

Nov 20, 2024 7:00 PM GMT+10 |

Attendees:



☒	President	Nicole Strohfeldt	☐	Secretary	Cara Taggart
☒	Treasurer	Lubino Fernandes	☒	Admin	Emily Dittman
☒	Accounts	Gina De Frances...	☒	ACT	Jennifer Higgs
☒	QLD	Amy Phillips	☐	NSW	Goetz Richter
☒	Vic	Andrew Schellhorn	☒	TAS	David Sanzone
☒	SA	Bethany Nottage	☒	WA	Rupert Guenther

Apologies: Cara Taggart, Goetz Richter, Robert Harris, Louise Butler

Other Attendees: Theo Kotzas, Susan Pierotti, Bethany Nottage (Joined at 7.20 AEST), Cara Taggart (Joined 7.30 AEST)

Matters arising from minutes:

[w 2023 austa agm_unconfirmed minutes.docx](#)

Acceptance of Minutes from 9 October-

Minutes of this meeting were found to be true and correct.

Proposed: Nicole Strohfeldt

Seconded: Amy Phillips

The committee unanimously accepted the report.

AGENDA ITEMS

Item	Discussion
Reports	• <u>President</u> Proposed: Rupert Guenther Seconded: Amy Phillips The committee unanimously accepted the report. • <u>Treasurer</u> Proposed: Jennifer Higgs Seconded: Nicole Strohfeldt The committee unanimously accepted the report. • Chapter Presidents • <u>QLD</u> • <u>NSW</u> • <u>ACT</u> • <u>VIC</u> • <u>TAS</u> • <u>SA</u> • <u>WA</u> • <u>Stringendo</u> Proposed: Rupert Guenther Seconded: Susan Pierotti The committee unanimously accepted the state reports.
Acceptance of Financial Report and Audit	Nicole Strohfeldt presented the Financial Report and Audit. Proposed: Susan Pierotti Seconded: Lubino Fernandes  ASA 2024 Signed Financial Statements.pdf
Ratification of Board of Directors	Nicole Strohfeldt will continue as President, Cara Taggart will continue as Secretary and Lubino Fernandes will continue as Treasurer. We accept the existing board of directors. The positions of state representative will be decided by the chapter committees at their AGM. Proposed: Amy Phillips Seconded: Rupert Guenther The committee unanimously accepted.
Confirmation of Charity Status	As the activities of the organisation have not changed a resolution was put that the board believes that AUSTA remains a charity as recognised by registration with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission in December 2012. Proposed: Nicole Strohfeldt

	Seconded: Susan Pierotti The committee unanimously accepted.
Other Business	President Elect: The search for the President Elect is ongoing. We will continue to search during 2025. When we find the President Elect, we will hold an SGM to elect them.

Meeting Closed 7.57pm AEST

REPORTS	
PRESIDENT	AUSTA National has had a busy year in 2024, with many changes, improvements and future plans put into place. The major event for the year was our National Touring Artist, American Double Bassist Barry Green. The tour spanned approximately one month, with Barry visiting every chapter and presenting concerts, workshops and masterclasses. While the tour program itself was successful and Barry left with many great memories and new friends, the financial outcome was a loss of \$28,000 which was a blow to an already flailing bottom line. Plans have been put in place throughout the year to evaluate the National budget and to consolidate costs where possible. One major saving has been to move Stringendo to an online publication. This was largely received well by members with only two giving us feedback that they would not read the journal in its new format. The savings amount to approximately \$6000 with the removal of the printing cost. In addition, AUSTA National has moved some awards and bursaries to be administered by the chapters. This makes more sense as there is better communication with local branches to organise someone to attend ceremonies and present the awards, and because the chapters have greater income due to cashflow from events. AUSTA National's only source of income is from memberships, investments and advertising. With the goal in mind of increasing memberships and advertising income, AUSTA has appointed Nash Media Group to write a marketing strategy that will assist us to achieve these outcomes. With the recent departure of Louise King, Advertising Manager for Stringendo, a further downturn in advertising revenue was looming. Thank you to Louise Booth, our graphic designer for Stringendo, who stepped in to facilitate advertising for the first

