to go to the US with my parents. We did a trip where we drove down Highway 61 all the way down to New Orleans and I played a few gigs along the way. I loved all the places we went to, so when we were thinking of going to the States last year touring and recording, we thought we would visit those places again.

We went to Chicago first to see some of my friends and play a couple of gigs. I played at Reggie's, which is a big well-known venue, so that was cool. Everyone was having a great day because the NFL Chicago Bulls won a game.

After Chicago, we went to Tennessee, stopped in Nashville and met some amazing people. I love just meeting people on the road because you never know what's going to happen when you meet them. After meeting a couple of people as I was popping into the studio to do some recording, I ended up playing a gig with one of them on Broadway, in Nashville.

My understanding is that it can take years for an artist to get a gig on Broadway and yet I was lucky enough to get to play a gig there after two days of being there and that was very cool.

After Nashville, we went to Muscle Shoals, and that is where Aretha Franklin went from singing gospel to singing soul and its where The Swampers were based they were the backing singers for Aretha, and its where Boz Scaggs and The Allman Bros recorded and where Lynyrd Skynyrd wrote Sweet Home Alabama.

I recorded with the sessions musicians there, Bob Wray, who had played bass for Ray Charles and he toured with the Highwaymen and Will McFarlane played guitar he was Bonnie Rait's touring guitarist, and Justin Holder was on drums and he has played with a lot of Hall of Fame inductees. They were all amazing musicians and they made the songs sound next level good.

Next stop was Memphis, where I recorded at Sun Studios which was great, and the last stop was Clarksdale Mississippi, where I got to play at the Ground Zero Blues Club, which is co-owned by Morgan Freeman. It's this huge blues club in this old cotton processing warehouse building and it has a great vibe there all the time.

ASA: That leads into the next question. Your music is described as "Road Trip Americana" and you have just described why, but can you elaborate a bit more on how your sound came to be and the reason you chose it?

Lucie: When I was growing up we would go for long drives through the country in Australia, and when we were on the road, we would always play music turned up loud, and it was great stuff that my parents listened to such The Allman Brothers, Crosby Stills & Nash, Neil Young all the great old sixties and seventies stuff.

I used to love being in the car listening to that music on the way to somewhere else, and that's the sort of music I wanted to write, songs that people wanted to turn up loud on the stereo flying down a highway, its music I love to listen to and when it came to writing my own music that is what I wanted to write about.

I feel Americana is a mix of blues country and rock, but its Road Trip Americana it's what you put on the stereo when you have a six-hour drive ahead of you.

ASA: Thank you Lucie for telling us about your musical adventure.

Sponsors Profiles:

1. **Major Sponsor: Wests Ashfield Leagues Club**

Thanks to major sponsor, the **Wests Ashfield Club**.

A premier entertainment and dining venue, and home of Wests Tigers and Wests Magpies Rugby League teams, Wests Ashfield is an excellent place to visit in Sydney's inner west.

Not only supporting a host of local sporting and youth-related activities, the Club lifts itself above the rest by also being a "Patron of the Arts", as demonstrated by its incredible ongoing sponsorship of the ASA.

All music lovers are encouraged to return the favour by becoming members of Wests Ashfield and, at very least, indulging yourself by enjoying some of the culinary delights the Club has on offer.

The Club is located in Sydney's inner west, at 115 Liverpool Road Ashfield, and provides great dining restaurants, great coffee, and regular community activities for members and friends. Check out the website at www.westsashfield.com.au.

A message from Wests Ashfield Club:

"Wests Ashfield is delighted to be able to open our doors and welcome back our staff, members and guests. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of our community, the following conditions and practices will be implemented in accordance with restrictions as outlined by the NSW Government:

- Each area within the Club has been given a total capacity to comply with physical distancing measures

- Our staff have completed COVID-19 training to ensure that they comply with hygiene guidelines

- 'Mingling marshals' will be appointed to assist with any concerns, questions and ensure the safety of everyone within the Club

- The Garden Bar will be operating as a 'card only' outlet

- There will be directional signage and reminders of physical distancing

- There will be no cutlery, glass or plate settings on tables

- Staff will maintain as much distance as possible between members and guests

- Increased cleaning of common touchpoints

· Additional sanitizing stations and wipes have been installed

· For monitoring purposes, members and guests will be required to sign in and out of the Club

· The Garden and Golden Times Chinese Restaurant will not accept bookings greater than 10 people

· The Garden and Golden Times Chinese Restaurant will not hold more than 50 people at one time

We thank you for your understanding at this time and look forward to seeing you all again at Wests Ashfield."

Simon Cook

CEO

2. **Major Sponsor: APRA AMCOS**

APRA AMCOS is a major sponsor of the ASA, and provides generous support, including prize money of $3,000 annually to the APRA/ASA Songwriter of the Year, which this year, was **Steve Montgomery**.

The ASA would like to thank APRA AMCOS for its continuing support, to assist make ASA activities, such as the Australian Songwriting Contest and the National Songwriting Awards possible each year.

A message from APRA AMCOC in the current health crisis:

"Like all organisations and businesses, as the spread of COVID-19 continues we've been moving quickly to ensure the well-being of our staff around Australia and in New Zealand. Our staff across our Australian and New Zealand offices will be working from home from Wednesday 18 March. Our offices will be closed, and for now we're replacing face-to-face meetings and events with online communication and connections. We'll be reviewing these arrangements and provide an update when this changes.

We want to assure you that we're still able to help you with your membership and music licensing queries. You can send an email to apra@apra.com.au and a team member will contact you directly.

Together with our music industry colleagues around the country we're advocating for immediate Federal and State government support for all of our members, related music industry services and venues involved in the presentation music performances and events.

For our members, we'll be doing everything we can to keep our members' royalties flowing efficiently and on time. Please contact us about how we might be able to assist you at this time. Email us at writer@apra.com.au for Australia and nz@apra.co.nz for New Zealand.

