

SYDNEY *MUSIC*

THE STATE OF LIVE MUSIC IN SYDNEY

A submission for the
NSW Government Social Issues Committee

by SydneyMusic.net

*Compiled by Joe Hardy
27th of February 2026*



DARTZ @ Lazy Thinking
Photo by Brittney Booker

About SydneyMusic

SydneyMusic Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation with a mission to get more of Sydney engaged with and participating in live music across Greater Sydney.

We do this by publishing the city's most comprehensive gig guide, which is read by over 35,000 people every month.

The SydneyMusic team listed 6,535 gigs in 2025.



Playlunch @ Manning Bar

Photo by Matthew Waddingham

About this submission

We invited our readers to share their thoughts on our work and live music in general via an online survey, which we intend to use to help direct our organisation's plans for the year ahead.

The survey received 364 responses from February 18 to 27, and contains a surprising range of insights on our readers' desires and preferences for local culture.

As a result, we have decided that our submission should be made up of the insights from these survey responses.

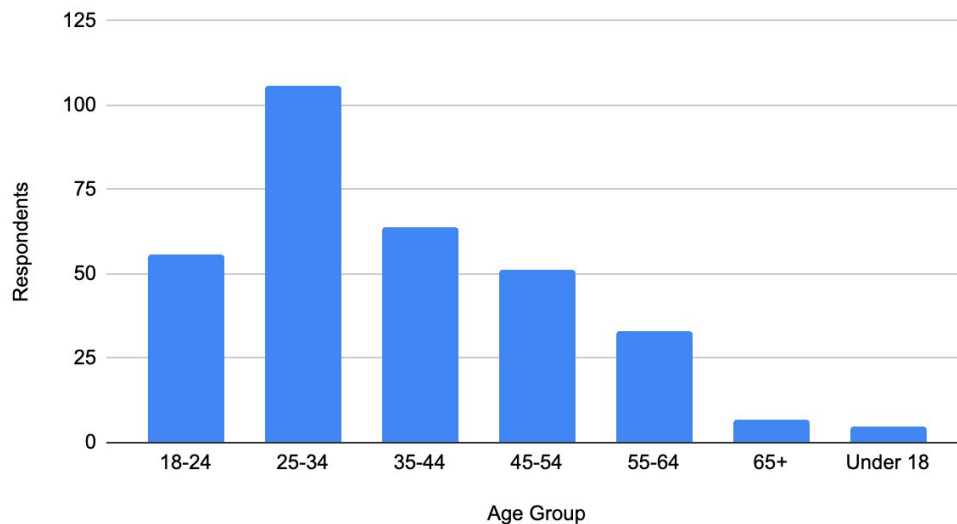
We trust that the Committee will find this a refreshing and thought provoking read.



General Insights on the Respondents

Respondents covered a broad range of age demographics, with notable representation for the 25-34 age group. Under 18s were the weakest representation, followed by 65+.

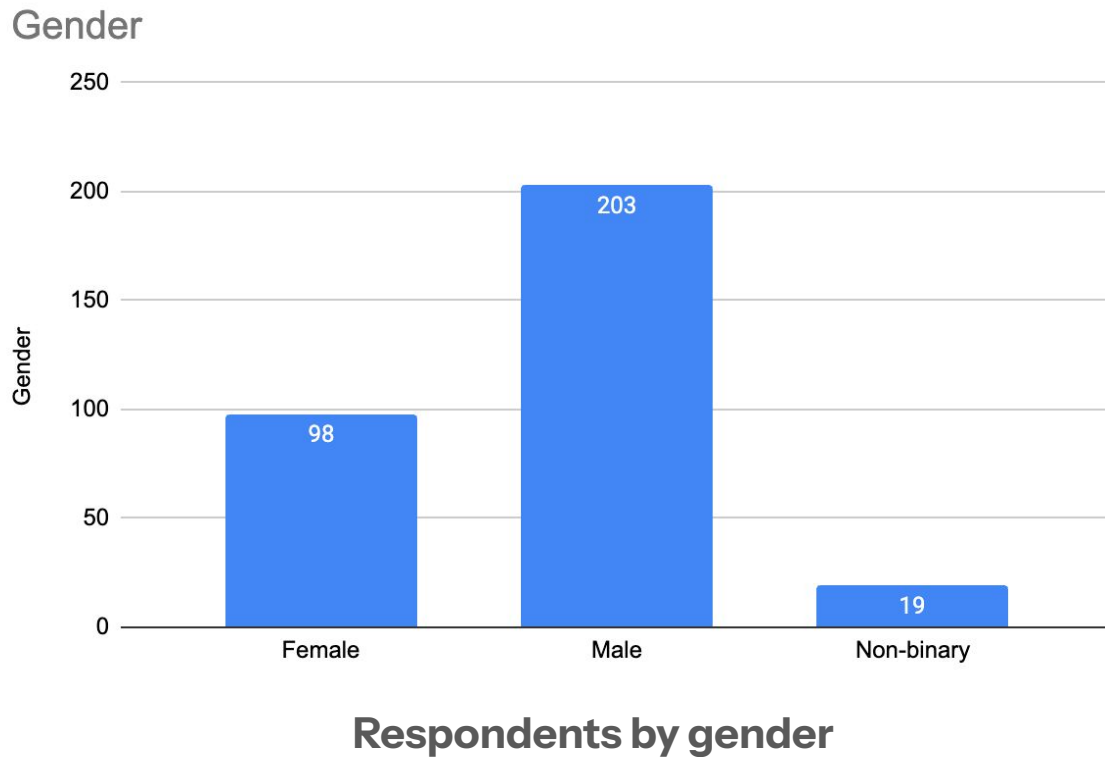
Respondents by Age Group



Respondents by age

General Insights on the Respondents (cont.)

The survey was significantly skewed towards male respondents



Where live music fans live

58.21% of survey respondents live in the Inner West or Inner City suburbs.

The remaining 41.79% of respondents cover the rest of Greater Sydney.

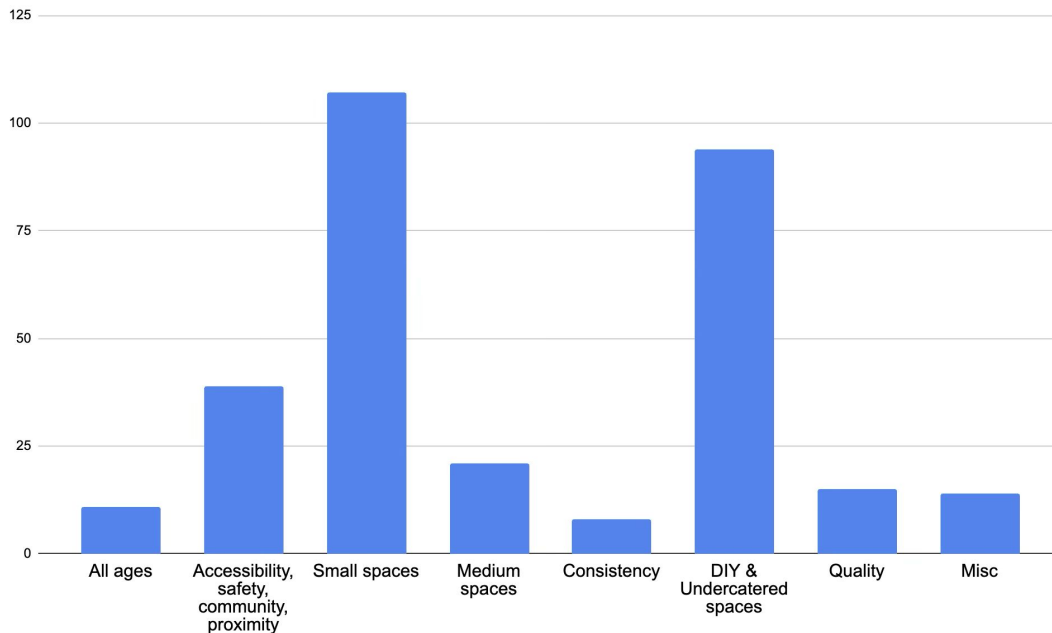
Tellingly, only 12.8% of these respondents feel that there is enough live music in their area.

Respondents' Area	# of responses	I feel there is enough music in my area	I would see more live music if there was more live music in my area
CBD and Inner City	29	62%	86%
Inner West	134	65%	85%
Eastern Suburbs	22	23%	86%
North Shore	31	6%	94%
Northern Beaches	11	9%	82%
Southwest Sydney	10	20%	100%
Western Sydney	19	5%	100%
Hills District	4	25%	100%
Northern Suburbs	15	7%	93%
Sutherland/Shire	5	40%	100%

What live music fans want to see more of

Out of 289 responses to the question “What sort of spaces or venues would you like to see more of?” **we had an overwhelming number of responses asking for small spaces, with 107 responses.**

Further, an additional 94 respondents said they most wanted DIY and unorthodox spaces like open air, public spaces, and community-first environments.