	online edition and saved the bottom line for the publication. We have subsequently had an uptake in social media advertising interest which we hope will continue to grow. The Advertising Manager position remains vacant and will be reviewed as part of our marketing strategy. Our long-serving Accounts Manager, Gina De Francesco, has announced her intention to retire at the end of 2024 (or when a suitable replacement can be found). Gina has been a part of AUSTA for as long as I can remember and I am personally grateful for the endless energy that she has poured into this role. We'll certainly miss you, Gina! Preparations are underway for AUSTA's 50th Birthday in 2025 and the triennial AUSTA Conference to be held in Sydney at the Conservatorium in July. Goetz Richter and his team have been fervently working to create a spectacular conference and we look forward to welcoming members from all over the country to celebrate and learn. Our focus on financial growth and providing a better service for our members continues to be at the forefront of plans for the near future. Thank you to our admin team: Emily Dittman and Gina De Francesco; social media coordinator Mina Grieve, Stringendo team: Susan Pierotti and Louise Booth; Exec team: Cara Taggart (Secretary) and Lubino Fernandes (Treasurer), and of course our hardworking Chapter Presidents: Amy Phillips (QLD), Goetz Richter (NSW), Jennifer Higgs (ACT), Andrew Schellhorn (Vic), David Sanzone (TAS), Bethany Nottage (SA) and Rupert Guenther (WA). You are all amazing and I appreciate every effort that you put in to make our organisation grow. I look forward to flourishing with you in the future. Nicole Strohfeldt National President
TREASURER	AUSTA National AGM, Wednesday, 20 Nov 2024 Treasurer's Report We finished the last financial year with a deficit of \$24,621. The financial statements for 2023-24 highlight the following: Income: Membership income was up by about \$1,000 compared to the previous year. Advertising income was down by about \$5,680. Income from Workshops came to \$72,000. It was up from our budget forecast of \$65,000.

	Expenses: Employee costs were higher by about \$3,000 from last year. Stringendo production costs were up by about a \$1,000. ‘Sponsorships and Awards’, Donations and ‘Other’ expenses were up by \$6,000. Accounting and audit fees came to \$11,400, up by about \$2,000. Draft Budget – (2024-25) The committee prepared and approved a draft budget for the current financial year at the last meeting in October ’24. It shows that we can expect to end the financial year with a loss of about \$7,500. But I expect the loss to be significantly more than that due to the losses incurred with the Barry Green tour last July. The accounts show a loss of about \$28,000 for the Barry Green event alone. Gina, who has been doing the AUSTA accounts for many years, will retire at the end of this calendar year. A replacement will need to be found quickly so that Gina has time to prepare her replacement for the role. The new candidate will need a background in bookkeeping and some basic knowledge of Xero and legalities related to NFP organisations. I would like to thank Gina for her many years of work for AUSTA. She single-handedly ensured that the organisation remained viable when she first took over the role in the early 2000’s and her contribution has been invaluable. Since 2019, she has also been very helpful to me in my role as Treasurer and I am truly grateful for her support and advice. Stockspot investment The original investment in 2021 of \$80,000 has grown to \$96,540. It shows an annual return of 6.56%.
QLD	AUSTA Q commenced its annual events with the Reading Day and AGM on Sunday 4 February. AUSTA Q’s flagship event provided opportunity for colleagues to gather together to play through and explore new repertoire by local composers. The quality and number of new compositions presented by local composers was exceptional! The AUSTA Q Reading Day suitcase was then made available for other AUSTA Reading Day events across Australia. Bundaberg also hosted a Reading Day on Sunday 18 February for their local AUSTA members

and teachers in their community. It was my pleasure to attend the AMEB Qld 2024 Performance and Awards Ceremony on 8 March. Congratulations to the AUSTA Strings Award (Qld) 2023 award recipient Nathan Niessl.