The OneMusic team is online to help. We understand that the current situation may have an impact on your business. If music customers have any questions please contact us via Live Chat or email hello@onemusic.com.au for Australia and info@onemusicnz.com for New Zealand.

Event cancellations and postponements are massively impacting our members and the breadth of the music community. You might have seen the I Lost My Gig call-to-action. PLEASE contribute your story if you are a performer, DJ, crew member, manager, booking agent, promoter, hospitality worker who has been impacted. This data is being sent direct to Federal and State Government Ministers in supporting an immediate call to action.

We understand that you, your business, and the wider music industry, are facing unprecedented disruption and uncertainty. It is completely normal to experience a range of emotions at this time including sadness, anger, hopelessness and anxiety. If you feel that you are not coping, free support services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

In Australia –

Support Act Wellbeing Helpline - 1800 959 500

Mental Health Line – 1800 011 511

Lifeline – 13 11 14

In New Zealand –

Music Helps NZ Wellbeing Helpline – 0508 MUSICHELP

Safe To Talk – 1737

Thanks for your understanding of our changing work environment."

Best,

Dean Ormston

Chief Executive

3. Sydney Theatre Company

Sydney Theatre Company (STC) has been a major force in Australian drama since its establishment in 1978. The Company presents an annual season of diverse productions at its own venues at The Wharf and nearby Roslyn Packer Theatre at Walsh Bay, and as the resident theatre company of the Sydney Opera House. The current Artistic Director is Kip Williams, who was appointed in 2016.

STC offers audiences an eclectic program of Australian plays, interpretations of the classic repertoire and the best of new international writing. It seeks to produce theatre of the highest standard that consistently illuminates, entertains and challenges. It is committed to the engagement between the imagination of its artists and its audiences and the development of the theatrical art-form.

Go to www.sydneytheatre.com.au for more information.

4. Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo

Taronga Western Plains Zoo, formerly known as (and still commonly referred to as) **Western Plains Zoo** and commonly known as Dubbo Zoo, is a large zoo near Dubbo, New South Wales.

The zoo is run by the Taronga Conservation Society (formerly Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales), along with Taronga Zoo Sydney. Western Plains Zoo is located on the Newell Highway in west Dubbo about 4 km from the city.

For further information, go https://taronga.org.au/dubbo-zoo.

5. The Code

Katcha Live Studio has been operating for ten years in the Sydney suburb of West Ryde, since 2009. It is run by husband and wife team, Cha Samaraweera and Kat Ferguson.

"We opened and dedicated to teach for one reason and one reason only: "To get you performing live. Whether it's in front of your family, friends or other audiences we want to see you perform in confidence. The bottom line is to be able to perform in front of many with confidence and entertainment skills. It does not matter how old or young you are, you need to be able to do this if you want to learn an instrument." For more information, go to www.katchamusic.com.

6. Vagabond Cruises

With over three decades experience, **Vagabond Cruises** is one of Sydney Harbour's longest established cruise companies!

"As a family run business, we deliver a wide range of convenient and all-inclusive packages including live entertainment lunch and dinner cruises, private functions for any personal or formal occasion such as weddings, receptions, corporate events, harbour transfers, school formals, university parties and formals, birthdays, hens and bucks parties and much, much more!"
Further information may be found on www.vagabond.com.au.

7. PaintballBookingOffice.Com

Love paintball? Then look no further than Paintball Booking Office.

Paintball Booking Office is an international organization for paint ballers, with 22 locations around Australia.

For further information, go to www.paintballbookingoffice.com.

8. James North Productions, Brisbane QLD

James North is an award-winning Australian musician, producer, recording and mix engineer who works with local, national and international acts in his boutique studio environment in Brisbane.

James also contributes to recordings when required as a session grade guitarist, bass player, piano/keyboard player and drummer. He is also a professional songwriter, arranger and composer and these skills are used daily in the production process.

For further information, visit www.jamesnorthproductions.com.au.

9. Magesongs

Magesongs School of Songwriting has mentored over a thousand songwriters since 2002 some of whom have achieved various successes and opportunities, staffing for record labels, APRA, signed to labels, music publishers, while others forming successful bands enjoying a solo performing career.

Many of Magesongs students have made the top 10 finalists at the ASA Awards, some have been first prizes winners, and three (3) of them have taken home the prestigious APRA/ASA Songwriter of the Year Award besides Jacques Gentil himself, their mentor.

Jacques has run workshops around major Australian cities mentoring thousands of songwriters as well as via his Magesongs live web-conferencing portal. His songwriting philosophy is based on applying the tools and techniques that's proven to have worked for successful songwriters over the past decades. With an eye and ear for detail, Jacques knows what can make or break a song. His own songwriting talent has given him the opportunity to collaborate with hit songwriters such as Joe Dolce, Grammy award winners Diane Warren and Joey Kibble (Take 6) amongst others.

His webinar classes of 20 sessions cover both the songwriting and business aspect of a songwriter's career, including homework while writing one song throughout the entire course under Jacques guidance, to finally be produced in studio. If your song has never brought you any success, why not also join the ranks of Magesongs achievers and make a difference.

New live webinar classes starting soon.

Book now: 0417 585 767 admin@magesongs.com

Website: www.magesongs.com

P.O. Box 239, Hampton Park, VIC, 3976, Australia

10. Maton Guitars

Maton has been a premier Australian musical instrument maker since 1946.

Maton manufactures acoustic guitars, electric guitars, ukuleles and accessories. All Maton instruments are hand crafted in Australia from sustainably sourced Australian timbers.

Maton is a sponsor of the ASA, and each year, it presents one of its beautiful acoustic guitars as the prize for the winner of the Rudy Brandsma Award For Songwriting Excellence.

For more information: www.maton.com.au.