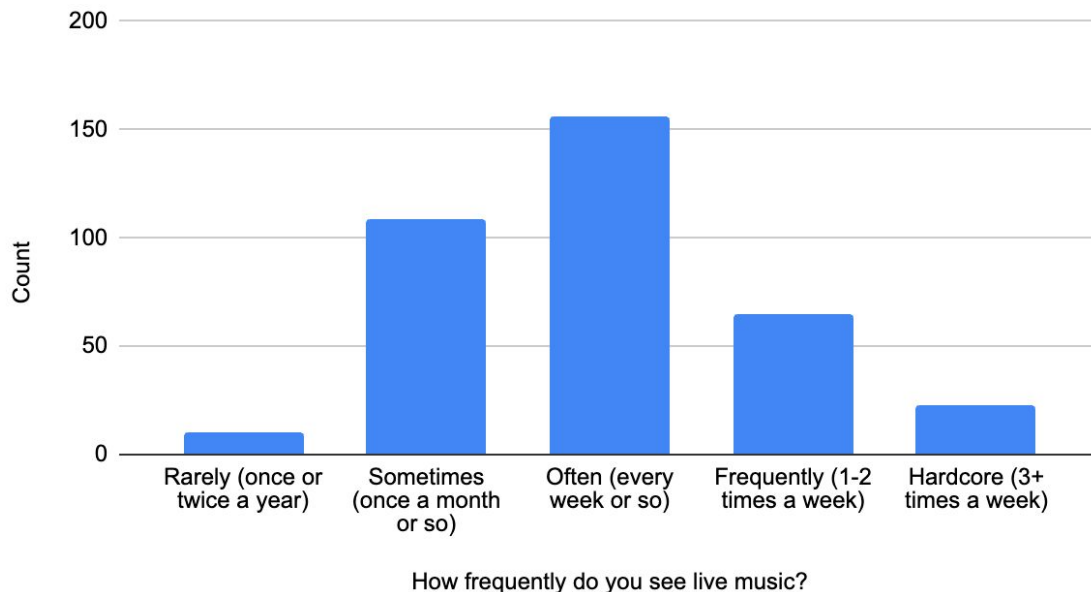
“What sort of spaces or venues would you like to see more of?”

Gig-going attendance

Over **24%** of our readers see live music at least once a week!

An additional **43%** of readers go out to a gig “every week or so”

How frequently do you see live music?



The presence of local live music affects attendance

A whopping **86.78%** of readers said they would see more live music if there was more happening in their immediate neighbourhood.

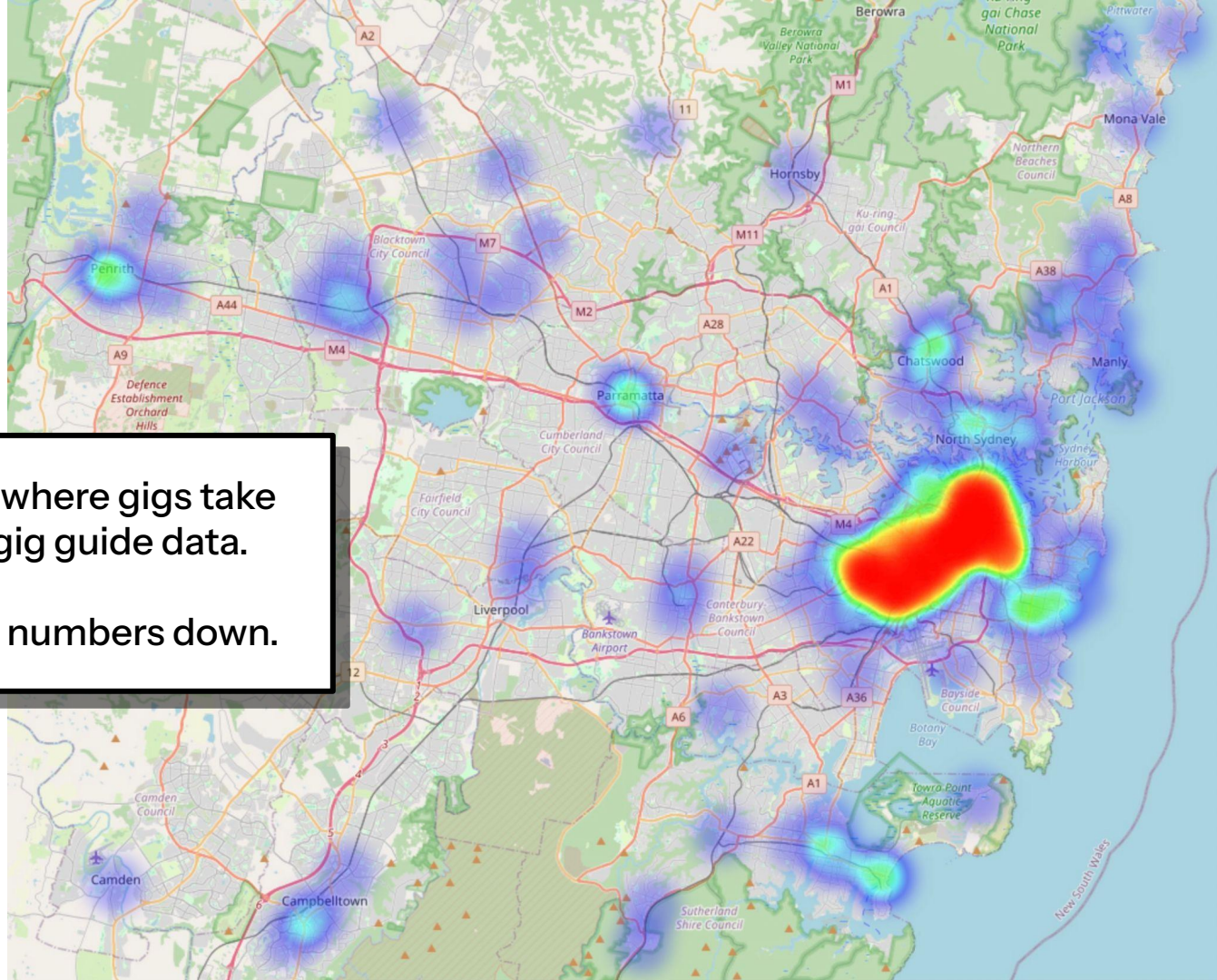


Marcus Whale & GI @ Chippo Hotel

Photo by Darshil Shah

This heat map illustrates where gigs take place according to our gig guide data.

The next slide breaks the numbers down.



Our data tells us that there is a critical shortage of original live music across Greater Sydney.

We want to see this change, and we're doing everything we can to help.

Area	% of gigs
CBD and Inner City	30.69%
Inner West	58.71%
Eastern Suburbs	4.19%
North Shore	0.44%
Northern Beaches	2.00%
Southwest Sydney	0.52%
Western Sydney	2.15%
Hills District	0.02%
Northern Suburbs	0.02%
Sutherland/Shire	1.27%

of gigs by area (excluding arenas and stadiums)

“This research shows there is a massive demand for spaces that are accessible in every sense.

And that doesn't mean more government-run spaces. It means councils and policing need to get out of the way of spaces that host things that make noise. People should have more freedom to perform and watch live music in spaces of their choosing.

The overwhelming sentiment that we're getting here is that in Sydney — and beyond — the spirit of the lockdown laws is still haunting us. Government is still not getting out of the way of culture, there are too many rules, and there are too many forces actively working against live music being a present, *audible* part of the cultural life of the city.”



Caitlin Welsh

Co-founder,
SydneyMusic.net

“Last year I talked to 6 senior music executives across the Australian music industry, and presented this hypothesis:

‘At the top end of town, the music industry doesn’t care if a 20-show-a-year punter becomes a 10-show-a-year punter, providing the average value per punter is the same for that company.’

Each executive, without hesitation, confirmed this premise.

The dominance of premium-tier, large capacity gigs has been detrimental to local, affordable, community-first live music.

We have seen the music industry double down on putting most of their attention towards focusing on scale and margin.

This commercial philosophy directly strikes at the heart of music becoming a regular, community-centric activity, and we see the effects of this commercial strategy every single day as it destroys the grassroots.”



Joe Hardy
Co-founder,
SydneyMusic.net

“The cultural life of the city starts at home, when people have time to dream and to create — when they're not just working to survive and consuming to relax, but putting something back into their community too.

It starts when they have the time and the energy to go engage in the world, and feel like they have enough money left over after paying rent to show up and support a venue putting on a show, to take a punt on a cover charge, to take a shorter shift so they can get there early and help their mate set up the chairs.