The Mini-Conference was held on Saturday 13 April and Sunday 14 April. We were honoured to have Ed Le Brocq as the Keynote Presenter. There were also other presentations by Dr Bernardo Alviz, Raquel Bastos and Loreta Fin AM, David Deacon, Gyorgy Deri, Jonny Ng, Natalie Sharp, and Dr Anthony Young. The first day concluded with a forum session with the panel of Dr Bernardo Alviz, Gyorgy Deri, and Natalie Sharp, facilitated by Theo Kotzas. The final day concluded with the delegates orchestra rehearsing Triptyque for String Orchestra by Yasushi Akatagawa conducted by Michael Patterson. The weekend provided excellent professional development and inspiration leading into Term 2, and it was gratifying to see many familiar faces, regional members, and younger teachers there.

It was an honour to have AUSTA International Touring Artist 2024 Barry Green in Queensland. He performed a concert on Friday 12 July, workshops on Saturday 13 July, and attended Big Brisbane Bass Day on Sunday 14 July. Thank you to Ben Puglisi from Atelier Puglisi for providing the double bass for Barry to play in Brisbane. Barry then travelled to Bundaberg to undertake an Artist in Residence Program at St Luke's Anglican School where he undertook presentations, workshop/classes, and the Bundaberg Eisteddfod.

AUSTA Q welcomed many performers to the AUSTA Q Concerto Championship on Saturday 27 July. It was a pleasure to hear so many high-quality performances and the standard of the Advanced section was yet again especially high. The following day on Sunday 28 July we welcome hundreds of students to the AUSTA Q Strings Festival. It was a delight to see many happy performers and proud parents and supporters getting photos with their adjudications and trophies. Thank you to the adjudicators, accompanists, and volunteers for their time and expertise to make the performers' experience at the event so positive and memorable.

AUSTA Q held the annual Professional Weekend on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September. We were honoured to have Professor Rob McWilliams present two days of sessions focused on conducting technique, score study, rehearsal preparation and strategies, and practical conducting.

The International Reading Day was available for members all over the country via Zoom on Sunday 3 November. Many thanks to Raquel Bastos, Stephen Chin, Bernadette Connolly and Melissa Dineen for their time and expertise in researching new international works of interest to present at this event. It was excellent to see members close and far via the Zoom screen at the event.

The Bundaberg Stringfest took place on Saturday 26 October and Townsville Celebration of Strings on Friday 8 November to Sunday 10 November. Both events were a huge success.

AUSTA Q continued to produce regular issues of the AUSTA Q Newsletter in 2024 (3 issues – April, August, and November). We are grateful to the writers and advertisers that contribute to this to provide such an informative and high-quality periodical for AUSTA members.

	Greatest thanks and congratulations to the AUSTA Q committee for all the enthusiasm, time and effort they contribute to making AUSTA Q events rewarding experiences, and the Newsletter so informative, for AUSTA members. At the time of writing this report the AUSTA Q is looking ahead to 2025 with the organisation of our regular events underway. We also have an exciting project in the making to celebrate AUSTA's 50th Birthday in 2025. Amy Phillips AUSTA Q President
NSW	AUSTA AGM Report 2024 NSW Chapter started the year with two regional performance festivals in Armidale at the New England Conservatorium and in Port Macquarie at the Kendall School of Arts. These were led by our regional committee members Joanna Fairs-Wu (Armidale) and Natasha Florence (Port Macquarie) and supported by committee members Nara Yusofova who travelled to Armidale for the weekend. In May a very successful performers festival was presented in Sydney with a whole day of performances in two venues. Early July, the committee hosted the visit by Barry Green which was well supported by the community, enthusiastic teachers and the committee at large presenting four events. This visit also included our bass day, which remains a strategic priority for us. In September, we presented a NSW reading day at Santa Sabina School which was expertly organised by our committee member Sandi Oh and supported by Victoria Jacono- Gilmovich. A range of very interesting new works was submitted and we are yet to report our findings to our teaching community in more detail. In October we presented our second string festival in Sydney which attracted a more modest crowd than earlier in the year. The committee is considering moving the festival into different parts of Sydney next year. In addition to the events presented this year, AUSTA (NSW) also continued to partner with The King's School to present the series of "Talking with Teachers" at the King's School hosted by Goetz Richter who interviews distinguished guests (in 2024: Timothy Kantor, Alex Henery, Janet Davies, Georg Pedersen) to contextualise a brief masterclass for students following the interview. This has been a very welcome, once-a-term occasion for parents and teachers especially as it has started a more open discourse about pedagogy, performance learning and the role of parents. Revenue from this event flows to AUSTA (NSW) and there is video material of these sessions which we will edit and make available further. We also revived our String Forum at the Conservatorium with Evgeny Sorkin talking about bow technique and tone. We plan to continue the series. However, at this point the AUSTA (NSW) committee is fairly absorbed by organising the 2025 National Conference. Aims in 2025 include membership drives and a clear strategy to bring benefits to members, especially new- and younger members. Pleasingly, our income from chapter initiatives has increased so that we have a comfortable resource base for future activities. We would like to increase it further but are mindful that this may impose undue stress on organisational time of the volunteer committee. Goetz Richter (President, NSW Chapter on behalf of NSW committee)