11. Vocal Art Studios

Established in 2003, VAS is Australia's Award Singing & Music School and the only Australian Partners of The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance in Europe as well as the leading trainers and exam centre for Rockschool in Australia.

All Levels and Ages from Beginners to Professionals; Children, Teens and Adults.

For more information: www.vocalartstudios.com.

12. Griffith University Queensland Conservatorium

Queensland Conservatorium is one of Australia's leading music and performing arts schools, offering a wide variety of specialist degrees, from classical music, jazz, opera, popular music to musical theatre, acting and music education.

Study music and performing arts at Griffith, and you'll learn in an environment that will enable you to flourish. Our award-winning teachers are dedicated to producing polished music professionals of the highest calibre. Relevant, cutting-edge courses allow students to tailor their studies to suit their interests and aspirations.

Contact the University at www.griffith.edu.au.

13.Kix Country

If you're a country music fan, The **KIX Country** radio network is the one for you.

Broadcasting throughout Regional Australia, **KIX** gives you an exceptional music choice that you can listen to at work, at home, or heading down the highway. So, keep it country and turn on to **KIX**. For more information, go to www.kixcountry.com.au.

14. Hal Leonard Australia

Hal Leonard Australia is part of the Hal Leonard Corporation, which is known internationally as the world leader in the print music industry. Hal Leonard sells some of the best-known music from some of the best known Australian and International artists. www.halleonard.com.au.

15. **QMusic**

QMusic is Queensland's music industry development association and has been transforming music industry careers since 1995.

Best known internationally for our signature event, BIGSOUND, **QMusic** also offers an extensive and free professional development program throughout Queensland, and a grants program funded by Arts Queensland.

QMusic also stages the annual Queensland Music Awards to celebrate everything that makes Queensland music great. **QMusic** works closely with government at all levels, to ensure a thriving Australian music industry, and sustains partnerships with corporate and philanthropic partners who want to support the future of Australian music.

16. **Christian Fox Accountants**

Christian Fox Accountants undertake all types of accountancy work, including Income Tax Return preparation.

They are located at 8 Ingleburn Road Ingleburn NSW 2565 and can be contacted on (02) 9829 3111.

So, if you need assistance with accounting, please contact Christian Fox Accountants.

www.

17. Ashton

Ashton musical instruments are designed in Australia for Australian musicians.

Products include acoustic guitars, classical guitars, electric guitars, drums, ukuleles and accessories.

With over twenty years of experience, Ashton's aim is to design reliable, quality equipment at affordable prices, in conjunction with industry experts.

For further information go to the web site: www.ashtonmusic.com.

18. **Black Pearl Studios**

Black Pearl Studios offers its clients a truly unique recording experience in a state-of-the-art environment. The studio was designed with the help of world-class theoretical acousticians and environmental sound specialists and constructed in Melbourne by qualified Victorian builders. The project was completed in January 2012, and since has steadily carved a reputation as a studio of the highest calibre, with a gear list that would attract the envy of the famous Abbey Road.

The fully equipped turnkey recording studio boasts two large acoustically designed studio rooms, providing clients with an exceptional creative space and a chance to record with an unrivalled collection of top quality gear. The services available include live recording, mixing and production, with access to on-site services including the legendary Black Pearl mobile studio van.

Black Pearl Studios
9/21 Capella Crescent, Moorabbin, VIC, 3189
Contact: (03) 9939 7209; 0417 356 026
Website: www.blackpearlstudios.com.au

19. **IndieCentral.com**

Thanks to IndieCentral.com for co-hosting this year's Australian Songwriting Contest.

For more information on the services offered by IndieCentral.com, visit their website at www.indiecentral.com.

20. **SongCentral.net**

Thanks to SongCentral for co-hosting this year's Australian Songwriting Contest.

For more information on the services offered by SongCentral, visit their website at www.songcentral.net.au.

Members News and Information

1. **PPCA Board responds to the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the livelihoods of its registered artists.**

The PPCA Board has moved to introduce an emergency special policy to provide one off advances, ranging from $250 to $10,000 for PPCA Registered Artists suffering hardship as a result of the unanticipated decimation of the live music sector.

Registered artists will be invited to apply, and the amount available to them will be based on their average earnings under the PPCA Direct Artist Distribution Scheme over the last three years (2017, 2018 and 2019).

Eligible artists are being contacted directly by PPCA and asked to email distribution.mail@ppca.com.au if they wish to take advantage of this opportunity.

PPCA's CEO, Dan Rosen, said: "We trust this initiative will go some way towards mitigating the devastating impact our artists are experiencing, as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. We will continue to work with our industry colleagues and Government on financial support mechanisms to ensure our artists and sector can navigate this incredibly difficult period as work opportunities vanish and social isolation increases."

2. **ASA Members, Thomas and Tessa Libreri win International Entertainer Of The Year 2020**

Destiny Band Oz has won the International Entertainer of the Year 2020 at the International Singer-Songwriters Association Awards held on the 15th August in Atlanta Georgia USA, making back-to-back wins for Destiny Band Oz after they also won the ISSA International Band of the Year in 2019!

Thomas and Tessa Libreri are absolutely thrilled and thankful for this accolade as they love to entertain! And the substantial crystal obelisk trophy which is in the post will make a total of 18 Australian and International awards since their first single release in only 2017. Congratulations Thomas and Tessa.

3. ASA Member, Katie Hardyman, Wins Best Song at Los Angeles Film Awards

ASA Member, **Katie Hardyman**, has won Best Song in the Los Angeles Film Awards for Always By Your Side.

The song was co-written with Mick Taylor (UK) and was performed by Anna Weatherup.

Always By Your Side was by inspired by Katie's nephew, Tom Hardyman, who tragically lost his battle to sarcoma cancer in April at the age of 20, during COVID-19.

Katie's dream has always been to have her songs included in film and she hopes through these wins she might be one step closer to achieving that.

Congratulations Katie.