Caitlin Welsh
Co-founder,
SydneyMusic.net

“The people who are the most engaged participants in culture – the ones who make it sound so good and look so fun that more people want to join in – are being crushed under the cost of living. They prioritise it because they know it matters, but it moves into living rooms and backyards, and even fewer people can access it.

And those people can't get their friends to come out and take a punt on a \$20 gig – whether because they don't have that \$20 spare, or just because they're not used to that being what they do with an evening.”



Caitlin Welsh
Co-founder,
SydneyMusic.net

A wide-angle photograph of a live music performance in a bar. A band of four people is on stage, illuminated by blue and purple stage lights. The lead singer is a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a white shirt, singing into a microphone. To her left, a man in a blue and white jacket plays an electric guitar. Another man in a white t-shirt stands behind her, and a woman in a black top is on the far right of the stage. The bar is filled with a large, diverse crowd of people, many of whom are holding up their phones to record the performance. The walls are covered in posters and graffiti, and a string of warm white lights hangs from the ceiling. A sign on the left wall reads "PROTECT TRANS KIDS EVERYONE DESERVES".

And now it's time to hear directly from the respondents...

Ma
FVNERAL @ Lazy Thinking
Photo by Matthew Waddingham

xmunashe @ Secret Studio, Redfern

Photo by Darshil Shah



“What do you feel Sydney lacks the most in terms of live music?”

WHAT DO YOU FEEL SYDNEY LACKS THE MOST IN TERMS OF LIVE MUSIC?

• Page 1/15 •

SydneyMusic is pleased to present responses to the question “**What do you feel Sydney lacks the most in terms of live music?**”

We received 281 unique entries for this question.

We have categorised and selected the responses that responded to four government policy-relevant topics:

- Where / when music happens
- Values
- Discoverability / curation
- Accessibility

WHAT DO YOU FEEL SYDNEY LACKS THE MOST IN TERMS OF LIVE MUSIC?

• Page 2/15 •

Where/when music happens

Summary:

- There is an overwhelming recognition of the lack of venues outside the Inner West & CBD
- Punters are hungry for diversity: both day and late night, non-alcohol centric spaces, community-first spaces, and genre programming
- People feel music is often a secondary consideration in a venue's priorities
- People want more DIY (self-organised) events, especially in public spaces (outdoors) and in unconventional spaces.

UNDER 18 YEAR OLDS

"Under 18 venues"

"**More venues / events for new / younger artists to get experience** and share their music"

"Its all just bunched up in the inner west usually and **needs to be more widespread into the west north south everywhere** in Sydney should have a venue for everyone, including under 18s"

18-24 YEAR OLDS

"Consistency in areas that aren't the Inner West"

"**More live music activations and space spread to western Sydney / greater Sydney**

rather than majority being condensed to the inner west"

"Bands who play in different genres or in different parts of the city are often isolated from one another. **I feel like there could be more community-building in general.**"

"Although specific scenes and genres have really flourished and built a nice community, I feel there isn't a huge intersection of genres within the Sydney music community. Can almost feel a bit cliquey sometimes. **There are a lot of venues who have just slapped speakers in a room and called it a band room which is pretty sad.** Also venues who prioritise aesthetics before sound quality."

"A central hub known for a particular Venere I guess. There's a lot of venues so **you don't know what venues will give you consistently good artists.**"

"Free/pwyc live music outside of Sydney major"

"**Diversity in location** of gigs"

"Clubbing/raving/edm music - **alternative spaces**"

"Double Bay is lacking in live music. Besides the Christmas event where Sheppard and Dami Im performed, **I would like to see more live music in my area**"

"**accessibility and stretch beyond the inner west** . i've had multiple friends who are within these area but still are unaware of the sheer amount of live music that goes on beneath their feet , i try to spread and encourage as much as possible but in terms of residents of eastern suburbs or northern beaches it does not appeal as fondly (time for travel , money spent) . i live away from any spaces for live music so trek to where its most prominent which i flashing surround myself with but i understand hesitation , **i believe once they get a taste it's impossible to resist but making that first step should be highlighted and encouraged !**"

"Proper AV facilities"

"**DIY venues and hang out spots for younger adults** that Dosent feel corporate or gentrified"

"Enough venues"

"Middle tier events"

"Even spread of gigs throughout, **would be cool to have more gigs in the Sutherland shire and in western Sydney**"

"Quantity"

"Locations and bands outside of the Inner West"

WHAT DO YOU FEEL SYDNEY LACKS THE MOST IN TERMS OF LIVE MUSIC?

• Page 3/15 •

“DIY spaces”

“Maybe I just don’t go to enough gigs but as someone who doesn’t like to drink that much **I feel that in Sydney especially live music is too built around drinking in pubs as opposed to being something that most people care about in and of itself.** I don’t know what the take away from that is I just wish there was more great music and it didn’t so often feel like a sideshow to drinking.”

“Music outside of the city and inner west and **all ages shows.**”

25-34 YEAR OLDS

“More **sound-designed smaller local venues.**”

“**Normal boozers which have a section/room that will always have live music.** And too many bars that say they have live music weekly but it will just be some guy with a guitar singing covers.”

“Promotion of very local (Sydney based) artists. A venue similar to Gang Gang cafe in Canberra (Sunday arvo cafe gig).”

“**Community feeling venues/spaces.** Seems to be harder and harder to foster due to money constraints, in my opinion”

“**It lacks spaces for small, independent roots-based artists** to play shows without losing money (singer-songwriters, bluegrass, country, etc)”

“Weeknight shows and late night shows. Accessible prices for tickets.”

“**cheap, vibrant, diy, young, free, gritty**”

“More pop music tbh and more open areas where I can sit with a drink and chat if I want or go up close and have a dance”

“Spaces. There are a lot of venues in the city and inner west, but **once you get past about Ashfield it kinda dies out,** unless you’re talking about tribute acts at your local RSL.”

“Infrastructure, venues, buy-in from radio stations/streamers.”

“medium sized venues”

“Sufficiently sized venues”

“**Music out in the suburbs**”

“Quality venues.”

“**Where are the smaller/chill daytime DJ events!!** Especially in summer. Usually there’s a few on any given weekend but they’re pretty difficult to find out about sometimes. I get that finding out about stuff through word of mouth can help keep

gigs chill and not too overboard, but sometimes I think it can also lend to a pretty homogenous crowd. We should be encouraging a range of different people from around Sydney to come along to the smaller gigs!”

“**Small spaces with decent gear / sound.**”

“More venues!! We are leagues behind Melbourne. So many pubs, bars, churches, creative centres have the space available, but **the red tape makes it impossible.**”

“Though it doesn’t affect me so much, **Sydney lacks a spread of venues outside of the city.** A few more venues/creative spaces in the western suburbs and other areas where there is a lot of development definitely wouldn’t go astray.”

“**Adequate parking Imao** just general funding for shows and events”

“Street activation!”

“**Consistency.** It comes in waves of I’m exhausted by the offerings to droughts.”

“As much as I love the inner west, **trekking it from western sydney for where most of the shows and events are is tiresome** so I have to pick and choose when to venture out.”

WHAT DO YOU FEEL SYDNEY LACKS THE MOST IN TERMS OF LIVE MUSIC?

• Page 4/15 •

“**underground and diy gigs**, free shows or pay what you feel, obscure instruments”

“**Late night offerings** (after 2am) and outdoor community music spaces (**Sunday afternoon in the park**). Also see comment above RE diversity – **we are so multicultural but the music scene doesn't reflect this.**”

“I feel Sydney live music is pretty cliquey and it's not uncommon to see the same bands pop week after week and some bands you're really interested unable to break through. **I'd also like to see more mini festivals in the day ala Off the Rails in Marrickville.**”

“I'm massively in agreeance with your last post that it so deeply is around alcohol consumption and I think that's a shame for live music. **I wish curation of music was done in support of artists themselves rather than it being in conjunction of what times people drink the most or who brings in the largest crowds for people to buy drinks etc**”

“Small/Mid sizes venues with a unique space: **too much of the same**”

“Mid cap venues between 500-800 cap”

“small cap good sound free entry”

“**I miss having a "hub" venue where you were guaranteed to have a good night regardless of what is on.** I'm thinking of the Lansdowne pre covid. That said, Sydney totally feels the best it's felt in at least a decade.”

“**Small spaces** for emerging artists to pack out”

“Number of events & event locations north of the harbour.”

