

CIMA
CANADIAN INDEPENDENT MUSIC ASSOCIATION

MMF
MUSIC MANAGERS FORUM
CANADA

BIGSOUND

Canadian Export Mission to Australia

2026



Global Affairs
Canada

Affaires mondiales
Canada

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FACTOR Canada

This project is funded in part by FACTOR, the Government of Canada and Canada's private radio broadcasters.
Ce projet est financé en partie par FACTOR, le gouvernement du Canada et les radiodiffuseurs privés du Canada.



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am delighted to welcome the Canadian Music Trade Mission to the Gold Coast and Brisbane for BIGSOUND. The companies, recruited by the Canadian Independent Music Association and the Music Managers Forum Canada, represent a taste of Canada's dynamic music sector.

BIGSOUND is a fantastic event that attracts global music interest, investment and visitation. It offers an ideal setting to engage in conversations inspired by music, entrepreneurship and innovation.

Australia and Canada share creative strengths, deep synergies and a history of cultural exchange. These connections create fertile ground for partnership and collaboration. This mission exemplifies Canada's commitment to trade diversification and to supporting the global reach of our creative industries.

Facilitating partnerships in the creative industries is an important part of Canada's trade promotion and public affairs engagement in Australia. We proudly promote Canadian music, film, theatre, visual art, literature, publishing and digital art across festivals and events, building bridges between both nations.

We look forward to sharing conversations and music with you at BIGSOUND.

Sincerely,

Ghislain Robichaud
Consul General of Canada in Sydney



Chers amis,

Au nom du gouvernement du Canada, je suis ravi d'accueillir la mission commerciale canadienne de la musique à Gold Coast et à Brisbane à l'occasion de BIGSOUND. Les entreprises, sélectionnées par la Canadian Independent Music Association et le Music Managers Forum Canada, offrent un aperçu du secteur musical dynamique du Canada.

BIGSOUND est un événement exceptionnel qui suscite l'intérêt, attire les investissements et des visiteurs du monde entier dans le domaine de la musique. Il offre un cadre idéal pour engager des discussions inspirées par la musique, l'esprit d'entreprise et l'innovation.

L'Australie et le Canada partagent des atouts créatifs, de profondes synergies et une longue histoire d'échanges culturels. Ces liens constituent un terrain fertile pour les partenariats et la collaboration. Cette mission illustre l'engagement du Canada en faveur de la diversification commerciale et du soutien mondial de nos industries créatives.

Faciliter les partenariats dans les industries créatives constitue un volet important de la promotion commerciale et de l'engagement en matière d'affaires publiques du Canada en Australie. Nous sommes fiers de promouvoir la musique, le cinéma, le théâtre, les arts visuels, la littérature, l'édition et l'art numérique canadiens à travers divers festivals et événements, jetant ainsi des ponts entre nos deux nations.

Nous nous réjouissons à l'idée d'échanger avec vous et de partager de la musique lors de BIGSOUND.

Cordialement,

Ghislain Robichaud
Consul général du Canada à Sydney

From the BIGSOUND Team

Dear Friends,

On behalf of QMusic, it is a pleasure to welcome the Canadian Independent Music Association and Music Managers Forum Canada to Brisbane and to BIGSOUND 2026.

We are delighted to have you join us in this milestone year as BIGSOUND celebrates its 25th anniversary. Your presence adds another valuable perspective to the conversations, connections and creative exchange that sit at the heart of this event.

BIGSOUND brings the global music industry together to discover new artists, exchange ideas, build relationships and turn conversations into opportunities. With strong creative communities and independent music sectors, Canada and Australia have much to learn from one another and great potential to build meaningful connections.

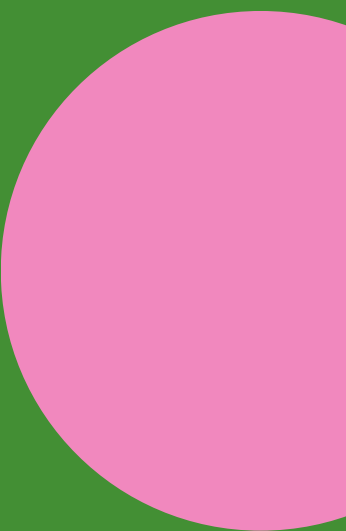
We hope this mission gives you the chance to discover outstanding Australian and New Zealand artists, connect with industry colleagues and establish partnerships that continue well beyond your time in Brisbane.

Most of all, we hope you enjoy the energy, creativity and hospitality that make BIGSOUND such a special part of the Australian music calendar.