(Katie was the 2011 winner of The Rudy Brandsma Award.)

4. Australian Government Support For The Arts

The Australian Government's RISE Fund is supporting the arts and entertainment sector to reactivate. The program is targeting funding towards the arts and entertainment sector organisations who are seeking to restart, re-imagine or create new activities.

The program is intended to assist by providing finance to assist the presentation of new or re-shaped cultural and creative activities and events.

Paul Fletcher, Minister For The Arts

Funding application period: August 31, 2020 09:00 AEST to May 31, 2021 23:30 AEST

COVID-19 update.
With the COVID-19 (or Coronavirus) pandemic affecting all of Australia's arts and cultural sector, the operations and financial stability of arts organisations have been significantly affected.

The RISE Fund is delivered to support artists and organisations affected by COVID-19 through the delivery and presentation of activities across all art forms to audiences across Australia. Projects that target audiences in outer metropolitan, regional and remote areas will also be taken into account, as well as projects that involve tours and use local regional production, services and support acts.

Activities will contribute to the organisation's financial viability, job creation, and support for Australian artists or performers and their work. They will provide experiences to audiences, and/or be of a nature that is likely to be popular with Australian audiences.

Up to date information about COVID-19 and how it relates to the arts sector, can be found on the COVID-19 update page.

If you have any questions or need further information, please email the RISE Fund at: RISE@arts.gov.au or call (02) 6271 7971.

Program information

The RISE Fund is investing $75 million in 2020-21 as part of the Australian Government's Arts and Cultural Development Program that supports participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression.

Funding application period: Fund opens on 31 August 2020 and will remain open until all funds are allocated or until 31 May 2021, whichever is sooner.

To apply for funding through the RISE Fund, organisations should submit an application using Department's SmartyGrants online portal. The SmartyGrants application form is designed to assist applicants to demonstrate how their proposal meets the objectives of the program by addressing all the assessment criteria. All eligible applications will be competitively assessed against the assessment criteria.

Before applying, you must read the RISE Fund guidelines. The guidelines include eligibility criteria and information about the application and funding process. The guidelines and frequently asked questions (FAQs) can be accessed at the Australian Government's GrantConnect website.

Contact:

Phone: (02) 6271 7971
Email: RISE@arts.gov.au

5. APRA AMCOS Details Concerns Over Proposed Copyright Reforms

APRA AMCOS has released a statement expressing their concerns over proposed copyright reforms announced by the Australian Government.

In a media release shared on 13 August 2020, the Australian Government announced its plans to move forward with changes to copyright framework.

The prospective reforms will "allow the use of material if the copyright owner cannot be found, introduce a fair dealing exception for non-commercial quotation, simplify and update copyright exceptions for educational and cultural institutions, and streamline the government statutory licensing scheme".

Arts Minister Paul Fletcher said the aim of the changes is to "better support the needs of Australians to access content in an increasingly digital environment."
Dean Ormston, CEO of APRA AMCOS, has since detailed concerns the music rights organisation holds over what these proposed changes will mean for creators.

"It always seems like music creators and performing artists are the ones continually asked to make concessions to those that use their content, even during the worst crisis to ever hit the music industry," said Ormston.

"While we will reserve judgment until we have seen the detail of the proposed reforms, we are concerned that they fail to recognise the significant impact COVID-19 has had on local songwriters, composers, music publishers and artists.

"…The recent announcement by the government fails to recognise these concessions and pursues an argument that users of creators' content have been denied access to that content over the last six months. We challenge that proposition.

"We agree there are important steps to modernise copyright in Australia, but it really is past time for music creators to be better supported by any proposed reforms."

The Australian Government is planning to release draft legislation of the proposed copyright reforms for public consultation later this year.

6. ASA Member Diane Merchant Seeking Songwriting Collaborator

ASA member, Diane Merchant is seeking a music composer to help create songs from the lyrics that she has written. If you are interested, please contact Diane on merchantdiane@gmail.com.

7. ARIA-PPCA-Australia Council First Nations Sound Recording Partnership

The Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) in partnership with the Phonographic Performance Company of Australia (PPCA) and the Australia Council for the Arts will deliver a grant partnership, the ARIA-PPCA-Australia Council First Nations Sound Recording Partnership.

This partnership will support five First Nations Australian artists or groups to create new sound recordings. The initiative is designed to provide an opportunity for First Nations artists to create sound recordings, and access advice and managerial support to grow their audience.

There are five grants of **$18,500** (ex GST) each available. This is a once-off initiative offered in 2020.

As part of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Audience and Market Development activities, the final five successful applicants will be invited to apply for up to $10,000 towards promotion and marketing of the recording. Details will be provided to successful applicants.

This funding has been provided through the Australian Government's Indigenous Contemporary Music Program aimed at increasing development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musicians and bands. It is one of five programs under the $30.9 million Australian Music Industry Package announced in the 2019-20 Commonwealth Budget.

The Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) is a national industry association proactively representing the interests of its members, which range from small 'boutique' labels typically run by 1-5 people, to medium size organisations and very large companies with international affiliates. ARIA compiles and publishes numerous weekly ARIA Charts and stages the highly prestigious annual ARIA Awards.

The Phonographic Performance Company of Australia (PPCA) represents thousands of Australian recording artists when their music is used in public. In 2019 PPCA distributed almost $50 million to its registered artists and record labels. It is free for Australian artists to register with PPCA.

Amount: There are five grants of $18,500 (ex GST) each available.

Applications close: Tuesday 20 October 2020 for projects starting after 1 January 2021

The round closes at **3pm AEST** on the closing date.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application approximately 7 weeks after the closing date.