“Funding, probably. Aside from that, **gigs anywhere outside of the inner west, Manly & Olympic Park**”

“Concerts in western Sydney, I live in the blue mountains and happily drive to concerts (public transport is lacking of a night time) but **it'd be nice if I didn't have to drive so far**”

“**Independent all ages community spaces**”

“**less venues run by hospo groups pls**”

“also this is aus wide, but often it feelslike local support choices for big tours are either a) non existent b) seemingly quite out of touch with the local music community”

“More small venues with a full gig schedule (3+ days/wk), diverse types of music, and open before/after shows – **“third space” type venues to**

discover artists rather than seek out a specific show.”

“small-medium scale venues that stay open late”

Venues outside of the inner west and city center.”

“Either: More outer suburbs venues that attract larger and more diverse acts (Avalon RSL, Dee Why RSL and Mona Vale Hotel seem to be trying their best) OR **venues that are accessible to all of Sydney through public transport** without changing buses or trains. I'm on the northern beaches so unless it's close to the B-Line stop or someone finally agrees to building a train line I'm cooked (I'm committed to the sober driver and paid parking lyf at this point).”

“Venues in regions of Sydney that aren't just the city/inner west – I live in Chippendale now so I'm close to a lot of venues but **when I used to live in Thornleigh I would always have to travel a long way if I wanted to see a gig**”

“Number and geographic spread”

“**Accessible third spaces** for up and coming musicians and bands (and adjacent) that is not townend by a conglomerate and dependant on alcohol sales. le more places with soul and purpose”

WHAT DO YOU FEEL SYDNEY LACKS THE MOST IN TERMS OF LIVE MUSIC?

• Page 5/15 •

“Music that requires, rather than demands, attention.
Sensitive and dynamic music”

“Location diversity.”

“Mid-large size music venues that aren't run by Century...”

“Sydney lacks strong support for new and upcoming artists/bands, especially outside of the inner west. Pubs seem to only want covers of 80s music, and are slowly choking developing music and culture. Most pubs ask for artists to contact them, but they never reply, leading artists to feel like they are annoying pubs and are afraid to then ask for fair pay.”

35-44 YEAR OLDS

“Venues, especially outside of the inner west”

“Non-commercial venues of varying sizes and environments. Its geared towards big drunken commercial venues hey?”

“The live music scene is too condensed, there needs to be more options outside of the inner west.”

“anything interesting between inner west and the blue mountains (Parramatta is a wasteland for events or nightlife)”

“Frequency and bring back the Jazz and Blues in small venues, non-ticketed.”

“Easy free/cheap parking next to venues so bands can drive in with gear, load in safely and not be slugged ridiculous parking fines. Especially in the inner west like newtown and marrickville. We need venues to have parking.”

“Since the lockout laws it's felt like sydney hasn't had a real *scene* it's just disparate shows. You used to turn up and see so many people you knew no matter what the band was, but it's harder now with everything so spread out. It would be amazing to be able to do a crawl with live music every weekend, just because there happened to be heaps of music, and not have to wait for things like king street crawl.”

“Alcohol free venues and tolerant neighbours.”

“Venues outside the inner city and inner west. Don't get me wrong, those are amazing venues, and amazing community vibes – but **living in the northern suburbs (or elsewhere) can make that a trek.**”

“Late night bands. Golden Age is or of the few where starts at 10pm”

“Dedicated live music venues outside the inner city”

“Venue support , promotion”

“DIY Spaces”

“Music venues outside of CBD and inner west. Western Sydney especially needs more music venues. We need more affordable ticket prices. And **there's also a problem of lack of demand – we need more punters!**”

“Small venues. The cost of inner city space has pushed out small venues and makes diy shows hard. **Western Sydney lacks infrastructure** and relies on individuals within DIY scenes, who are doing it ‘for love’ without appropriate scaffolding.”

“More micro festivals - little 4-6 hour open space festivals with minimal infrastructure”

“A live pub music culture outside of the inner west”

“All ages and DIY spaces”

“Groovy venues and outdoor spaces”

“Outdoor venues”

“Pubs with bands”

“Big bands playing small venues”

“places where the venue helps promote.”

WHAT DO YOU FEEL SYDNEY LACKS THE MOST IN TERMS OF LIVE MUSIC?

• Page 6/15 •

“places where bands don't have to pay a venue hire fee.”

“**places accessible to people with disabilities.**”

“Proper gigs in pubs and small venues.”

“Shows where you can pay less than 10 bux for a beer.”

“**Outdoor amphitheatres. Intimate park shows**”

“Ticket Levy's to support small venues”

“Gigs outside the inner west.”

“There was the Hopetoun/ Annandale scene of the mid-2000s, and the RIP Society/Paradise Daily scene of the 2010s - both kind of shaped the Sydney gig space for a chunk of years. But **it seems like there isn't an equivalent corner of the local scene that is building up a group of local acts with that kind of unity.**”

“There's little to do around (before/after) the event. **Sydney bars and restaurants need to be open longer/later.** I'd happily stay out for a few hours after a show.”

“**Public spaces being used to hangout and enjoy each others company and talents** (think Maurpark in Berlin)”

“More small venues, connections, **places where you can listen to music and still talk.**”

“**Good sound engineers and PAs.**”

“More electronic spaces that aren't raves / EDM. **Where do we get our Krautrock etc**”

45-54 YEAR OLDS

“Venues outside of the inner west and cbd”

“Small rooms that sound good, **what is today's equivalent of the Hopetoun?** Also, **you can't just kick everyone out when the bands are over.** We need later licences and good DJs that can keep the party going!”

“as above, **small independent venues**, there only a handful where it's easy to book a gig”

“**diversity of location.**”

“Proper middle sized rock venues, like Crowbar”

“Venues outside inner-west and inner-city”

“**Thrash bands.**”

“**Geographic diversity** of venues”

“Gigs that start and finish later. **It's frankly weird how early gigs start and finish here**”

“Pubs and live music”

“The Annandale”

“Music in pubs”

“Would be nice if there was more going on in the city, feels pretty dead most of the time. Smaller neighbourhood venues are good when they happen but often don't last. I don't really care whether they're super close to me.”

“night vibes still a bit crap. **city is grim after 8pm.**”

“Not much... **just needs more venues outside of Inner West**”

“in-store gigs (despite the occasional one at Crosstalk)”

“Venues, publicity, support.”

“Venues like the Nightcat in Melbourne, **versatile multi-genre venues that don't feel corporate** like most Syd venues.”

“A live presence in Western Sydney

“stuff in Waterloo”

“Not so much actually it's not bad. **Maybe clubs so we don't have to go to illegal warehouse parties.**”

“Venues in the suburbs”

WHAT DO YOU FEEL SYDNEY LACKS THE MOST IN TERMS OF LIVE MUSIC?

• Page 7/15 •

“Well I'm on the northern side and there is absolutely nothing. **Need more local venues.**”

“As mentioned, a way for everyone – even in more suburban places, to experience thought provoking music. **Long live local.**”

“**Less Pokies** – more diversity in music. As an example – Do jazz venues exist in Sydney anymore?”

55-64 YEAR OLDS

“Smaller venues in the suburbs. I grew up in south west Sydney and every pub [had live music] ... More venues in a concentrated high street space in suburbs – Bankstown, Liverpool, Parramatta, Penrith all have great opportunities”

“A good jazz festival. **More outdoor gigs in local parks,** football grounds etc”

“Medium size venues. 200 plus”

“**Good night clubs**”

“**Purpose built venues** for small audiences”

“**Mostly, a lack of density** – small venues are too few and far between”

“Not enough free Indie venues like the Union Hotel, the Golden Barley Hotel & Mixtape

Brewery. These are invaluable.

Also, not enough live non-Rock – e.g. Funk, Soul, Ska, Reggae, African, Latino.”

“Places where the main band starts earlier than 9pm.”

“Number of venues”

“More small venues and promotion/advertising of shows”

“Culture that values live music, supports artists and venues”

“Low cost venues, residencies, any spaces that give new artists the opportunity to develop and establish an audience “

“Late night venues”

“Venues”

“More live venues”

“smaller more cosy areas to have bands/musicians – seated & standing room but not overstuffed with people”

“5 years ago i would have said "a useful gig guide". now, it's middle sized venues. **so many sold out shows at <100 venues suggests that a few more 200-400 venues would be sustainable**”

“venues”

65+ YEAR OLDS

“Well positioned jazz venues, ie supported by cafes and restaurants. **The venue needs to be central to transport.**”

“More gigs!”

“Venues and variety”

WHAT DO YOU FEEL SYDNEY LACKS THE MOST IN TERMS OF LIVE MUSIC?

