## **Endorsement for Concerts SA**

To whom it may concern,

The importance of Concerts SA for the South African music scene cannot be stressed enough. The opportunities they have offered throughout many years have been vital for me to develop and share my music as a drummer, composer and founder of the Jazz Club Straight No Chaser in Cape Town. Many of my local and international collaborations have only been possible thanks to their amazingly dedicated team and generous funding.

Music venues throughout the country are still able to offer a vibrant, diverse and creative live music program because of the strong foundation Concerts SA provides. By supporting music, especially local musicians, Concerts SA have become an integral part of the music scene in South Africa. Their funding is distributed to a wide variety of musicians and to as many venues as possible.

Especially in the emerging Jazz world, they have often had the foresight and courage to support both, established as well as young up-and-coming artists. More often than not, Concerts SA has the knack for spotting talents. Their small team is committed to putting artists first, thereby creating the support that is needed for musicians to develop their own musical language, build strong collaborations with other artists and share their creativity with the world. Nowadays, musicians rely on live performances to build their careers and make ends meet. The multiplier effect of the support through Concerts SA is not measurable in numbers.

By no means does it end there. In today's economic and political climate, it is ever more important to invite music lovers to venues that offer live music. The experience of coming together to listen to musicians sharing a stage builds communities and ultimately makes our society resilient in difficult times. I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the pivotal role Concert SA plays in sustaining this powerful part of our South African culture.

I can say without a shadow of a doubt that Concert SA provides the backbone for live music in South Africa and the music scene as a whole. The specific sound of Jazz in South Africa is famous and cherished by audiences around the world. It's one of the great gifts we have to offer.

With kind regards

Kesivan Naidoo South African Drummer and Composer