8. Could This Be The Future Of Live Music?

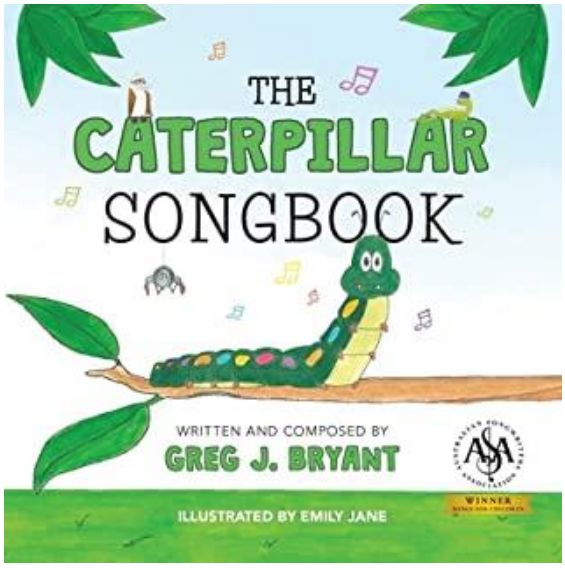
The UK's first social distancing concert took place this month at a pop-up venue at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Around 2,500 fans gathered on 500 separate raised metal platforms to watch British singer/songwriter, Sam Fender, perform, offering a possible glimpse into the future of live music events in the current coronavirus pandemic.

Concert goers wore masks while walking around the venue or purchasing food and drinks.

Could this be the future of live music?

9. **Greg J Bryant's Caterpillar Songbook**



Greg J Bryant was the winner of the Songs For Children Category in the 2012 Australian Songwriting Contest with his song, The Caterpillar Song.

Greg is a singer/songwriter, and now author, from the Gold Coast of QLD.

Greg has just released a children's book titled The Caterpillar Songbook, based on his winning song.

The Caterpillar Songbook

by

- Greg J Bryant (Composer),
- Emily Jane (Illustrations),
- Gwyneth Jane Page (Goodreads Author) (Editor)

Out one day in the hot, hot sun, little Caterpillar having lots of fun, Skipping his feet, trying not to run, singing his favourite CATERPILLAR SONG!

On his travels, the little caterpillar meets Harry the Spider, Maggie the Kookaburra and her two babies, and Larry-Kin the Lizard, who all think he will make tasty meal, indeed...until he starts singing his favourite Caterpillar song, that is!

Join the caterpillar and his new friends on this magical journey in becoming a beautiful BUTTERFLY!

Greg's book is available online at www.thecaterpillarsongbook.com.au.

Tiffany Gow: 2019 Winner of the Rudy Brandsma Award

Photo: The 2019 Rudy Brandsma Award Nominees (Left to Right): Sani Bolton, Melissa Robertson, Kym Watling, Kevin Taylor, Lucy McKinnon, Lucy (Tiger) O'Connor, Michael Wilks, Adrian Ayre (Maton Guitars), Tiffany Gow (2019 Rudy Brandsma Award Winner), and Alan Gilmour (ASA Vice Chairman).

NSW Central Coast singer/songwriter, **Tiffany Gow**, was the 2019 winner of the Rudy Brandsma Award for Songwriting Excellence.

Tiffany received her award at the 2019 National Songwriting Awards for her song, No Fear. Tiffany was also previously the 2017 winner of the Rock/Indie Category for her song, Broken.

Tiffany has gone from strength to strength since winning the prestigious Rudy Brandsma Award in 2019 for her heartfelt ballad, No Fear.

In addition to receiving the Rudy Brandsma Award, Tiffany was also honoured with five additional 2019 Top 10 Awards in five different Categories:

- 'Broken' - Open and International Categories;
- 'Numb' - Rock/Indie Category; and
- 'No fear' - Ballad Category and 'The One' Spiritual Category.

From regularly performing live with the brilliant Champagne And Jam Band in 2019 and early 2020, to very busily preparing more exciting new plans for 2021 - Tiffany will be recording 2 more new tracks with Multi-Platinum Award Winning Producer: Adrian Hannan from The Songstore in 2020.

Adrian also Produced 'Broken', which won the Rock/Indie Category at the ASA Awards 2017 and 'Never Get Over You', which has received International applause, accolades and award nominations.

A proud successful Independent Musician, Tiffany is also a Voice Over Artist. Studying Voice Over techniques with renowned Voice Over Artist: Gary Mac, who originally founded of The Melbourne Radio School.

Additional career achievements include:

- Her self-funded debut album 'No Fear', followed by
- Collaborations EP 'Metal Magic' featuring one Australian and eight International Artists - creating 10 brilliant collaborations in total.
- From there Tiffany successfully raised a recording budget of US$50,000 with over 440 International fans through popular Musician crowdfunding platform 'Sellaband', to record and release her 2nd full length album: 'Deeply Drowning In Deception'. She was the 3rd Australian and 27th International Artist to achieve this tremendous goal.

- Career highlights in 2020 include being announced as a Semi Finalist for the 'Music Video Of The Year' Category for her heartfelt song : 'Never Get Over You', in the prestigious annual Independent American Awards – The Josie Music Awards.

- Tiffany was also Awarded a Semi Finalist in The UK Songwriting Contest 2019 with 'Broken' in both the Rock and Open categories, as well as her current release 'Never Get Over You', receiving high commendation status in both categories and over 20,000 video views.

2021 will see her 2 brand new exciting tracks released as well as numerous live in studio radio interviews and an extensive marketing and publicity campaign to coincide with both.

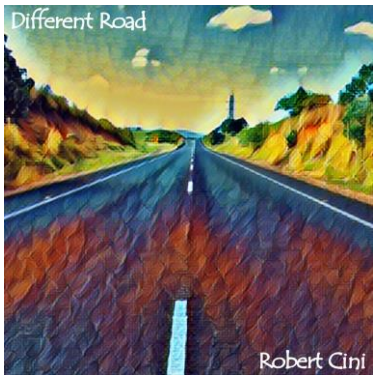
Please do join and support Tiffany at: www.facebook.com/TiffanyGowArtist.

