



[date to be inserted]

To Whom it May Concern

Dear colleague(s)

RECOMMENDATION FOR ANDRE LE ROUX, IKS CULTURAL CONSULTING & CONCERTS SA

I am very pleased to offer a recommendation for the contribution of Concerts SA, IKS Cultural Consulting and Mr. Andre le Roux in the arts and live music sector in South Africa over an extended period.

I have known Mr. le Roux as a respected colleague for over fifteen years. When I headed what is now called the Department of Cultural Policy and Management in the Wits School of Arts between 2005 and 2007, he was a guest lecturer who spoke astutely about the challenges of governance in our sector, drawing on his first-hand experience in both provincial and national departments and cultural institutions.

Impressed by his insights and ethics, I later nominated him to serve on the board of the Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, an NPC where I served as CEO between 2008 and 2013. He played a significant role over much of my term, helping to reposition that festival as a resource for the professional South African arts beyond its traditional audience and sponsorship base. In parallel to that, he was invited to serve on several other boards, testament to his expertise in the practical advancement of good corporate governance.

While making time to serve on multiple boards, Mr. le Roux also stewarded the then SAMRO Foundation, which he headed, to new levels of strategic alignment with national development imperatives. He became one of the country's foremost cultural leaders, increasingly forging wider African continental and wider international networks of cultural cooperation while remaining committed to local communities.

In 2014, I returned to the Wits School of Arts as Head, in which role I witnessed a substantial part of the SAMRO Foundation's decade-long support of our Music Department through bursaries and concert grants. I was to acquire direct experience of this when, during the pandemic of 2020-22, our Music Dept. transferred arrangements for their annual SAMRO-supported concert to me. I had been working with colleagues in the department towards an interdisciplinary concert that would engage various colleagues and students from several arts disciplines in our school. In the process, I gained first-hand experience of the kind of support Concerts SA offered practitioners in navigating the unprecedented disruptions of the pandemic. As the brief narrative recounted in the ensuing paragraphs shows, CSA's support can have positive knock-on effects that extend and deepen the footprint of any single event.

CSA's support made it possible for us to pay honoraria to the professional musicians who participated in the Cosmology concert at the Wits Theatre on 30 October 2020 at a highly precarious time. Moreover, the research dimension of the project went beyond the concert itself. Our social partners from community-based jazz appreciation societies in and around Tshwane were so inspired by the event that they

formed a new network called the Cosmopolitan Collective in order to further develop the collaboration that Concerts SA had helped us initiate.

Since then, as part of our ongoing research and social engagement, the Collective has presented community concerts in under-served communities including Mamelodi, Mathibestad, Atteridgeville and Mapopane. A second CSA grant supported an initiative by the Mamelodi Arts and Culture Forum, which is a member of the Cosmopolitan Collective, to honour veteran jazz musician, Abbey Cindi, a founding member of the legendary Malombo Jazz Men. This yielded a concert at Wits on 30 April 2022 which was recorded for delayed online broadcast at the start of Heritage month later in the year, introduced by an intergenerational panel that meaningfully addressed the theme of jazz as heritage.

The initial Cosmology concert has thus led to online broadcasts, community events, prestigious on-campus concerts workshops and colloquia. It has been featured on national TV and radio, as well as local and international academic conferences. And it continues to create opportunities for meaningful exchanges between veteran musicians and emerging artists, within and beyond academic institutions.

I and many other music and arts professionals in the country have the highest regard for the skill, commitment and resilience with which Andre le Roux and the teams he has led at IKS Cultural Consulting, the SAMRO Foundation and, currently, Concerts SA have advanced the transformation and sustainability of our sector over at least the past decade and a half. It is rare to find colleagues staying the course this long, in the service of so many other stakeholders across so many spaces and social locations. I highly recommend their work to anyone who is in a position to advance live music and the wider professional arts as we continue to endeavour to rebuild the sector after the devastations of the pandemic while advancing equity anew.

I would be very happy to provide further information on request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Pyper', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brett Pyper, PhD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, WITS SCHOOL OF ARTS