• Page 8/15 •

Values

Summary:

- There's an overwhelming desire in the below comments for a focus on community
- Prioritising the well-being of artists, including fair pay
- Safety is considered hugely important by all age demographics

18-24 YEAR OLDS

"Community"

"The lack of freedom to get loose"

"community and culture - **very competitive atmosphere that is fostered more on who can get out to make it big as opposed to fostering a community and playing with your friends**"

"A proper unified community that isn't limited to genre and location. While there definitely are strong communities, it is often very hard for people not to feel isolated or excluded at shows. People are too nonchalant and scenes can be very clicky. **It would be nice to see people actually prioritise community and unity** over just what is "cool" at that point in time."

"Venues that actually pay artists"

"Independent risk taking operators of all kinds, as well as GENUINE community and collaboration — **the conglomeration of Sydney nightlife is one of the biggest thorns in the scene's side.**"

25-34 YEAR OLDS

"**Music as a community activity** - focus on the audience and artists doing the music together as opposed to the more binary watching and playing relationship. Very nitpicky though, overall I think we have a great vibe at gigs."

"**Community feeling venues/spaces.** Seems to be harder and harder to foster due to money constraints, in my opinion"

"A culture where artists know other artists. **A culture that champions going out to see a band you've never heard of.** Affordable venues (and **affordable rent**)"

"as above, **everything is over engineered, red taped, council trash. you cant just get some people together and play a backyard gig without cops coming.** the lack of nightlife is a part of that. there just isn't any soul."

"Culture"

"Genuine solidarity and support across scenes and genres"

"Support, and collaboration"

"**Non-corporate interests** and groups of people making and showing stuff without care for money (even though that now excludes most people). Not just a Sydney problem tho."

"Sense of community, could be more fun and **respect for punters** ("how much have you had to drink tonight m8?", **a million rules you don't realise you're following until you go out in a different city**, etc), affordability"

35-44 YEAR OLDS

"Paying their musicians well and on time."

"**Experimentation** and interstate bands"

"Experimental"

"Paying bands"

55-64 YEAR OLDS

"Freedom"

"Payment for muso's"

"Local government encouragement"

"Culture that values live music, supports artists and venues"

"Low cost venues, residencies, **any spaces that give new**"

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For the NSW Government Social Issues Committee

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WHAT DO YOU FEEL SYDNEY LACKS THE MOST IN TERMS OF LIVE MUSIC?

• Page 9/15 •

artists the opportunity to develop and establish an audience “

“Late night venues”

“variety of musical thought within the younger generation”

65+ YEAR OLDS

“**Diversity** of genres.

Affordability. **Safety in gigs**, safety after getting home or surrounds. **Ethics at many venues**, including of staff.

Etiquette for performers!

People shouldn't talk while an artist is performing - this is getting worse. Social culture thinking musicians are there to entertain people is often the problem. **Dancing, including in safe spaces for all ages**”

Discoverability and curation

18-24 YEAR OLDS

"A clear cut venue that is well known for producing good artist from a particular genre. Sometimes it's hard to pick where to go on the gig and be assured that it will be a good gig. I know sometimes it should be a gamble but sometimes the amount of venues is overwhelming and it is hard to pick imo."

"Good local scene journalism"

"There needs to be more collectives putting on bands that are good but are still up and coming"

"Female singers!"

"Promotion and support of live music even for gigs that are just happening at a pub"

"More knowledge about gigs and shows going on. Gig guides are relatively niche and no one I've recommended the Sydney one to has heard of it before."

"Support, promotion, affordability"

"Regular programers like Jess Lord from PUSH announcing promoting regular shows at the Eveleigh band room or through Dogs Run Free."

"Diversity of advertising"

"diversity in lineups"

"Diversity, it does sometimes feel that there is an overwhelming number of indie rock bands."

25-34 YEAR OLDS

"Not enough original music - a lot of cover music"

"Music is also virtually non-existent in mainstream media coverage. It's not prioritised culturally. Sport is on the news every night. Why is that pushed more than the arts (not even just music)? Critical music journalism is almost non-existent now. No reviews, no curated gig guides. It's all hyper-local and revolves around groups of friends or clicks (which is great), but it's so hard for artists to get mid-tier success, to go beyond their close networks, progress to touring Aus, and progress to playing 300+ cap medium rooms. The middle has fallen out of the scene. And let's not even get started on bigger success for Australian artists... Triple J is a complete fail. Streaming is a nightmare. Radio is great as you can prioritise Australian and Sydney artists, return to radio and get rid of the unethical/immoral streaming so people connect with their own city again.... I could go on..."

"Publicity and affordability"

"I think Sydney lacks curation. Much like my comment on Dice before - I think it is important that aesthetically people are directed to what interests them. There is a lot of opportunity for artists to promote their own shows in for hire venues, but this doesn't aid discovery by people in your local area who might not know about you as an artist. Consistent promoted shows that are curated well and are affordable to attend are much better for encouraging community growth. **Lazy Thinking is a refreshing step towards this. Church Street Studios is definitely doing this on a Monday Night with their Monday Night Confessions program.** I think artistic directors are important."

"Infrastructure, venues, buy-in from radio stations/streamers."

"this is aus wide, but often it feels like local support choices for big tours are either a) non existent b) seemingly quite out of touch with the local music community"

"Bookers. **people willing to take a financial punt on putting on shows/create community.** I think it would increase bands and community tenfold."

"Diversity. Every venue is run by the same people and every night it's the same 4 surf rock

WHAT DO YOU FEEL SYDNEY LACKS THE MOST IN TERMS OF LIVE MUSIC?

• Page 11/15 •

bands from a private school in the northern beaches. I think the venues need to stop prioritizing alcohol over the music. If they have a platform and don't pay the artist anything and take funds from their ticket sales to say "the more tickets you sell the more you earn"... it's just slavery with more steps. In Berlin, promoters and venues will put on regular nights. And they will change the acts playing and will actually promote the show. Rather than just leasing out the music venues and asking the local acts to fill a room of 200 people without doing any work."

"I think the people who have the ability to make or break an artist's career simply aren't looking for new talent. When it comes to shopping unreleased music around for a label or promotional assistance, it often feels like people are just waiting for a pitch to land in their inbox. I think Sydney needs more of its "curators" shining the spotlight on things that aren't already getting decent coverage"

"I think Sydney bookers are very cliquey and selective. I know a friend in a band that was kicked off a bill after being booked, because the booker realised they didn't have enough of an online following for their liking lol. Pretty shitty to do after booking a band."

"The other thing is, people gatekeep in Sydney. We all

know why, you want to protect your circle, self and momentum in a band, but when you see that bands are just been cliquey, and competitive negatively, it's just disheartening and ruins the sense of community. At the end of the day, if the Sydney scene and people in it support each other, everyone grows!"

"Coverage"

"exposure for new and current artist to get gigs, shows and opportunity to open for other artist/bands. We have so many cool artist but not enough for them to get paid gigs due to large numbers of artist and most venue don't always accept majority artist for a show, events or private session"

"Diversity of programming and genres in Northern Beaches, lack of affordable ticketing options"

"Visibility. Without specifically searching it's hard to find"

35-44 YEAR OLDS

"Maybe a lack of home grown local band support, we need more real support for local talent, whether it's guaranteed payment for their gigs, a government supported program for promotion, or recording, but more needs to be done to kick up local support."

"Venue support , promotion"

"Support for bands who gig irregularly to be able to do more. And ways for the ones who do gig regularly to break bigger"

"Avenues for new artists to find live audiences."

45-54 YEAR OLDS

"not giving unsigned bands a go"

"There is no shortage of venues and NSW Govt money has entered that space to set up more venues which goes some way to soaking up the over-supply of bands. What is missing is funding for promotion to alert gig goers to all of this activity. Clearly I am referring to the case of Sydney music .net NOT receiving a grant. This leaves the equilibrium lop sided. **If money is spent on venues, if bands spend their own money on equipment and rehearsals etc and venues SOMETIMES pay the bands what's the missing link - demand creation.** If venues do not see punters come to shows, they will scale it back or put on a DJ (as Yulli's did despite the fact they received a grant for equipment)."

"I reckon too often Sydney bookers look too much at either their friends list or Spotify plays and not about curating

WHAT DO YOU FEEL SYDNEY LACKS THE MOST IN TERMS OF LIVE MUSIC?

• Page 12/15 •

experiences and nurturing talent”

“Venues, publicity, support.”

“Ways to hook into the live music scene outside of social media or small, effectively closed groups of fans/practitioners”

“It doesn't fully cater for all types of music. Rock (all forms) are pretty well covered. But if you want to see Jazz (for instance), that is much harder. So venues that consistently cover the full gamut of all types of music, including giving all ages access.”

“Variety. I don't mind venues getting locked into certain styles, but then we need more venues to support more styles. Lazy Thinking is the only "venue" you can do weird arty / noisy / ambient shows in at the moment. **We're still haemorrhaging warehouse spaces** (RIP Monster Mouse), and the only other possibility it to hire weird council rooms with no chance of walk-by traffic.”