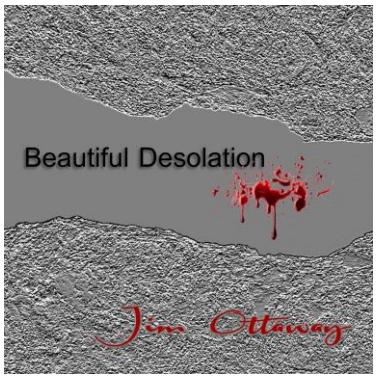
All of Tiffany's music including Award Winning Tracks 'No Fear' and 'Broken', are available for download on Itunes: https://music.apple.com/au/artist/tiffany-gow/287272202 CD Baby and all major digital stores.

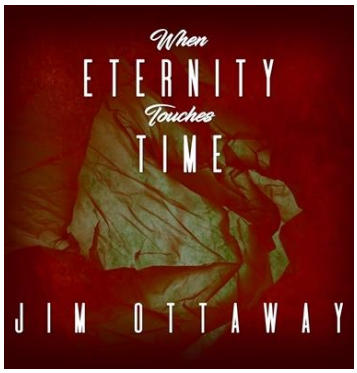
-0-

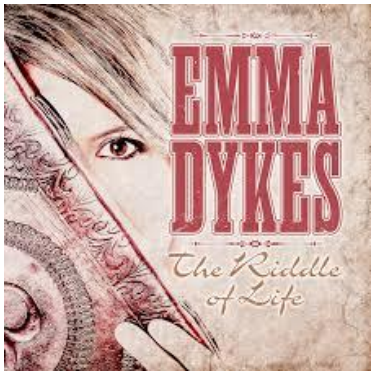
New Music Releases From ASA Members And Friends

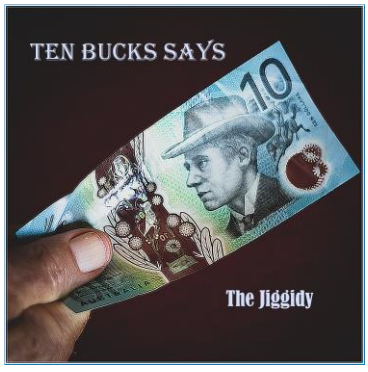
If you have any new music releases, let us know and we'll feature them here.











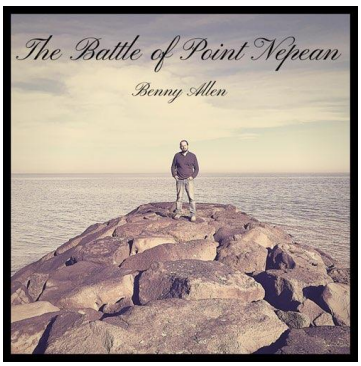
One Song
composed and performed by Galliano Sommavilla

One Song 2
composed and performed by Galliano Sommavilla

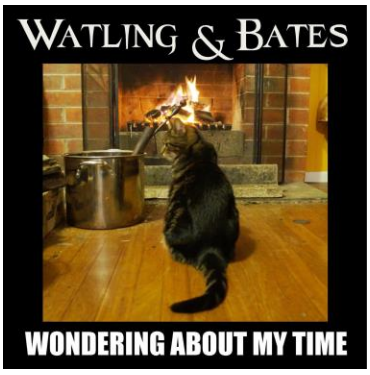
One Song 3
composed and performed by Galliano Sommavilla

