Senator The Hon Z. Seselja

Assistant Minister for Treasury and Finance

PO Box 6022

House of Representatives

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

1 February 2019

Dear Assistant Minister,

**Symphony Services Australia pre-Budget submission on priorities for the 2019-20 Federal Budget**

Symphony Services Australia (“SSA”) provides services to Australia’s six symphony orchestras (the Adelaide, Melbourne, Queensland, Sydney, Tasmanian and West Australian Symphony Orchestras), on whose behalf we make this submission. The symphony orchestras are also members of the Australian Major Performing Arts Group (“AMPAG”) which has made a separate pre-budget submission. SSA supports the key data and recommendations contained in that submission.

We draw your attention to the 2018 review of the Major Performing Arts (“MPA”) Framework and note its importance in the ongoing stability and creativity of Australia’s MPA companies. SSA welcomes any strengthening of the MPA Framework, which supports the six symphony orchestras in delivering high quality orchestral music to all Australians regardless of where they live, how old they are or how much they earn. A separate submission has been made to the Dept of Communications and the Arts on this subject.

SSA supports the following pre-Budget recommendations from AMPAG:

2019-ongoing Retain commitment to a refreshed MPA framework

2019-2020 Invest an additional $25m per year for 4 years into the Australia Council for:

* + - National performing arts portfolio (MPA) companies, including capacity for new entrants into the Framework
    - Strategic initiatives that enable increased exposure, professional development and distribution
    - The establishment of a seed fund for major new works

2019-2020 Increase investment in the Playing Australia fund by $1.25m per year for 4 years to support regional performing arts access, creation and engagement

2019-2020 Allocate funds to undertake a review of the small to medium performing arts companies and individual artists to establish a robust business case for growth and sustain ability across the entire performing arts sector

2019-2020 Commit to $0.9m in new funding per year over 5 years for the development of a National Indigenous Arts and Cultural Authority (NIACA)

Yours sincerely,



Kate Lidbetter

Chief Executive Officer