ACT

We began the year with a Pedagogy Forum on Sunday February 25th. This event was moderately well attended for ACT events, with 11 people. Although we have had more in some years, last year we only had 4, so this is a step in the right direction. The event was very interesting. It was a large discussion, focussing on where the requirements of upper and lower strings differ, in early ensemble and string program settings. There was a good mix of experienced teachers and early-stage teachers and it was very well received.

On Sunday June 2nd we had our String Festival. This was, once again, an entirely non-competitive event and this format seems to work very well for us. It was wonderful seeing the number of students engaging with this event and lovely to see all the smiling faces from students, and the positive comments from the panel members, across the whole day.

It was very well attended for ACT events with around 80 participants enrolling. There were slightly more than last year and we managed to make a profit on this event, which is lovely to see.

In July we hosted Barry Green and he gave a very well received presentation on the Inner Game of Music. For the ACT, this event was very well attended with over 50 people in attendance.

On Sunday August 18th we had our Reading Day. This event is always only modestly attended in the ACT. Some years we have had so few people registering it has been cancelled but this year we managed a record 9 people in attendance. Some of these were new to the event and we got a new membership because of it. The repertoire was, as always, enjoyable to play through and it was also a lovely chance to talk to colleagues and catch up with what is happening in their respective schools and workplaces.

Then, only one week later on Sunday August 25th, we had a workshop with John Ma and Marie Searle on the Bach Double Violin Concerto. These two are the core of Apeiron Baroque and they are very interested in educational outreach. It was a wonderful afternoon exploring Baroque style and this much-loved piece. We learnt a lot about playing music from this time.

We will be finishing off the year with our AGM on December 13th at 5.45pm. We will follow this with a social Christmas dinner. Many thanks to the ACT committee for all their hard work. In particular, Mandy Philipse, Gillian Bailey Graham and Ian Graham the Treasurer. There is one other member who needs special mention; the Vice President, Louise Butler. Her assistance and guidance is tireless and always greatly appreciated.

Jenny Higgs

	ACT President
VIC	20 November 2024 AUSTAVic Presidents Report for AUSTA National Meeting 20/11/2024. 2024 has been a busy year as usual. The Reading Day held in February at Lauriston Girls School was expertly directed by Timothy Veldman. A huge thank you to Elizabeth Tindall and her team at Lauriston for making the venue available and making us all so welcome. A fantastic day was had by all. As many of you would be aware, the 2024 European String Teachers conference was held in Porto Portugal. Of the 24 countries attending, eight Victorians and one Western Australian represented Australia. Diana Wuli (AUSTAVic committee member) and Marcel Trussell Cullen presented at the conference. Diana and Marcel were both outstanding in the way they presented and engaged with the audience and captivated all with what they shared. A successful two day conducting workshop with Warwick Stengards was held during May. Our String performers festival on June 16 was again a success with committee members in full support including reports and medallions. Our professional development day was replaced by the visit of Barry Green which kept all of us busy, especially the bassist on our committee, Andrew Moon. We also wish to thank Ben Puglisi for his support with an event and use of a bass. AUSTAVic will be holding it's annual end of year members get together on the evening of December 4 at a centrally located rooftop bar/restaurant. Our end of year committee dinner is to be held on Sunday December 1. At a restaurant. We will be farewelling Helen Holt and Carl Williams. We have recently confirmed our 2025 Reading Day will be held at St Kevins on Sunday February 9 (no cost for the venue). Other recently confirmed dates are May 18 – String Orchestra Festival at Eltham High School (\$500.00 hire fee plus cleaning fee). Andrew Schellhorn.
TAS	We were unable to do more usual annual events: string performance day, TSO workshops as the committee is small. We started the year on the first Sunday in March with the String Festival with guest tutors from TSO and surrounds. Will Newberry, Brett Rutherford were guest presenters. Barry Green was a special guest in July.

