

Melbourne Recital Centre Writers' Residency

In 2019, Melbourne Recital Centre and the Emerging Writers' Festival are thrilled to continue the Writers in Residence program, exploring and expanding the creative possibilities of arts writing. We're looking for three emerging writers who are keen to develop their critical and creative practice through responding to performance works.

Through the program, selected writers will produce works in response to Melbourne Recital Centre's concerts and presentations for publication on the *Soundescapes* website and participate in an event as part of the 2019 Emerging Writers' Festival.

Each writer will receive a \$1200 stipend and double pass tickets to selected performances at the Melbourne Recital Centre, to be decided by the participating writers in consultation with the team. Each writer will complete a minimum of 3 pieces that link in some way to the broader Melbourne Recital Centre program for publication on the *Soundescapes* website within 4 weeks of the selected performance.

Each writer will also complete a creative work for presentation at the Emerging Writers' Festival. Working directly with the EWF programming team, the cohort will develop and refine the event outline and content for presentation as part of the festival, responding to themes drawn from the 2019 Melbourne Recital Centre program.

Selected writers will meet monthly with an appointed mentor to discuss progress and edits, as well as the EWF Artistic Director and Melbourne Recital Centre Staff when required.

About EWF

Now entering our 16th year, the Emerging Writers' Festival (EWF) is one of Australia's most established and well-respected literary festivals.

EWF is a festival for storytellers of all kinds. Even though we're a writers' festival, we're not just about novels. The festival is dedicated to supporting storytelling in all its forms, including things as varied as podcasting, playwriting, poetry, interactive narrative design, photography and comics.

We champion, develop and promote Australia's new writing talent, creating platforms for connecting writing communities and their audiences. We are passionate about strengthening all tomorrow's voices, and developing emerging cultural leaders.

About Melbourne Recital Centre

Melbourne Recital Centre is a live music venue of and for the 21st century: celebrating the past, welcoming the present and imagining the future, it is a place where artists and audiences are invited to engage, challenge and explore.

With a unique focus on music, the Centre presents and hosts hundreds of concerts each year in the 1000-seat Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, 150-seat Primrose Potter Salon and its surrounding spaces, representing the pinnacle of the art form as practised by Australian and international performers in a dazzlingly diverse array of styles, from early music to post-rock.

In 2017/2018, Melbourne Recital Centre welcomed 200,000 attendees and presented or hosted 580 events, continuing to expand its reputation as one of the world's finest music venues and creating a place where bold musicians want to perform and passionate audiences value the intimacy and quality of music-making.

The Program

The Residency program aims to explore the expansive possibilities of arts writing, blurring boundaries between the critical and creative, the personal and the performative.

The aims of the residency are to:

- Provide professional development opportunities for emerging writers
- Provide opportunities to write creatively about music
- Engage MRC audiences and staff in a creative project about music
- Expand our understanding of, and responses to, music performance across a variety of styles and genres

A Note on Form

The residency supports the creation of work that defies categorisation, and draws new and interesting parallels in response to the Melbourne Recital Centre's programming. Experimental and hybrid approaches to non-fiction, and work that takes a creative and critical approach to engaging with broader socio-cultural dialogues surrounding music, arts and performance are encouraged.

Pitch Process

At the start of the program, there will be a brief editorial meeting with the *Soundscapes* editor to introduce participating artists to *Soundscapes*, and provide a basic style guide and a few examples of successful pieces.

Artists will be asked to email brief pitches to the *Soundscapes* team for each of their pieces, detailing the event they'd like to attend as well as a proposed angle and form for the piece. Pending acceptance, the writers will then work with their mentor to develop the piece through a drafting process before submitting the final work.

The Writers

We're looking for three emerging writers who:

- Work in any form of storytelling that has an outcome which can be published on Melbourne Recital Centre's digital channels – including but not limited to criticism, poetry, podcasts, comics and fiction
- Have a clear sense of what benefits participating in the residency would have for personal development and their creative / career writing practice
- Are excited by the idea of experimental approaches to arts writing, and cross-disciplinary conversations and inspiration

Key Dates

Tuesday 8 January: Writers' Residency call-out opens

Tuesday 12 February: Call-out closes

Monday 18 February: Selected writers notified

Monday 25 February: First writers' meeting, 5-6pm at Melbourne Recital Centre

March: Selection of concerts and outline of angle / ideas for pieces

Week of 11 March: First writers' meeting, time TBC at Melbourne Recital Centre

Week of 8 April: Second writers' meeting, time TBC at Melbourne Recital Centre

Week of 6 May: Third writers' meeting, time TBC at Melbourne Recital Centre

Week of 3 June: Fourth writers' meeting, time TBC at Melbourne Recital Centre

June 19-29: Emerging Writers' Festival 2018

Week of 8 July: Fifth writers' meeting, time TBC at Melbourne Recital Centre

Week of 5 August: Final writers' meeting, time TBC at Melbourne Recital Centre

Application Process

Applications should be made via [the online form](#) on the EWF website before 5pm AEST on Tuesday 12 February.

Applications must include a writers' CV (no more than two pages telling us a bit about any other opportunities / awards / grants you've received) and examples of your work up to 5 pages. Please ensure each of these documents are saved with your surname as the title.

For further information please email izzy@emergingwritersfestival.org.au or call Izzy Roberts-Orr on (03) 9094 7876.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disability, and culturally and linguistically diverse applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for this program.