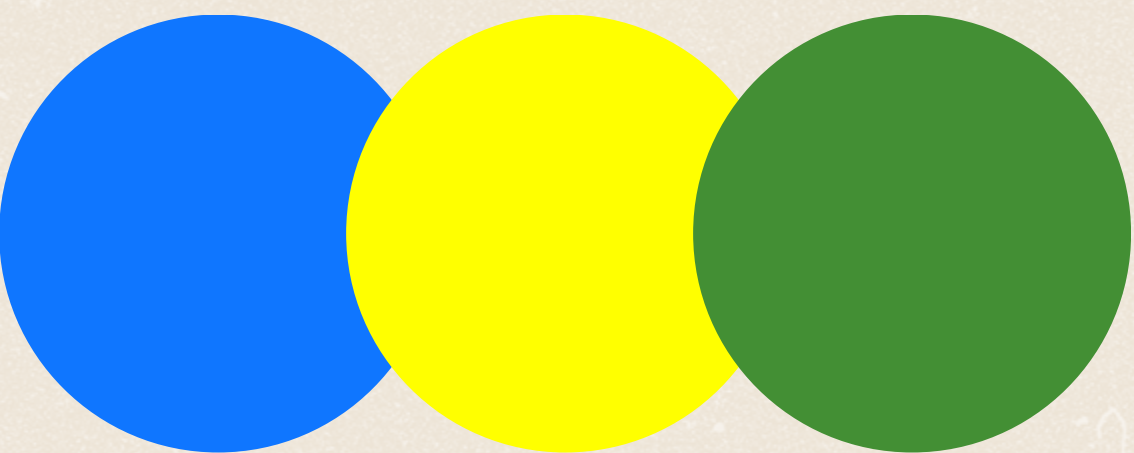
Thank you for making the journey to Australia and for being part of BIGSOUND 2026.

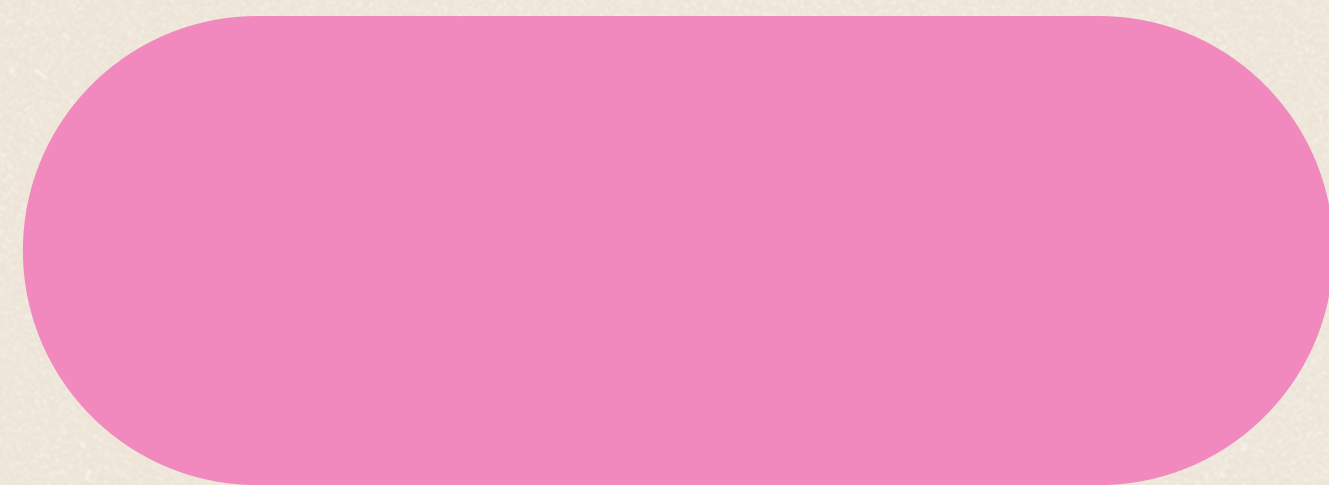
Welcome to BIGSOUND. Welcome to Brisbane.

Sincerely,
Kristy Ellis
Interim CEO, QMusic



CANADIAN

DELEGATION 

 DIRECTORY



Alexander Wyder

Artist Manager

High Tide Artists

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Alex Wyder is the founder and artist manager at High Tide Artists, a Vancouver-based artist management and development company representing a dynamic roster of Canadian musicians. With experience spanning international export missions across the UK, Europe, Asia, and the Americas, and jury roles with FACTOR, Music BC, and Creative BC, Alex is committed to building global pathways for Canadian artists.



