

President's Report to AGM

Terena Pope, President | SAPPS Music Society Board Ltd | 2026

Introduction

It is with pleasure that I present this report outlining the principal actions, achievements, and ongoing work of the Board throughout the past year. The Board has continued to advance the objectives and operations of the Primary Schools Music Festival (PSMF), ensuring strong governance, operational efficiency, and sustainability of our programs.

Key Actions & Decisions

1. Venue Negotiations & Future Planning

- Continued efforts to secure long-term bookings at the Adelaide Festival Theatre (AFT) and responding to an unexpected venue clash for the 2026 concert series.
- Alternative venue investigations included the Adelaide Entertainment Centre (AEC) and other options, with stakeholders such as the Minister's Office and Catholic Education SA actively engaged.
- The impact of venue uncertainty on program planning and repertoire selection was carefully assessed and managed.

2. Financial Strategy & Fee Review

- Comprehensive review and adjustment of participation fees across SAPPS Choir, Orchestra, Troupe, and Hosts for 2026.
- Fee structure changes included removal of second child discounts, absorption of the music levy, and incremental fee increases, whilst maintaining accessibility via sports voucher provisions and school card discounts.
- Ticket price review occurred, resulting in a slight increase and agreement to incorporate a social justice component in future arrangements.
- Addressed projected financial losses and enhanced focus on sponsorship and fundraising, including approval for new fundraising initiatives such as a wine fundraiser (details in progress).
- Affiliation fees for Adelaide and regional schools revised and formalised for 2026.

3. Program Development & Participation

- Approval of annual repertoire by committee, including a diverse range of commissioned and existing works.
- Ongoing advocacy and collaboration with Instrumental Music, aiming to increase communication and support.

- Discussions and policy regarding complimentary concert tickets and their impact on participation and finances.
- Year 7 participation requests in regional festivals were carefully considered and policy clarified.

4. Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement

- Strengthened relationships with Department for Education (DfE) via regular communication, collaborative projects, and attendance by DfE representatives at meetings.
- Initiated and maintained communications for sponsorship and fundraising, with appointment of Heidi von Bernewitz as Development and Marketing Manager.
- Mailchimp used for broader communication and advocacy on behalf of principals, teachers, and community.

5. Governance, Policy & Compliance

- Induction of new board members and reappointments ratified at AGM.
- Honourarium payment policy discussed and further documented; compliance with audit advice regarding conflict-of-interest forms and best practice.
- Manager, Director of Music, Treasurer, and HPI Representative reports received and accepted throughout the year.
- Required documentation (audit and financial) managed and submitted as per policy.
- Life Memberships awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to the program.

6. Other Actions and Acknowledgements

- Ongoing review of PSMF vehicles funding, with DfE support explored and deferred pending further discussion.
- Continued efforts to encourage principal engagement on SAPPA Talk and increase parent member involvement via EOI advertisements.
- VIP functions, guest hosting, and media presence refined and delivered as part of the festival's community-building efforts.

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the following individuals for their outstanding contributions:

- Irene (Manager), Robyn (Director of Music), and Cathy (Assistant Director of Music): Their dedication, leadership, and outstanding quality of work have

been instrumental in the successful delivery of the concert series and the ongoing vitality of our programs.

- Simon Smith (Treasurer): For his diligence in fulfilling the role, producing clear and detailed financial reports, and ensuring our financial health and transparency throughout the year.
- Staff Coordinators: Sincere thanks to all staff who undertake coordinating roles and provide exceptional support, organisation, and commitment behind the scenes.
- Debbie Hemming: For her unwavering support of the Festival of Music program and her advocacy with DfE personnel, which has been invaluable to the success of the program.

Conclusion

The Board has demonstrated commitment and leadership throughout the year, successfully navigating significant external and internal changes. Our focus remains on ensuring the enduring quality, accessibility, and sustainability of the Primary Schools Music Festival.

I extend sincere thanks to all Board members, staff, teachers, parents, our partners in DfE, and the wider community for unwavering support and engagement.

We look forward to another year of growth, collaboration, and musical excellence.

Terena Pope

President, SAPPS Music Society Board Ltd