

To whom it may concern,

My name is Marlene Cummins – I'm a Guguyalanji/Woppaburra musician/song-writer/saxophonist. I am also an activist, story-teller, cultural educator and broadcaster for Koori Radio.

In 2022, SIMA helped me produce a major work titled 'Marloo's Blues', that was premiered in concert at the Sydney Int'l Women's Jazz Festival in October 2022.

This concert included multiple elements that individually I could have handled, but collectively SIMA's support made it possible. Rex Goh, Calvin Welch, Noel Emolwy have been instrumental in supporting my music, off their own backs for many years.

I had an opportunity and privilege, which has been previously denied to pioneering indigenous jazz and blues musicians, because of the ongoing political landscape. Hence, the reason I performed their songs in Marloo's Blues, to pay respect to that denial.

I'm passionate about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island jazz and blues musicians, who have not had the opportunity to tell their stories. I'm furthering my acknowledgement of these musicians with my next major documentary "Common Ground Blues". SIMA took into consideration, my whole story and helped me feel culturally safe in the mainstream music environment as opposed to those pioneering musicians mentioned.

First and foremost, I appreciate immensely the overwhelming support of the above musicians, and newcomers connected to SIMA Ben Hauptmann, and Lauren White.

Zoe Hauptmann, Amy Curl and Reuben White have technical expertise as producers, that I'm very appreciative to have worked with. I have so much respect for all three of them, as their willingness to listen respectfully to cultural differences when dealing with AB&TSI people – and the necessary cultural protocols.

In conclusion, I appreciate that SIMA not only enhanced my musical career immensely but is acknowledging the need for more inclusion and respect to Australia's AB&TSI presence, history and culture – by way of presenting and supporting their jazz and blues. This is extremely culturally significant and important work, and I look forward to seeing more concerts presented by SIMA featuring AB&TSI musicians.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marlene Cummins". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Marlene Cummins

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