



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Chair), Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Deputy Chair)
Mr Mark Parton MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the cessation of the Music
for Colleges course

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To Whom This may Concern,

I would like to voice my opinion that the H course, taught at Canberra School of Music should NOT be ceased, and for it to finish would be a devastating blow to the Canberra Music Education Community.

I am a graduate of the ANU School of Music (Jazz Studies, Hons, 1st Class) and completed the H course, when it was still called "Prep/Type 1"

It was an essential transition for me, advancing my studies as an electric guitarist, to the point where I was ready to audition for the Bachelor Degree. I believe it would have been impossible for me to prepare without the weekly lessons, ensemble training, and aural / theory coaching. A huge part of the success of the program was allowing like minded young people such as myself to meet, form community as well as training and preparation for further studies.

I have gone on to be a professional guitarist (as well as composer and singer). I have performed on many of Australia's great stages (Opera House etc), all of the major City-based Arts festivals (Sydney/Adelaide/Melbourne etc), many high profile blues and rock and world festivals (Byron Bay/Woodford/Woman of the World etc), major events such as The Closing Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games and toured through Europe and Asia. I have recorded as a session musician for dance and television, and worked along side names such as The Catholics, Jim Conway, Kate Cebrano, Tim Rogers, Urthboy, Deborah Conway, Katie Noonan, All my Exes Live in Texas and more. I have released 5 of my own studio albums and been commissioned as a composer. Most recently I was a composer in residence for the Canberra International Music Festival. I can surely trace my successes as a musician back to those early years, when I was lucky enough to be an eager young music student in Canberra, when there was such high level opportunities.

There are many of us graduates of "H course" and the Degree (especially the Jazz course), enjoying national and internationally recognised careers.

As well as a successful performing career I am a passionate educator. I have taught tertiary courses at The Australian Institute of Music (SYD) , The University of Western Sydney, CIT, ANU as well as teaching guitar for over 20 years. I perform for Musica Viva in Schools and currently direct "Girls Swing On" a course at the ANU open school, designed to inspire more women to play jazz.

The troubles that have plagued the ANU school of Music since 2012 have been very upsetting to see, and the cessation of the H course seems to me like the last straw, and one of the best things still standing after the tearing apart of the entire school.

Please show us the ACT Government wants to rebuild Canberra's reputation as a hub of music excellence, and accessible opportunities for young people, and re-instate this program.

Yours Sincerely

Jessica Haas (nee Green)

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