“a digital space that is its own. Insta is a sea of bullshit generally but specifically for live music promo. we need someone to build the digital version of drum media / OTC. Proper content you can read rather than the endless sea of doom scrolling without anything to hang real attention on.”

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WHAT DO YOU FEEL SYDNEY LACKS THE MOST IN TERMS OF LIVE MUSIC?

• Page 13/15 •

Accessibility

Summary:

- Transport
- Affordability

UNDER 18 YEAR OLDS

“funding so that artists can put on under 18 shows. For me it is too late now but I would love to see venues like the metro and various newtown venues be able to put on and accept not only u18s to see gigs, but more places for people to play gigs”

“Its all just bunched up in the inner west usually and needs to be more widespread into the west north south **everywhere in Sydney should have a venue for everyone, including under 18s**”

25-34 YEAR OLDS

“Accessible ticketing prices and opportunities for people starting out”

“I think it’s more structural - **I don’t have the work life balance to be able to go out to all the gigs I want.** Cozzy Livs but not in the events or ticketing itself.”

“It lacks spaces for small, independent roots-based artists to play shows without losing money (singer-songwriters, bluegrass, country, etc)”

“Weeknight shows and late night shows. Accessible prices for tickets.”

“A culture where artists know other artists. A culture that champions going out to see a band you’ve never heard of. **Affordable venues (and affordable rent)**”

“accessibility (most gigs I go to are in areas difficult to commute to from Western Sydney; **too lengthy by public transport, difficult to park by car**)”

“Publicity and affordability”

“**Diversity of programming and genres in Northern Beaches,** lack of affordable ticketing options”

“I’m very fortunate to live in the Inner West. But broadly, I think access to live music is what lacks most. NSW Gov/Sydney are bettering the situation in the city, but going further west and into the suburbs it starts lacking in what’s available. There support city wide would be great”

“Affordable venues, but I also think a lot of audiences are a bit unadventurous. People don’t want to see what they don’t know and won’t take a chance of new things, or go to things if it’s inconvenient”

“Accessibility, cheaper tickets”

“Awareness, and buy-in from patrons. Free entry / accessibly priced tickets help too”

35-44 YEAR OLDS

“Spaces with dedicated regular nights for developing artists.”

“**Class conscious spaces.**

There’s plenty of spaces for queer kids that went to private schools, for example, but I feel like there’s not a single venue that makes poor people, or people brought up in working class and poor families, feel comfortable.”

“Venues with free gigs”

“places where bands don’t have to pay a venue hire fee.”

“**places accessible to people with disabilities.**”

“Affordability and an audience willing to make a gig exciting.”

“Affordability”

“**Accessibility for smaller international acts from nearby countries to get a few local supports and a decent promoter.** Love seeing small acts from Aoetearoa, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia etc show up!”

45-54 YEAR OLDS

“**A variety of venues that are affordable** ie ticket price”

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WHAT DO YOU FEEL SYDNEY LACKS THE MOST IN TERMS OF LIVE MUSIC?

• Page 14/15 •

“Good public transport options!”

55-64 YEAR OLDS

Affordable venues that still provide musicians with sufficient income to live

“Ease of access getting to venues, lack of parking/public transport esp newtown, marrickville and Paddington areas.”

Culture that values live music, supports artists and venues

“Low cost venues, residencies, **any spaces that give new artists the opportunity to develop and establish an audience**”

Demand

Summary:

- Sydney live music has a demand problem. It's caused by generations of limited accessibility and complete removal of it being in the public eye. Our readers recognise this.

“**People turning up** and willing to pay”

“People who care to go see random bands!!”

“Punters”

“engagement!!!”

“Young audience across classical/jazz/experimental”

“fans”

“Honestly after having gone to alot of internation shows over this weekend... **it's the fact that so many punters do not go to live local shows** and I think spreading and encouraging people to do so can help”

“people going to see local gigs!”

“**Average people knowing about or caring about local artists.**”

“A wider range of individual attendees. My opinion is that it's a 2% who make up 98% of ongoing, committed live music attendees in this city. Most ordinary people don't see live

music as something to attend on the same whim of entertainment as, obviously, what's convenient to them at home.”

“**People that stay out for a whole show.** Not just dip in and out”

“Audiences!”

“**Soul and funding.** Govt not helping sustain the cost of living and live music”

“Getting people out to gigs”

“Punters”

“Bums on seats and consequently money for the artists”

“Promoters with strategies to lure the punters out”

“What would you like to see more of in Sydney?”



Full Flower Moon Band @ Psyched As Forever, Portugal Community Club

Photo by Brittney Booker 🌸 🌟

WHAT SORT OF SPACES OR VENUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF?

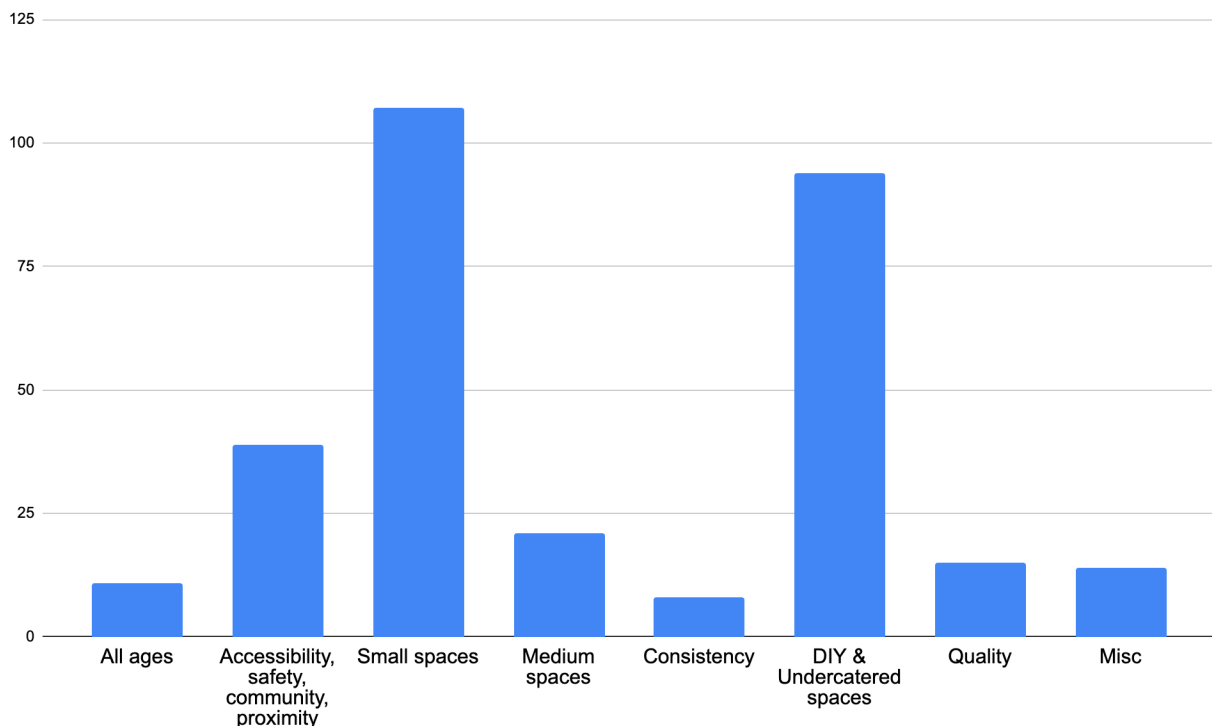
• Page 1/8 •

SydneyMusic is pleased to present responses to the question “**What sort of spaces or venues would you like to see more of?**”

We received 289 unique entries for this question.

We have categorised and selected the responses that responded to the following topics:

- All ages (11 mentions)
- Accessibility, safety, community, proximity (39)
- Small spaces (107)
- Medium spaces (21)
- Consistency (8)
- DIY & Undercatered spaces (94)
- Quality (15)
- Other (14)



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WHAT SORT OF SPACES OR VENUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF?

• Page 2/8 •

All ages

UNDER 18S

“More all ages venues that are easily accessible to older teens/ young adults. Ideally with artist start / finish times being friendly for students and study/ work requirements. Venues that are accessible and feel safe for younger / female audience.”

“All Ages”

18-24 YEAR OLDS

“I’d like to see more dedicated spaces where the youth can hang out and socialise that facilitates voices and a safe environment and less of a focus on profit and alcohol”

25-34 YEAR OLDS

“independent all ages community spaces”

“More all-ages and multi-purpose spaces”

“All ages and DIY spaces”

35-44 YEAR OLDS

“Hardcore / all ages punk shows”

45-54 YEAR OLDS

“All ages venues where adults can also have a good experience”

55-64 YEAR OLDS

“Seated for over 60s, probably halls for under 18s too”

“Young peoples out and about.”