One Song 4
composed and performed by Galliano Sommavilla

One Song 5
composed and performed by Galliano Sommavilla

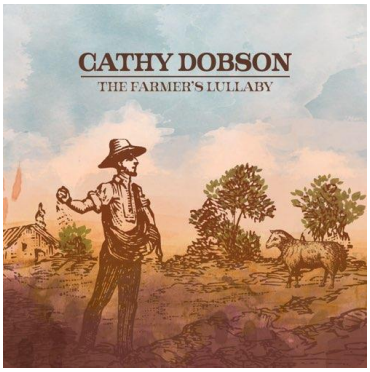

The Battle of Point Nepean
Benny Allen

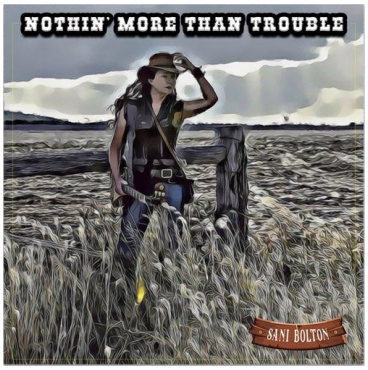
Slice of Heaven
DESTINY BAND OZ


WATLING & BATES
WONDERING ABOUT MY TIME

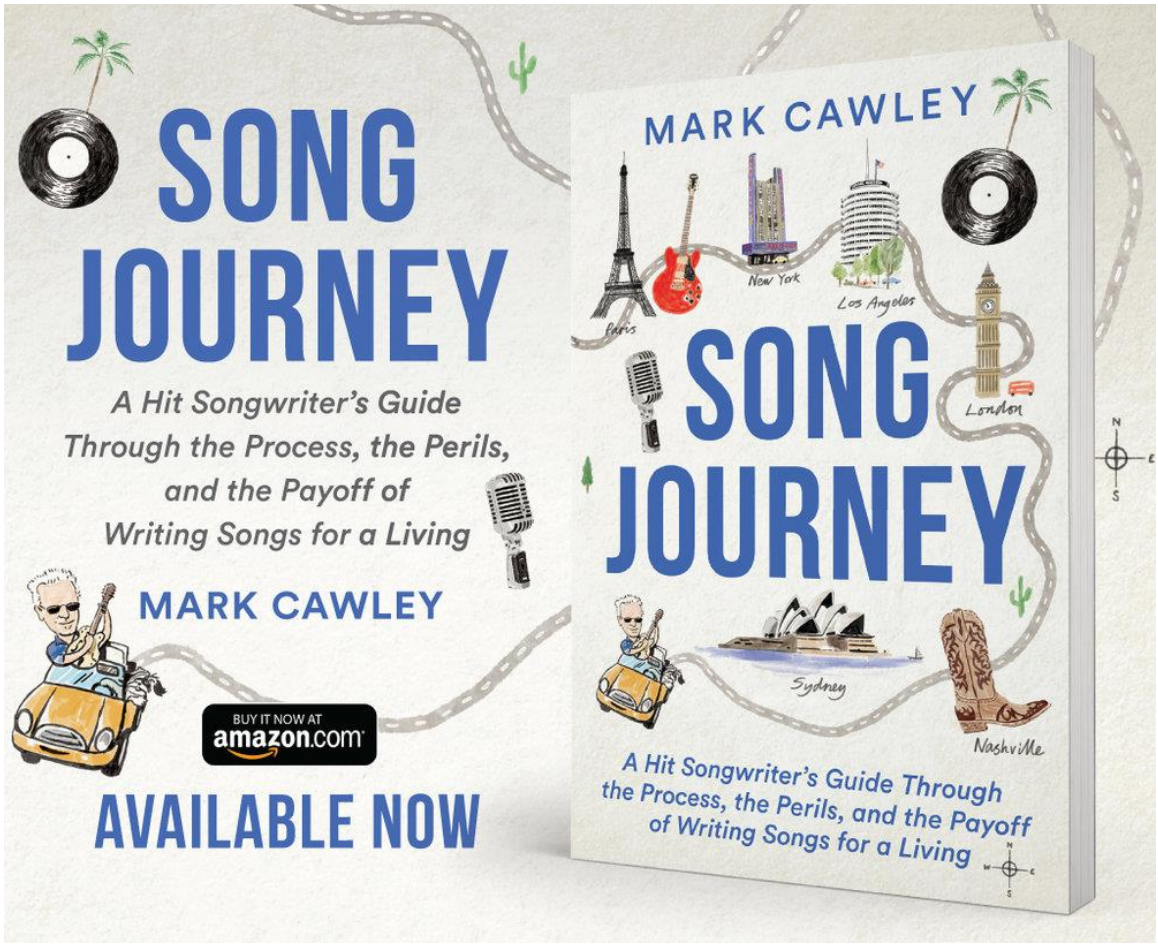
KATHY COLEMAN
Go Marry A Cowboy

Some Loving Left
SUSAN MURANTY
To do


CATHY DOBSON
THE FARMER'S LULLABY


NOTHIN' MORE THAN TROUBLE
SAM BOLTON

Mark Cawley's Monthly Songwriting Blog



Songwriting In Silence

As I write this month's blog we're still in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. It's easy to find the things that have altered your everyday life. **How about your songwriting existence**?

Playing your songs live? Not happening. Getting together to co-write? A non-starter. In-person workshops, songwriting camps, seminars? No, no, and no.

There's something else I've noticed during this time. **Silence. I know my world has gotten quieter.** I coach a lot of songwriters from all parts of the world and I'm hearing some of the same comments about these times we're living in. "My songwriting has gone to a deeper level", "Almost like I'm hearing myself for the first time", "I just have more time …to think!" I get it.

How about you? I think it has so much to do with the newfound silence. There is power in silence. There is so much noise around us every day, some of it of our own making. All of a sudden it feels like we have more time to contemplate an idea and to take our time to develop our songs.

Less outside interference to block your reception and, for your songwriting, this can be a huge benefit. Almost feels like you can turn your focus inward, the world can wait while you write and the silence around you allows your subconscious to have more airtime.

Instead of feeling like you need to fill the empty space with more notes and more words, how about embracing a slower, **more thoughtful pace?**

Think you could spend a good portion of your songwriting day with the sound of silence? I highly recommend giving it a shot. Check out this link to an article about the creative power of silence when you have a few minutes.

Psychology Today April 21, 2017 article by Atalanta Beaumont. "10 Reasons Why Silence Really Is Golden".

I'm currently coaching writers worldwide, online, one on one and taking new clients for the spring. Visit my website for more info www.idocoach.com or write to me at mark@idocoach.com*.*

Mark Cawley
Nashville Tennessee
July 21, 2020

Mark Cawley is a hit songwriter who coaches other writers around the globe through his one-on-one, online service iDocoach.com.

His songs have been on more than 16 million records with cuts ranging from Tina Turner to Wynonna Judd to The Spice Girls. His book, Song Journey, was released in April 2019 and went to #1 in 6 categories on Amazon.

Mark is a judge for the UK Songwriting Contest, Nashville Rising Star, Belmont University's Commercial Music program, and West Coast Songwriter events.

He's also a contributing author to USA Songwriting and Songwriter Magazine, a sponsor for the Australian Songwriting Association, and a mentor for The Songwriting Academy UK. Born and raised in Syracuse, New York, Mark now resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Load Out

Locked down? Can’t get out to gigs? No gigs to go out to anyway? Then, this might be the answer. Lie back and relax in your own home with your best friend (your guitar that is) and pretend that this will all be over soon. Sweet dreams.

Official Sponsors of the Australian Songwriting Contest

About Us:

The Australian Songwriters Association Inc. is a national, not-for-profit, member organization, dedicated to the support of songwriters and their art, by providing avenues for encouragement and education of developing Australian songwriters, and recognition and promotion of our accomplished members.

Aims of the Association:

- To celebrate the art of songwriting;
- To assist and encourage developing Australian songwriters;
- To provide information and general advice to members;
- To create performance opportunities for members;
- To aid the professional development of members;
- To enable members to meet and/or exchange ideas and information;
- To facilitate member transition into the established music industry;
- To facilitate delivery of member services at a National, State and Regional level;
- To salute our best songwriters at major industry events such as our National Songwriting Awards Night.

