



Tuesday 26 April 2022

**MEDIA RELEASE: For immediate release**

## **BIGSOUND RETURNS BIGGER THAN EVER IN 2022 FOR ITS 21st BIRTHDAY!**

**21st BIRTHDAY | 21 VENUES | 150+ BANDS | 3 NIGHTS**

**Artist applications now open!**

Gearing up to blow out 21 candles on its birthday cake, **BIGSOUND**, the **southern hemisphere's biggest celebration of new music**, is returning to take over Brisbane's Fortitude Valley from **6 - 9 September**. The huge milestone is being celebrated with new additions to the festival and conference program and we're thrilled to share some of the exciting details today.

Finally back to an in-person event, the first since 2019, BIGSOUND is now more important than ever. As the live music and events industry realises the current landscape, it's time to reconnect with each other to navigate the post-pandemic future through live music, idea sharing, change-making conversations and the electric energy that BIGSOUND provides.

**QMusic CEO Kris Stewart** says, *"This year sees the return of our first live conference and festival since 2019. We're feeling from the industry far and wide that they're itching to be back in rooms together and we couldn't be more excited to get artists back on stages and industry back in their live element."*

Over the years, BIGSOUND has given some of the biggest names in Australian music their start, including A.B. Original, Ball Park Music, Courtney Barnett, DMA's, Flume, Gang of Youths, The Jungle Giants, Miiesha, RÜFÜS DU SOL, Sampa the Great, Tkay Maidza, Tash Sultana, Thelma Plum, Vera Blue, Violent Soho, Ziggy Ramo and many more. And with that in mind, we're pleased to announce that **artist applications for BIGSOUND 2022 are now open**.

**[APPLY HERE!](#)**

Former BIGSOUND artist and newly elected **QMusic Management Committee member Thelma Plum** says she can't wait for Fortitude Valley's streets to come alive, with the incredible energy BIGSOUND brings.

*"Growing up in Meanjin, BIGSOUND has always been such a huge vibe where fans, artists and industry from all over the country assemble over our common love for music. I played my first BIGSOUND in 2013, when I was super young, it was a huge opportunity for me and I absolutely encourage artists to apply. From totally new artists to more established acts, the line-up is always amazing."*

BIGSOUND has always been a place of discovery for the music industry and music fans alike. This year will be no different, with the domestic and international industry there to discover and sign artists, form partnerships, catch up and celebrate the reopening and re-emergence of our music scene.

BIGSOUND Festival **Co-Programmer Ruby-Jean McCabe** said *"By the time we get to September, it will have been three years since we have had an in-person BIGSOUND. This year we're going big with 150 artists across 21 venues. That's 300 performances over three nights with our industry all in the same rooms again across Fortitude Valley."*

*"It's been two years of artists sitting in their bedrooms, lounge rooms, hometowns. These are artists who may not have yet performed live but are ready to make their industry debut at BIGSOUND. We'll also have export-ready favourites to rediscover who will finally be able to impress BIGSOUND's international delegates and speakers and take their music overseas."*

## **WHAT'S NEW IN 2022?**

This September will see the addition of a new arm of the BIGSOUND family in the form of **BIGSOUND Country**. Australia has been identified as the world's fastest-growing country music market, however the conference and development side here at home still has plenty of room for expansion. Introducing BIGSOUND Country, which will fill this gap by creating artist and industry development opportunities whilst further growing the profile of Australian country music both here and overseas.

Developed in partnership with industry bodies including **APRA AMCOS** and **The Country Music Association of Australia (CMAA)**, and supported by the **Brisbane Economic Development Agency**, BIGSOUND Country will be threaded throughout this year's event, and will include a party, showcases, dedicated panels and a special show featuring some of Australia's finest country music artists.

BIGSOUND 2022 is looking for Australia and New Zealand's finest country music artists, in particular those who may have felt in the past BIGSOUND wasn't for them.

Kris Stewart said, *"Our feedback in the past has been that a large proportion of country music artists and industry haven't felt that BIGSOUND serviced them. We want to change that. We want artists from every spectrum of country music; pop, alt-country, bluegrass, First Nations country artists. Everybody!"*

**ARTIST APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN AND CLOSE ON FRIDAY 20 MAY**

**APPLY NOW - [bigsound.org.au](https://bigsound.org.au)**

## **BEHIND THE SCENES:**

### **BIGSOUND 2022 Programming Team:**

Festival Co-Programmers - Dominic Miller & Ruby-Jean McCabe

Conference Programmer - Tom Larkin

### **QMusic's Safety and Diversity Advisory Group (QSDAG):**

Michelle Pitiris, Bridgette Di Ferdinando, Cat Clarke, Demeila Thompson (dameeela), Thelma Plum, Shaan Ross-Smith and Zoe Davis.

## **ABOUT BIGSOUND**

Produced by QMusic, BIGSOUND is the southern hemisphere's largest new music export showcase and conference. Now in its 21st year, BIGSOUND is where the national and international music industry come together to discover talent, share ideas, conversations, networks and facilitate essential dialogue about the future of the music industry. Held every September, BIGSOUND showcases some 150 acts across live music venues in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley, attracting more than 1500 national and international delegates and visitors.

## **BIGSOUND IN NUMBERS**

Festival

300 Artist Showcases

21 Fortitude Valley Venues

20+ Official BIGSOUND Parties

16,000 Festival Attendees

Conference

150+ Conference Speakers

1500+ Conference Delegates

55+ Conference Sessions

## **BIGSOUND**

Tuesday 6 - Friday 9 September 2022

Fortitude Valley

Brisbane, QLD

[WEBSITE](#) | [FACEBOOK](#) | [INSTAGRAM](#) | [TWITTER](#) | [YOUTUBE](#)

BIGSOUND is produced by QMusic

*QMusic pays its deepest respect and acknowledges the traditional custodians of whose land music and conversations are created at BIGSOUND. We also pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.*

*Across Australia, from our cities to the regions and our most remote communities, we celebrate and recognise the critical role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists have played and continue to play in the Australian music landscape.*

QMusic is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its principal arts funding and advisory body. QMusic is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, IMAGERY, INTERVIEW REQUESTS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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Assets available [here](#)