Brandi Sidoryk

Artist

Brandi Caroline

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Brandi Caroline is an artist crafting cinematic Americana rooted in the wide-open landscapes of the Canadian Prairies. Blending intimate storytelling with echoes of 1970s rock, folk, and orchestral dream-pop, her music is both expansive and deeply personal. Following a celebrated career with award-winning country act Nice Horse, Caroline launches her solo project with Living Room, her debut album produced by Murray Pulver, releasing October 2026. A 2025 CCMA Bass Player of the Year nominee, she has performed across North America and earned sync placements for film and television, including a cameo in the Netflix series “My Life with the Walter Boys.” Her songs capture the beauty, heartbreak, and resilience of life on the modern frontier.



Brodie Metcalfe

Artist Manager

Meta Arts Management Inc.

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Brodie is a Canada-based artist manager and tour manager. He's worked with various acts over the years in Hip-Hop, Alternative Hip-Hop, Pop-Rap, Rock-Rap, Alternative, R&B and Electro-Pop. Always looking for artists with a unique point of view and something to say, he's gravitated to acts that go against the grain of mainstream success. As someone that used to work on the live side of music, booking acts for large-scale festivals, he takes special care in developing live shows for touring acts. Most successfully, he's been the key behind-the-scenes person in the rise of Hip-hop duo, Snotty Nose Rez Kids helping them land historic wins and significant touring opportunities both as headliner and as support for acts like Tom Morello, PUP, Cypress Hill and Chance the Rapper. His roster includes Snotty Nose Rez Kids and Toronto-based pop-rap artist, Lex Leosis.



Diana Studenberg

President

Trope Music Inc

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Diana is a Juno-nominated songwriter, music supervisor, actor and musician in the progressive rock band, Trope, and former mechanical engineer graduate/IT consultant.

Most recently in film, she has co-produced/music supervised a documentary with the CMF and a Canadian network and is in pre-production on a limited series that she will co-producing, music supervising and post-production supervising.

With Trope, she has toured all across North America and Europe numerous times, supporting large progressive rock bands. Their single 'Pareidolia' charted at #1 on rock radio in Bulgaria. Trope opened for Sevendust at Summerfest, and shared stages with Nuno Bettencourt and Mike Mangan and headlined festivals in Eastern Europe. Their double album 'DYAD' will be out Fall 2026.



Erin Kinghorn

General Manager
Ishkode Records
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Erin Kinghorn owns eEK! Productions, a label services company based in Toronto, Canada. She holds the position of General Manager at Ishkōdé Records, an Indigenous- and women-owned label which is committed to amplifying Indigenous voices for a time of healing, freedom and wholeness. Ishkōdé’s roster includes Amanda Rheame, Aysanabee, Digging Roots, Keith Secola, Logan Staats, Morgan Toney, Sebastian Gaskin, Siibii and Thea May.



Hollis Brunt

Director of Live Performance
Misfit Music Inc
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misfitmusicmgmt.com

Hollis Brunt is the Live Performance Manager at Misfit Music Inc., specializing in touring and live strategies including bookings, community engagement, and speaking opportunities while ensuring concerts and tours run seamlessly from negotiation to tour management. Their work centers on opening doors, building visibility, and supporting queer artists as they step confidently into bigger stages and new opportunities.



Jeff Sheppard

Artist Manager & Booking Agent
Laughing Heart Music
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Jeff Sheppard is an artist manager & booking agent with Laughing Heart Music Ltd. (LHM), an Atlantic Canadian-based music company dedicated to artist development, touring, label representation and export growth. Based in Newfoundland & Labrador, Jeff plays a key role in advancing the careers of both emerging and established artists across the region. Through his work with LHM, he has contributed to the success of a diverse roster, including Rum Ragged, Inn Echo, Daniel James McFadyen, Silver Wolf Band, Kelly McMichael, Rube & Rake, Jing Xia, and many others.



Kimberlee Shelley

Artist Manager
Kirk Diamond Music
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Kimberlee Shelley is a cultural connector, curator, community advocate, and music industry professional dedicated to advancing Canadian talent and creating meaningful opportunities for artists and creatives. She currently manages 3x JUNO Award-winning reggae artist Kirk Diamond, overseeing artist management, strategic partnerships, and international market development. Kimberlee is a CIMA member, CARAS delegate, and has served as a JUNO Awards judge. She is also a member of ADVANCE, Canada's Black music business collective. In 2026, she was selected as part of the Women in Music Canada delegation to Tallinn Music Week. Her work spans artist management, cultural programming, and community engagement, building connections that strengthen Canada's creative ecosystem.



Matt Maw

Founder, Lead Artist Manager
SUPERCONNECTED

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wearesuperconnected.ca

Matt Maw (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation) is the founder of SUPERCONNECTED, a Toronto-based music company spanning artist management, label services, and music and culture consulting. He has built a career around developing sustainable, award-winning careers for Canadian artists, including Sebastian Gaskin, SUUNCAAT, Boogey The Beat, Wolf Saga, and Miesha & the Spanks.