“Under 18 friendly and space accommodating under 18”

WHAT SORT OF SPACES OR VENUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF?

• Page 3/8 •

Accessibility, safety, community, proximity

“More safe space and accessible eg security friendly”

“larger or more open areas that allow for easy movement
and flow and less
overstimulation (also dim lit
venues often help with this)”

“The vicar in dural. More
outdoor events”

**“More small accessible style
venues willing to put on bands
without dodgy hire
agreements eg. free/low cost
shows”**

“Western Sydney venues,
genre specific venues”

**“Anything that is more
accessible and safety friendly”**

“I have not been to poor Tom's x
pizza oltra in Marrickville yet,
but that kind of vibe.
Community based.”

“More accessible venues. **More
family-friendly** (by that I mean,
they aren't bars or pubs) venues
like halls, backyards, churches.”

“Welcoming night clubs for
electronic music (not saying
there are none, more so that I
would like more like Club 77)”

“Venues outside of the Inner
West! Love the Inner West but
would be great to see more
diverse live music offerings
around Rockdale, Campsie,
Parramatta, Bankstown etc.
Informal, backyard or
warehouse style gigs are some
of my favourite. **Would also
love to see the Cooks River/
Botany Bay host a gig trail on a
Sunday afternoon!**”

“Anything free of corporate
influence (tall order I know)”

“small cap good sound free
entry”

“More venues with seating”

“Venues that have a little more
space/seating so I can sit for a
while if I start to get
overwhelmed”

“Venues in suburbs, particularly
out west”

“independent all ages
community spaces”

“Smaller and diy spaces, esp
more out west. Or converted
spaces. More multi genres
spaces. **Something like lazy
thinking but with more space**


“Venues that advocate safety
and ensuring crowd are well
behaved”

“Preferably Safe space”

“Safe space supportive
environment”

“Accessible and collaborative
community spaces, open mic
spaces, venues without pokies”

“Community run and without
sponsorship from alcohol
companies, or the equivalent.”

“More gigs in pubs on the
North Shore”

“Marrickville Bowlo”

“More venues outside of the
inner west!”

“<\$300 to rent live sound
spaces with a few couches and
a little bit of elevation outside
the pit so short people don't
have to fight to see the band.
Like The Chippo's basement :)”

“Accessible venues, **Crowbar
and Elton Chong seem to be
the only ones!** It's a huge
barrier for many!”

“Community clubs and rsls!
And book stores and galleries
and any other ad box or private
spaces”

“I prefer smaller venues. But
inner west has more than
enough. Be good to see some
in other suburbs.”

“Local and cheap”

“More original live music
venues in Parramatta area”

WHAT SORT OF SPACES OR VENUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF?

• Page 4/8 •

“Spaces with good sound systems and **a good community around them.**”

“Cheaper to hire venues, supported buy local councils, similar to the inner west.”

“Seated for over 60s, probably halls for under 18s too”

“Preferably places on good transport routes with decent toilets. Due to my age I like to have places to sit in the venue where you can see the performers.”

“I appreciate music venues that are supported by being located near local businesses such as cafes (which are open!), casual restaurants, etc.”

“Affordable “

“Catering to all levels of competency, encouraging new artists and learners and older musicians to play “

“Dancing”

“Where booze isn't the underlying currency. And that's not just because I am on the wagon for an extended period.”

“More all ages venues that are easily accessible to older teens/ young adults. Ideally with artist start / finish times being friendly for students and study/ work requirements. Venues that are accessible and feel safe for younger / female audience.”

WHAT SORT OF SPACES OR VENUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF?

• Page 5/8 •

Small spaces

Summary:

- **THIS IS THE KEY. THIS IS WHAT EVERYONE WANTS.** And they want them to be diverse - see the DIY section.

UNDER 18 YEAR OLDS

"Small bars and restaurants, under 18 friendly"

18-24 YEAR OLDS

"more actual gig venues as opposed to bars with stages if that makes sense - like bootleggers for example !"

"Dive bars!"

"**Smaller/ privately owned businesses**, like Kiss my brass"

"**Small regional pubs.**"

"Places that host **independent and small events**"

"**Small to medium sized venues**"

"Everywhere pubs clubs rock clubs dancing to heavy shit, you don't have that it's a bunch of performative echo chambers"

"pubs on the north/upper north shore"

25-34 YEAR OLDS

"**Small to medium venues with great sound and a safe space to mosh** (often there are tables and other surfaces too close by and people can get injured, but moshing is a sacred act and we need more spaces for it, particularly for the smaller rock bands)."

"**small & pumping**"

"Honestly more pub venues"

"**Small to mid-sized venues like Lazy Thinking, Burchers Brew and Lazybones** - I really like the model Lazy Thinking has for fostering newer acts, and the intimacy of the venue is really special"

"Pubs/bars, **smaller intimate spaces** with more free or cheap events"

"**small lesser known venues**, underground events"

"**Smaller ones!**"

"**Small venues / DIY / backyard shows / warehouse shows.** This is has plenty of medium and large venues, intimacy is lacking."

"**Intimate spaces** for smaller artists!"

"**Small, independently owned spaces.** (Merivale and solotel can fuck off)."

"**Spaces that put the music first, by investing in quality audio + stage/lights.**"

"**Small bars and pubs** with live music, local music"

"I'm in the inner-west so a lot of the venues are covered, maybe **moshpit bar?**"

"**Really love seeing artists play small club venues** the first time they tour/press tour aus"

"**Small arts venues**, breweries, bars"

"**More small venues!** Bars or galleries, spaces for emerging musicians"

"**small cap** good sound free entry"

"**More small**, anything goes type of venues like lazy thinking. Also more rowdiness!"

"**Small venues. 30-60 cap**"

"**Bar & pub shows, i.e. a small stage crammed in a corner**"

"**Pubs**"

"**Anything except for pubs!** Any venue where the live music doesn't feel like an afterthought is a good venue to me."

"**Would love to see more small, intimate spaces and especially ones that aren't in pubs/centered around**

WHAT SORT OF SPACES OR VENUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF?

• Page 6/8 •

alcohol. **"Would love to see more spaces that cater to experimental and theatrical performers as well"**

"Pubs"

"Halls, pubs"

"I think Sydney needs some smaller intimate spaces that people can try new things in. I guess that's why I mentioned the Midnight Special above."

Also perhaps some cross disciplinary spaces. I just visited MONA and there is a lot of musical showcases and performances there. I rarely hear of people playing art gallery or cinema gigs in Sydney."

"smaller-scale venues with bar/food"

"More independent venues (more grants pls!), more medium sized spaces, more club spaces"

"Smaller and diy spaces, esp more out west. Or converted spaces. More multi genres spaces. **Something like lazy thinking but with more space** 🤔"

"First step venues like the Gladstone or Lazy Thinking."

"Need more of the Caterpillar Club vibe without the shitty staff."

"Intimate venues that platform mostly alternative and folk music rather than catering mostly to jazz, rock or pop"

"Hmm also a tricky one, spaces like Pleasure Club, Duke, Deadset Darlo, Chucks, Low 203, Red Rattler, Waywards, Mary's Underground, places like that."

"Intimate spaces"

"More intimate"

35-44 YEAR OLDS

"Intimate local venues"

"Small and intimate"

"small to mid size, similar to oxford art factory"

"More small to medium sized venues for up-and-coming bands, more small venues for people to find their feet in. More free gigs!"

"Small, more unknown venues"

"Small venues properly set up for music - eg. Brass Monkey, Lazybones Lounge. Something between local pubs/clubs and larger venues like the Enmore or Hordern."

"More smaller venues in the outer Inner West (i.e. Prop Records in Ashfield)."

"More grungy-but-cosy pubs with live music, more mid-size venues around Metro size, and more interesting small-mid club spaces. Let's do better than just a black box space! In general for both live and club, I'm keen to see more interesting spaces repurposed for music, and more multi-use spaces that transform into clubs at night but offer something else to the community during the day."

"Small venues, accessible and frequently running shows. Particularly in western Sydney. There is a need for non-pub venues for small performers which are consistent and have a low barrier to entry."

"Smaller capacity venues with good acoustics"

"Pubs, theatres like the factory"

"Smaller venues with good viewing angles"

"Community run, multiple sized rooms from 40 - 100 pax to support music at multiple levels."

"Outdoors. And pub gigs. I don't just mean someone in the corner of the pub with a guitar. I mean, reputable artists playing proper shows in pubs and other small venues. After all the closures and venues pulling away from live music, there is nowhere near enough of this in Sydney anymore."

WHAT SORT OF SPACES OR VENUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF?

