



QMF.ORG.AU

**MEDIA RELEASE
TUESDAY 7 MARCH, 2017**

Queensland Music Festival calls out to emerging songstresses on International Women's Day to show what they're made of in 2017

On the eve of International Women's Day, Queensland Music Festival (QMF) Artistic Director, Katie Noonan, alongside fellow female musicians Deborah Conway, Clare Bowditch and Hannah Macklin, is reaching out to emerging female singer-songwriters in Mount Isa, Mackay and Gladstone to participate in the inaugural *Songs That Made Me* mentorship program.

Emerging female singer-songwriters of all ages from the Mount Isa, Mackay and Gladstone regions are invited to upload a video entry of themselves performing two songs - an original song and a song that inspired them to become a singer-songwriter - a song that made them. The most promising talent will be selected to participate in an exciting new mentorship and performance program. Entries can be submitted at qmf.org.au, applications close on 19 May 2017 and the finalists will be announced in late May.

Designed to empower and support emerging female singer-songwriters in regional areas, the program seeks to address the low percentage of registered female Australian musicians - recent APRA AMCOS (Australasian Performing Right Association and Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society) statistics highlighted a female membership of only 21.7 per cent.

QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan is a fierce advocate for female musicians.

"I am extremely passionate about empowering and supporting female musicians. Females are currently under-represented in the music industry, and challenges are compounded in regional areas through a lack of access to resources and mentors," said Ms Noonan.

"*Songs That Made Me* will help connect emerging artists in regional Queensland to established female musicians, developing vital skills that could launch new careers."

Minister for Women, Shannon Fentiman said the Queensland Government is proud to support the Queensland Music Festival which connects and transforms communities across the state through vibrant musical experiences.

"This year the state government is also supporting QMF to realise several programs— including

the inaugural *Songs That Made Me*, *On Song* and *SCORE IT!*, and another exciting initiative that will soon be announced - that focuses on empowering women, social cohesion, youth engagement and community revitalisation.

“As we celebrate Queensland Women’s Week, and on the eve of International Women’s Day, *Songs That Made Me* highlights the potential of our emerging female musicians—particularly in remote and rural areas,” Minister Fentiman said.

“We all have a role to play in creating a society that is connected, feels safe and is inclusive - and one that recognises the achievements of women and girls.

“Katie Noonan’s vision of providing our community with a voice through music is inspiring, and I strongly encourage emerging regional female singer-songwriters to submit an application.”

The *Songs That Made Me* mentorship program will kick off in June when selected artists from each region will participate in a mentoring workshop in their hometown with Katie Noonan and music educator Leigh Carriage. They will also receive mentoring from local talent - Megan Sarmardin in Mount Isa, Kristin Berardi in Mackay, and Hayley Marsten in Gladstone.

In July, the finalists will participate in a local masterclass with Deborah Conway, Clare Bowditch and Hannah Macklin before performing alongside these signature artists, their local mentor and an all-female rhythm section featuring Myka Wallace (drums), Jess Green (guitar) and Helen Svoboda (bass guitar) in a local concert. The concerts in Mount Isa, Mackay and Gladstone will also include a local choir or ensemble.

The *Songs That Made Me* tour will conclude with a very special concert at The Tivoli in Brisbane, where audiences will be treated to a sizzling line-up featuring Katie Noonan, Deborah Conway, Clare Bowditch, Hannah Macklin, the all-female rhythm section, Brisbane choir Cheep Trill, and regional mentors Megan Sarmardin, Kristin Berardi and Hayley Marsten.

The aim of the *Songs That Made Me* program is to empower and support Queensland female musicians. As such, it seems fitting to take the opportunity to pay tribute to Carol Lloyd, Australia’s original ‘Rock Chick’ from Queensland who paved the way for the careers of countless female musicians and who recently lost her battle with pulmonary fibrosis.

In 2016, the inaugural *Carol Lloyd Award* was launched in her honour, to provide a platform to kickstart the career of an emerging female musician from Queensland. With support from Arts Queensland, APRA AMCOS and Hutchinson Builders, the successful applicant will be awarded \$15,000, and with this, have the opportunity to record their own full length album or record and tour their own EP.

Katie Noonan is reminding emerging singer-songwriters from across the State to make sure they submit before entries close on Friday 31 March.

Registration and entry details for *Songs That Made Me* and *The Carol Lloyd Award* can be found at gmf.org.au.

The *Songs That Made Me* project is presented by Queensland Music Festival, Brisbane City Council, Mount Isa City Council, Gladstone Regional Council and Mackay City Council, and is proudly supported by Queensland Government, APRA AMCOS, Australia Council for the Arts, RODE Microphones and The Tivoli.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. This project has also received support through the Playing Queensland Fund.

ENDS

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

Follow QMF on:

Facebook: /qldmusicfest
Twitter: @qldmusicfest
Instagram: @qldmusicfest
YouTube: /qldmusicfest
Hashtag: #qldmusicfest

MEDIA CONTACT

Please click here to access images. For further information and interviews please contact:

Mitchell Van Homrigh

Agency North

0432 157 268

mvanhomrigh@agencynorth.com.au



Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government