

New Brisbane-based foundation steps in to back Australia's next generation of music talent

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As Australian artists continue to punch above their weight globally, a new national arts foundation is investing in the next generation committing to supporting emerging Australian musicians.

The Di Jameson Family Foundation (DJFF) today announces its public launch and philanthropic commitment to help sustain talent pathways at a time when public funding and industry support are under pressure.

Australia produces world-class musical talent well beyond our size. Yet opportunities for young artists are narrowing, particularly outside major metropolitan centres.

Founder Di Jameson OAM says DJFF has been established to help bridge that gap, investing in our talent to make sure it is not lost before it can thrive.

DJFF is headquartered in Brisbane, reflecting Queensland's growing cultural ambition and emergence as a global city ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"Queensland has produced and nurtured classically trained artists now known the world over - from signer Kate Miller-Heidke to violinist Ray Chen to pianist Piers Lane - proving that global success can start here," said Di Jameson OAM.

"We want to ensure more young Australian musicians to have that same opportunity, regardless of their postcode or background."

The Foundation has already completed its first round of grant partnerships across Queensland, Victoria and South Australia, with an investment of \$200,000 across 4 programs supporting music education, regional access initiatives and development programs for emerging performers, composers and educators.

Among the inaugural partnerships are programs focused on pre-tertiary pathways, high-school composers, Indigenous storytelling through music, and resident artist development within professional companies.

"Access to music can shape confidence, curiosity and a sense of possibility - especially when it begins early and is sustained over time," Ms Jameson said.

"We want to make sure Australia's next generation of musicians are equipped to take their place on the world stage."

As it moves forward, DJFF remains committed to thoughtful, collaborative philanthropy - investing where early access, mentorship, and sustained support can create long-term impact.

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About the Di Jameson Family Foundation

The Di Jameson Family Foundation (DJFF) was established by Di Jameson OAM to support emerging musicians and the organisations that nurture them across Australia. The Foundation invests in structured pathways, regional access, mentorship, and the long-term conditions that allow musical talent to grow. DJFF is committed to thoughtful, collaborative philanthropy with a focus on early-stage development and sustained impact.

Among the Foundation's inaugural grant partnerships:

- **Australian Festival of Chamber Music - Pathways Pre-Tertiary Program:** DJFF's investment underpins a new stream within the AFCM's established Pathways Program, delivered in collaboration with Musica Viva's Strike a Chord, extending structured development opportunities to younger musicians - including those in regional communities.
- **Australian Young Composer Program - National High School Composer Pilot:** Supporting the development of emerging composers at a critical and often underserved stage of their careers.
- **Melbourne Chamber Orchestra - Storytellers Program: Wurrtoo!:** Connecting musical storytelling with Indigenous cultural narratives to expand artistic and cultural access for young audiences and participants.
- **State Opera South Australia - Resident & Emerging Artists Program:** Creating structured pathways for early-career singers and performers within a professional company environment.