	Thanks to committee members and Hutchins School, without them we couldn't run these events. Hutchins School is free of charge and they provide a staff member and AV tech Thanks to Audrey Akerman and other Committee members. Unfortunately I will be stepping down from my role with the committee, I will stay and help out as we need more numbers to help do smaller jobs. This will help maintain events in 2025. Thanks to everyone in the National Executive, and for their help in coordinating the Barry Green visit. This reached not just string people but piano and singing students and teachers. David Sanzone
SA	This year we have focussed on organising String Ensemble Workshops, a repertoire Reading Day and PD event as part of the Barry Green tour. We held two string ensemble workshops for beginner student players and two for adult beginner players. Katherine Quirk selected the music for the children's workshops were held at Seymour College and Robyn Handreck facilitated the music and running of the Adults workshop's at Kathy's home. Barry Green's visit to Adelaide was very successful, with his Workshops at the Elder Conservatorium on Friday 26th July having many education and music students attend. Almost thirty teachers attended the AUSTA workshop at Prince Alfred College on Saturday 27th July. AUSTA SA continues to sponsor the AUSTA Grade 2 AMEB SA prize, Balaklava Eisteddfod and ASME Young Composers Award. We are supportive of initiatives at The Elder Conservatorium of Music at Adelaide University such as their Bass Day and Cello Day. We are grateful for the support and sad to be farewelling two of our long serving committee members – ex State President Samantha Raftery and current Treasurer Sophia Ha-Yeon at our committee Christmas Party in December.
WA	WA AUSTA AGM REPORT The 2024 year kicked off with an Ensemble Skills Masterclass with Jade Martin, and a technology workshop with Ruth Klein-Cook. The AUSTA WA STring Festival was a huge success with 264 participants at WAAPA and was a lovely relationship builder with the string community as well as WAAPA Head of Music Tim White. The big event this year was Barry Green's visit in late July/early August. We had 5 events over 4 days with an AUSTA WA welcome dinner, a concert and 3 talks/masterclasses at UWA and a country trip to visit a farm and meet the animals which Barry loved. Late in October in Perth has seen our own Helen Tuckey with Janet Fernandes present the new AMEB Viola Syllabus in a hugely successful Zoom workshop exploring the new Viola Series 2 Syllabus (Preliminary-Grade 4).

	We also had a fabulous cello masterclass organised by Louise Sandercock with WASO Principal cellist Rod McGrath at WAAPA last weekend at WAAPA. We had 18 participants from beginner level to intermediate and advanced and everyone found it very helpful and informative. The masterclass is a prelude to 4-5 masterclasses we are planning for 2025 in conjunction with WASO, with at least one for each of the string instrument family. We also have an extended visit of some months from the end of January with Professor Brian Finlayson who is recently retired from the position of Head of Strings at the Kaerntner Landeskonservatorium in Austria which we are looking forward to with lessons and masterclasses for upper strings in Perth. AUSTA WA has also sponsored many eisteddfods and holiday music activities with prizes with AMEB, and placement funding throughout the year for regional students including WAYACHAMP and Perth Summer Orchestra Camp which has enabled many students to be involved who would otherwise have been unable to attend. The AUSTA WA Committee has had its ups and downs with our regional representative from Canarvon leaving for overseas, and the death of Helen Tuckey's 102 year old mother which understandably drew on Helen's time and energy as her carer. We have a full length video of Barry Green's concert in Perth to put on YouTube shortly, and AUSTA WA created an AUSTA WA YouTube channel just to try out some ideas as a possible model for a national Youtube channel direction.
Stringendo Report	ED will add Stringendo report as presented verbally by Susan Pierotti. W 2024 AUSTA Stringendo Annual Report.docx April 2024: Regional Music Making - Flinders String Quartet John Noble, N