In 2025, Matt was named to Billboard Canada's inaugural "40 Under 40" for his leadership in Indigenous representation in Canada's music industry, the same year Sebastian Gaskin won his first JUNO Award. In 2026, Matt received the Trailblazer Award from Music Managers Forum Canada, honouring his work advancing Indigenous music and the launch of SUPERCONNECTED. He sits on the boards of MMF Canada and the BreakOut West Indigenous Advisory Committee.



Martin Mayer

Concert Pianist, Composer
& Recording Artist

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martinmayer.com

Martin Mayer is a Canadian concert pianist, composer, and recording artist with a 30-year international career spanning Europe and the Asia-Pacific. Dubbed "Canada's Prince of Piano" by the Beijing Times, he has toured China extensively — including a 20-city tour with Beijing Poly Theatre Group — and sustained a 13-year festival partnership in Taiwan. His 2025 neoclassical album, "The Solo Piano Collection," features Grammy-winning violinist Charlie Bisharat and is paired with a companion sheet music book. Fully independent and self-managed, Martin also champions musician health and wellbeing through his advocacy work. He now looks to build new creative and industry partnerships across Australia.



Ray Bramble

General Manager
R. Addington and Associates

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www.raddington.associates

Ray Bramble is a music and culture enthusiast with 20 years of global talent, production, and tour management experience spanning thirty countries across the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East.

He is the founder of R. Addington and Associates, a multi-disciplinary entertainment firm dedicated to supporting creatives and organizations across various industries. With capabilities spanning tailored talent representation, strategic project management, brand strategy, and new business ventures, R. Addington + Associates combines creative mastery with operational efficiency to help artists and professionals navigate today's ever-evolving artistic and business landscapes.



Sarah Porter

Manager
Porter Music Management

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portermusic.ca

Sarah Porter is founder and CEO of Porter Music Management, an Ottawa-based company specializing in strategic career development, international touring and cross-border market growth. She helps artists build sustainable businesses, enter new markets and develop enduring international careers. Her Canada–Australia roster includes two-time Canadian Folk Music Award winner Mia Kelly, two-time Polaris Music Prize nominee and 2022 Short List finalist Kelly McMichael, and 2025 Victorian Blues Music Hall of Fame inductee Lloyd Spiegel. Drawing on her healthcare and entrepreneurial background, Sarah brings a distinctive perspective on artist wellbeing, performance longevity and the realities of life on the road.



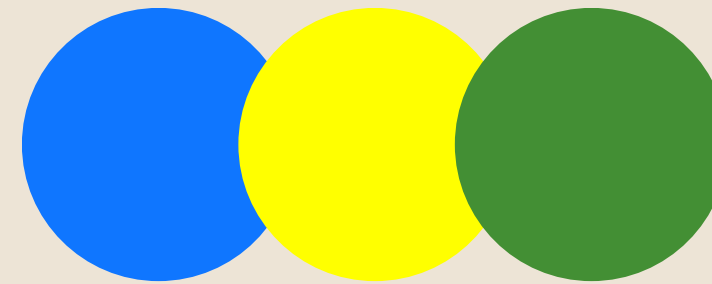
Tara Barnes

Tara Barnes is a queer-settler-ally, the founder of Thunderhaus management and works with some of the top Indigenous artists in North America. She is the former VP of marketing for Manitobah Mukluks - one of the top Indigenous fashion brands in the world. She is an expert at brand building, artist development and digital marketing.

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MISSION



TEAM



**Sam
Rayner**

***Head of Industry &
Membership Development***
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As Head of Industry & Membership Development at CIMA, Sam leads the organization's membership and national professional development initiatives. With over a decade of experience in Canada's music sector, he serves as the primary point of contact for artists, labels, managers, and industry professionals looking to collaborate with the association. Approachable and partnership-focused, Sam is committed to strengthening industry connections and delivering inclusive, impactful programming that supports the long-term growth and sustainability of Canada's independent music community.



**Amie
Therrien**

Executive Director
Music Managers Forum Canada
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mmfcanada.ca

Amie Therrien leads the MMF Canada team, supporting managers and self-managed artists with professional development, mentorship, networking opportunities, export missions, and advocacy.

Amie brings management experience from her time running Balsam Pier Music, an artist management and development company where she worked primarily in folk roots, and Americana artists. She has worked at Coalition Music and Folk Alliance International, has served on the boards of Folk Music Ontario and MMF Canada, and is an alumna of the Artist Manager Program with Canada's Music Incubator.

Based in Toronto, Canada, Amie is a part-time kayaker and meditator, an Indigenous beading artist, and a recovering civil engineer.



THANK YOU