

SONG SUMMIT

19-21 JUNE 2010

VIVID SYDNEY
A FESTIVAL OF LIGHT, MUSIC & IDEAS

Speech given by The Hon. Virginia Judge, MP NSW,
Minister for the Arts.

25 March 2010

“If a composer could say what he had to say in words, he would not bother trying to say it in music.”

Just over a month ago I shared a remarkable experience with the man who said those words, Gustav Mahler.

It's been one hundred years since the death of Mahler but thanks to the brilliance of Vladimir Ashkenazy and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra I could have a conversation with Mahler in Australia's greatest building and share in the glory majesty and perfection of the composer.

Because in music we reach out to the infinite reminding ourselves of the life we share with others and the stories we pass on.

It's such a privilege to be here to launch Song Summit and to say from the bottom of my heart, with a voice worn out from singing too hard in my youth: **Thank you.**

Song Summit is where the best of our music, this expression of who we are and the journeys we are on, brings together local and international songwriters and music industry experts, spanning all facets of the music life-cycle, to network and jam and connect, debate, educate, and of course, make beautiful music.

A three-day conference and Music Market will be most of it ... plus Song Summit LIVE, a nightly, uncorked eruption of music which I cannot wait to be part of! That is because it is part of what I, as Arts Minister and as Virginia Judge, music lover, believe in:

I believe in a creative NSW deeply involved in new forms of personal magic, new explorations of the ear and the mind and the thinking heart.

I believe in a supportive NSW where the human spirit is nourished and reborn into new glories of sound, symphony and song.

These are my core passions and beliefs and I know yours will be duly debated and mused upon at Song Summit and at Song Summit LIVE where your audiences will become part of your beliefs, your musings, your MUSIC.

Creators of original music have written an Australian success story like no other.

The world dances to our tunes and I look forward to a wealth of new delight, new zones and spectrums of sound which, with a little help from its friends struts its stuff and shows what mere mortals can do.

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I'd like to congratulate APRA/AMCOS on Song Summit 2010 particularly Sally Howland and her team for producing such an exciting event for our city. As part of the Vivid Sydney festival of music, light and ideas Song Summit will amplify our creative capacity and appetite.

In only its second year, Vivid Sydney is fast becoming an integral part of our city's rich artistic tapestry. At the beginning of the month it was a great thrill to share the news that Lou Reed and Laurie Anderson will curate Vivid Live - the centrepiece of the Festival. They will build on Brian Eno's incredible legacy and bring their own, fresh ideas to ensure Vivid Live hits new creative heights. The 2009 Vivid Sydney festival attracted more than 200,000 people to The Rocks and Circular Quay - 20,000 visitors from interstate and overseas.

Events NSW estimate Vivid Sydney will attract 300,000 people this year and generate up to \$10 million in economic activity for the State. From May 27 to June 21, our city will be transformed from Hyde Park, through Macquarie Street, the Sydney Opera House, and Circular Quay and now thanks to Song Summit and Song Summit LIVE the magic will spread to Darling Harbour.

Be inspired and moved by this vibrant and multi-faceted event.

