



MEDIA RELEASE
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QUEENSLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO STEP DOWN

The Board of Queensland Music Festival has today announced that Executive Director **Nigel Lavender** will depart the organisation in November 2018.

Mr Lavender has recently celebrated 10 years in the role, having joined QMF in 2008 following his immigration from the UK. Throughout his tenure, Mr Lavender has led the successful delivery of five state-wide biennial festivals, reaching more than 600,000 attendees across regional, remote and urban communities.

He has also spearheaded significant growth in government, philanthropic and corporate partnerships revenue, up 40 per cent over the decade to more than \$8M.

This year, Mr Lavender led QMF's successful bid for its new role as State Coordination Office for the Queensland Regional Arts Services network.

Queensland Music Festival Board Chair, **Dominic McGann**, acknowledged Mr Lavender's 10 year leadership of the organisation.

"On behalf of the Board, I welcome the opportunity to publicly thank Nigel for his vision, dedication and tireless service to QMF," Mr McGann said.

"Under his stewardship, the reach, breadth and depth of the organisation and its program have all been extended. While Nigel will be sorely missed, QMF is well-placed to continue to contribute to the cultural life of Queensland, and that is a legacy of which Nigel can be justifiably proud."

Throughout Mr Lavender's tenure, QMF has operated a successful partnership model uniting communities and delivering major events across multiple genres in regional, remote and urban locations, telling local stories and using music as a platform for social awareness.

"I am immensely proud of my time and achievements with QMF," Mr Lavender said.

"From every standpoint, professional and personal, I feel privileged to have had the chance to lead this unique organisation. After 10 years of sustained growth for the Festival, and following establishment of the State Coordination Office, which will support and enable regional artists and communities across Queensland, I am calling time.

"I have had the great pleasure of working with a fantastic team and a great Board, and look forward to watching QMF fulfil its potential in next year's 20th anniversary year."

A recruitment process for the role will commence shortly.

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Queensland Music Festival is a state-wide celebration of music with a vision to transform lives and communities through music. Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland.

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