History of the ASA:

The Association was founded in Melbourne VIC in August 1979 by the late Tom Louch (1932-2009) and the late Rudy Brandsma (1944-1983), who saw the need for an organisation that would bring Australian songwriters together.

Today, the Association has a vibrant membership Australia-wide and enjoys an established and respected role within the music industry.

The ASA's membership is diverse and embraces and explores all genres of music.

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Youtube:	www.youtube.com/austsongwriters

Patron: Glenn A Baker

Life Members: Tom Louch, Rudy Brandsma, Russell Zimmer, Dominic Crea, Marie Murphy, Colleen Zulian, Alex Bialocki, Rob Fairbairn, Brian Henderson Ward and Kieran Roberts.

Directors:

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Alan Gilmour	Vice Chairman, Public Officer, Financial Officer, Online Content Manager and Editor of The Australian Songwriter Magazine
Clare Burgess	Director, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary
Gary Luck	Director and Manager of Regional Co-Ordinators

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2019 APRA/ASA Australian Songwriter of the Year

Steve Montgomery (NSW)

2019 Rudy Brandsma Award Winner

Tiffany Gow (NSW)

2019 PPCA Live Performance Award Winner

Winner: Frances Madden (NSW)

Runner-Up Prize, In Memory Of The Late John Manners: Robert Cini (QLD)

2019 ASA Regional Co-Ordinator Of The Year:

Paul Vella (Central Coast NSW)

Australian Songwriters Hall Of Fame:

2019: Andrew "Greedy" Smith & Martin "Plaza" O'Doherty (Mental As Anything)

2018: Iva Davies (Icehouse)

2017: Vikki Thorn, Donna Simpson & Josh Cunningham (The Waifs)

2016: Andrew Farris and Michael Hutchence (INXS)

2015: Johnny Young

2014: Kate Ceberano

2013: Garth Porter (Sherbet)

2012: Don Walker (Cold Chisel)

2011: Steve Kilbey (The Church)

2010: Richard Clapton

2009: Ross Wilson (Daddy Cool, Mondo Rock)

2008: Doc Neeson, John Brewster & Rick Brewster (The Angels)

2007: Brian Cadd

2006: Glenn Shorrock, Beeb Birtles & Graeham Goble (Little River Band)

2005: Russell Morris

2004: Harry Vanda, George Young & Stevie Wright (The Easybeats)

Lifetime Achievement Award:

2017: Christine Anu, for her work as a Songwriter in the Music Industry for First Nations Peoples

2019 Australian Songwriting Contest Category Winners:

Steve Montgomery (NSW) (Australia Category)

Steve Montgomery (NSW) (Ballad Category)

Jemma Siles (VIC) (Contemporary Pop/Dance Category)

Jason Greenwood & John Greenwood (VIC) (Country Category)

Robert Cini (QLD) (Folk/Acoustic Category)

Robbie Bostock (QLD) (Instrumental Category)

Donna Dyson (QLD) & Damien Leith (NSW) (International Category - Joint)

Samantha Mooney (QLD) (International Category – Joint)

Charlie Cacciola (QLD) (Lyrics Category)

Jourdain Wongtrakun (VIC) (Open Category)

Skii Harvey (NSW) (Rock/Indie Category)

Anna Van Riel (NSW/NZ) (Songs For Children Category)

Jacques Gentil (VIC) (Spiritual Category)

Jazzy Dale (NSW) (Youth Category)

Australian Songwriters Of The Year & Rudy Brandsma Award Winners:

The title of **Songwriter/ Song of the Year** was first awarded in 1980, following the establishment of the ASA in late 1979. **The Rudy Brandsma Award** was first awarded in 1983, following the passing of ASA co-founder, Rudy Brandsma.

	Songwriters Of The Year	Rudy Brandsma Award Winners
2019	Steve Montgomery	Tiffany Gow
2018	Anirban Banerjee	Lola Brinton
2017	Steve Montgomery	Samantha Mooney
2016	Donna Dyson & Damien Leith	Alex Tobin
2015	Karen Guymer	George Begbie
2014	Rick Hart	Robert McIntosh
2013	Jacques Gentil	Dani Karis
2012	Andrew Winton	Melia & Nerida Naughton
2011	Brian Chapman	Katie Hardyman
2010	Kate Rowe	Karen Guymer
2009	Tony King	Kate Lush
2008	Jason Campbell-Smith	Jo-Kelly Stephenson
2007	Simon Shapiro	Brenda-Lee Heathcote
2006	Emma Joleen	Daniel Arvidson
2005	Michael Maher	K'Crasher
2004	Trish Delaney-Brown	Callee Mann
2003	Contest Not Held	Contest Not Held
2002	Kyls Burtland	Sara Downs
2001	Helen Mottee	Keith Armitage
2000	Andrew Horabin	Tomino Speciale
1999	Alf Tuohy	Mike Kidd
1998	Kyls Burtland	Not Known
1997	Xanthe Littlemore	Michael Waugh
1996	Mark Crocker	Felicity Hunt
1995	Rob Pippan	Sharon Bothe
1994	Danny Hooper & Steve Cole	Nigel Foote
1993	Not Known	Billy Dettmer
1992	Not Known	John Cooney
1991	Not Known	Not Known
1990	Ian Paulin	Jane Robertson
1989	Steve Wade	Not Known
1988	Steve Wade	Steve Wade
1987	Not Known	Not Known
1986	Rob Stambulic	Stu Storm
1985	Ross Nicholson & John Coco	Steve Wade
1984	Not Known	Debbie Bignell & Tony Stark
1983	Chris Lamech & Debbie Bignell	Chris Lamech & Debbie Bignell
1982	Not Known	N/a
1981	Not Known	N/a
1980	Not Known	N/a
1979	Commenced in 1980	Commenced in 1983

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