

KATE MILLER-HEIDKE

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28 May 2019

Re: The Phone Call: An opera in one act.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the application submitted by Ali McGregor for the research and development of 'The Phone Call: An Opera in One Act'.

I am very excited to be collaborating on this project alongside Queensland composer Connor D'Netto, Director Patrick Nolan and soprano Ali McGregor. I am looking forward to bringing my experience writing opera, musical theatre and popular song to this unique work.

My experience writing the opera 'Rabbits' (commissioned by Opera Australia in 2015) and my adaptation of 'Muriel's Wedding' in 2017 has given me a unique perspective on creating work for the theatrical stage that crosses genres and platforms.

To be able to create something that can be presented outside the bounds of social distancing is also essential in our current situation.

The story being told in The Phone Call is one that speaks strongly to me as a woman and as a mother. It discusses heavy themes with grace and hopefulness and thematically is an important discussion to be exploring on the theatrical stage.

Ali McGregor has a proven track record of bringing together creatives from a variety of artistic practices. Her Artistic direction of Adelaide Cabaret Festival was renowned for her unique approach to cross-genre programming and I was particularly impressed with the creative team and concept she brought together recently for Opera Victoria's Lorelei.

If this submission is accepted it will give us the opportunity to collaborate with Opera Queensland on this project in depth and to find new technological ways of presenting the operatic voice.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Kate Miller-Heidke'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Kate Miller-Heidke

Monday 25 May 2020

To Whom It May Concern

I write to confirm Opera Queensland's full support for the development of *The Phone Call*, a new opera by Kate Miller-Heidke, Connor D'Netto and Ali McGregor.

Opera Queensland is committed to the development of new works that embrace the potential of the art form to reach new audiences through new ways of presentation and approaches to composition – *The Phone Call* is a project that pursues these aims with clear intent and purpose.

All the artists involved in *The Phone Call* bring a deep understanding of the multiplicity of genres contained under the term "contemporary music". The three musicians - Kate, Connor and Ali - are all classically trained singers who have extended their practice into popular and experimental forms. This enables the project to explore a musical language that responds particularly well to the needs of presenting the work as a streamed performance.

Our aim is to premiere *The Phone Call* as an online opera, downloadable to peoples' mobile devices, creating an opportunity to explore a world remarkable for its intimacy and nuanced emotional range.

This approach is also a direct response to the challenges we are facing as a result of COVID-19. We may not be able to gather in theatres, but we can still create a space to develop and present new, original works.

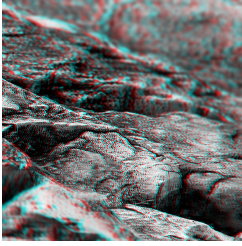
The funding applied for allows the artists to spend 10 days developing the script and exploring the musical territory of the opera, providing an excellent foundation to pursue further investment in the work.

I wholeheartedly encourage you to support this application and would happily speak to my support if the panel requires.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Nolan'.

Patrick Nolan
Artistic Director & CEO
Opera Queensland



Connor D'Netto

Composer | Performer | Photographer | Artist

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27 May 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

re: "The Phone Call" – Ali McGregor's application for funding

I am writing to express my whole-hearted support of Ali McGregor in her application of funding towards the research and development of a new opera "The Phone Call", a collaboration between herself, Opera Queensland, Kate Miller-Heidke and I.

Ali first approached me about a potential collaboration back in January, her having been introduced to my work by Katie Noonan. I was very interested in the possibility of collaboratively creating a new opera, especially having heard so much about her recent production *Loreli*. (which I was so disappointed to not be see its Queensland debut after its cancelation due to COVID-19)

The project that Ali has put together is one I am extremely looking forward to collaborating on. Not only am I excited to have the opportunity to compose for opera, the creative team Ali has put together shows a wonderfully contemporary approach to the medium, bringing together creatives from various musical and artistic backgrounds who share artistic and aesthetic values; it is a team that I am most excited to collaborate with.

I understand and confirm my involvement in this project, participating throughout the research and development, composing the opera, and its production stages.

Dedicating funding to the early stages of this project would provide much needed support to get a project like this off the ground, especially in the current situation we find ourselves, and I strongly encourage you to consider supporting this project.

Kind Regards,

Connor D'Netto