• Page 7/8 •

"Spaces like Moshpit Bar"

"Warehouses, small bars that can play loud music and encourage walk-in punters"

"more small niche venues dedicated to specific styles of music, so you can rock up anytime and know roughly what's going to be on"

"**Stuff that is bigger than moshpit/trocadero but smaller than vanguard.** Thread that needle!"

"**Pubs! Bring back suburban pubs with proper bands playing live.** Remove noise restrictions and incentivise pubs to have proper live music instead of DJs, pokies and walls of TV screens."

"More dive bars. Less polished but good sound. **50-100pax.** Preferably more women owned spaces. Less regulations for warehouses and access"

"Vanguard sized - 100-200 ppl"

45-54 YEARS OLD

"More intimate spaces like bars & laneways. + **Opportunity to have newer/younger bands support more established ones including larger Aussie & International Artists**"

"**Local venues (Northern Suburbs)** putting on small-

medium gigs featuring Art music and original musics."

"**More small venues** like the great pubs of the 80s and 90s"

"**Small, 100-200 people rooms** with good acoustics, quality PA and a sound engineer who doesn't play Tool between the bands."

"**Small live music venues** that have concerts on most nights."

"**small independent spaces** that are willing to take risks"

"Pub venues with decent sized rooms"

"**Reallllly small spaces.** 100 capacity"

"Pubs; RLS's"

"**Smaller**"

"**Small to mid-sized pubs.**"

"**Bowlos, DIY, Pubs (like the old shows at the annandale)**"

"Small bar spaces with live music, gallery spaces, day time venues/performances."

"Pubs, all ages locations. Essentially anything small."

"pubs"

"venues outside of the mainstream circuit that need

additional publicity (ie not managed by agencies such as M&B, CCXO etc as they possess the means to advertise their gigs and do so effectively without additional visibility)"

"Bring back the Hopetoun, Bring back the Sando. Bring back the Petersham Inn - Bring back the Lewisham Inn. Don't waste a venue on a booby bar."

"**I'm defs a sucker for dive bar** with a stage and local bands on rotation"

"Community halls, pubs, cafes, community clubs."

"**Smaller spaces**, where you can get up close to the band, where you can see the band, easily even if you have the furthest spot from the stage."

"Small. As previously mentioned: I love going to gigs in places like Tokyo. More tiny venues to support a wider range of music makes more sense than larger venues who need big crowds to break even."

"**more little venues** before we get to Factory / Metro size venues."

55-64 YEARS OLD

"**Small to medium size**"

"Pubs are good."

WHAT SORT OF SPACES OR VENUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF?

• Page 8/8 •

“small venues similar to GasPo or Butchers Brew”

“It’s good to see more of the pubs having live music or more live music eg in my area Bombies & Mona Vale Hotel”

“Pubs”

“Live music in more pubs more”

“Small, intimate spots”

“Smaller independent venues”

“Small bespoke venues like craft breweries, wine bars etc.”

“60 - 80 capacity, good PAs, staff and management who support and appreciate live music”

“Purpose built clubs”

“Smaller venues devoted to more experimental or unusual music.”

“Pubs, **smaller venues generally**”

“Local pubs you can just wander into - there used to be so many venues”

“smaller spaces not huge theatres with crowds - def not stadiums. **enjoy local pub gigs**”

“Small to mid size venues with decent sound . Venues curating

and supporting music scenes e.g. Windmill, Crowbar. **Semi-private venues like People's Republic**

“More pubs”

65+ YEAR OLDS

“Small to medium size, especially if there is food, drink and comfortable seating”

“More venues! imore options pubs bars . More Sunday afternoons. North shore and north Sydney,”

Mouseatouille @ Factory Theatre, Marrickville

Photo by Darshil Shah

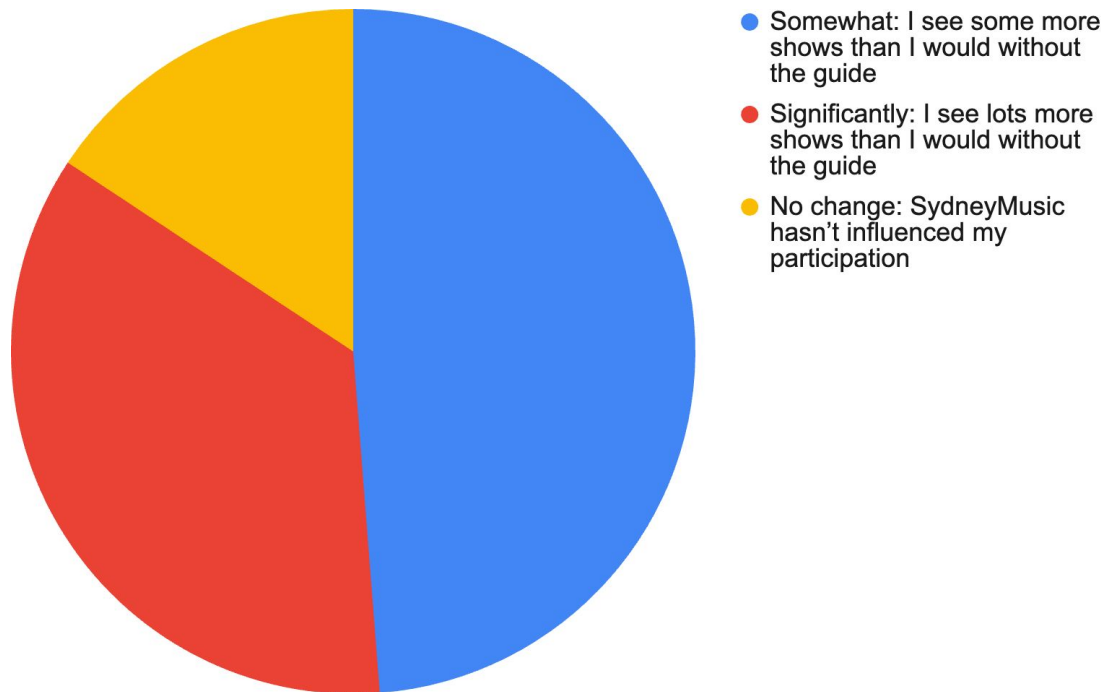
SydneyMusic's impact



We get more people out to shows

84.3% of survey respondents said the gig guide gets them out to more shows

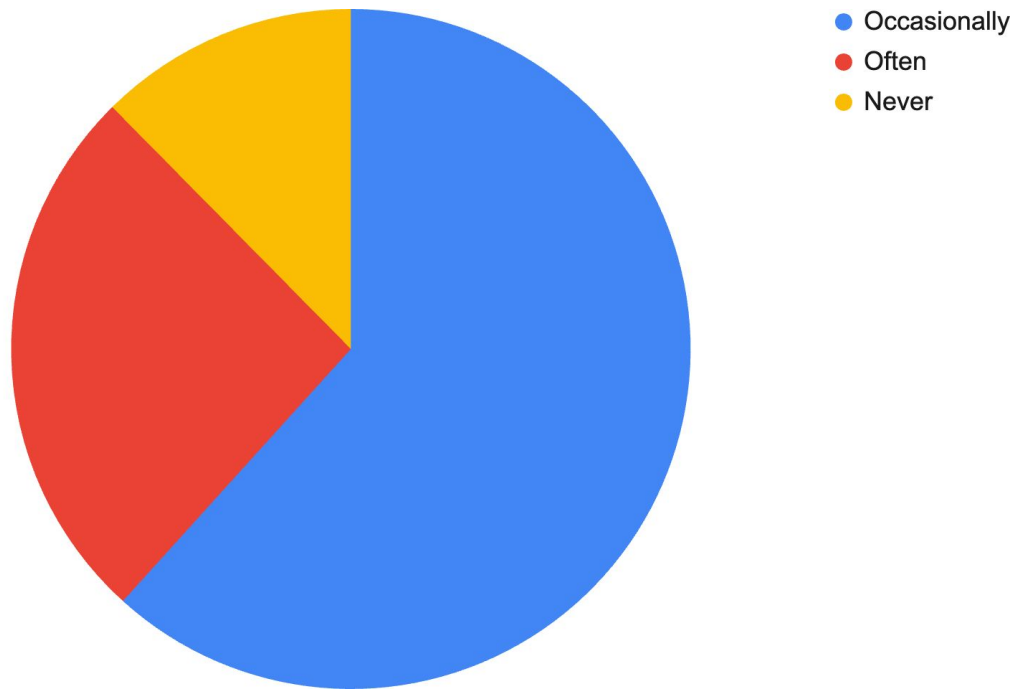
Do you feel SydneyMusic.net has influenced your participation in the live music community?



We help people discover new music

87.6% of survey respondents said the gig guide helps them discover new artists and music

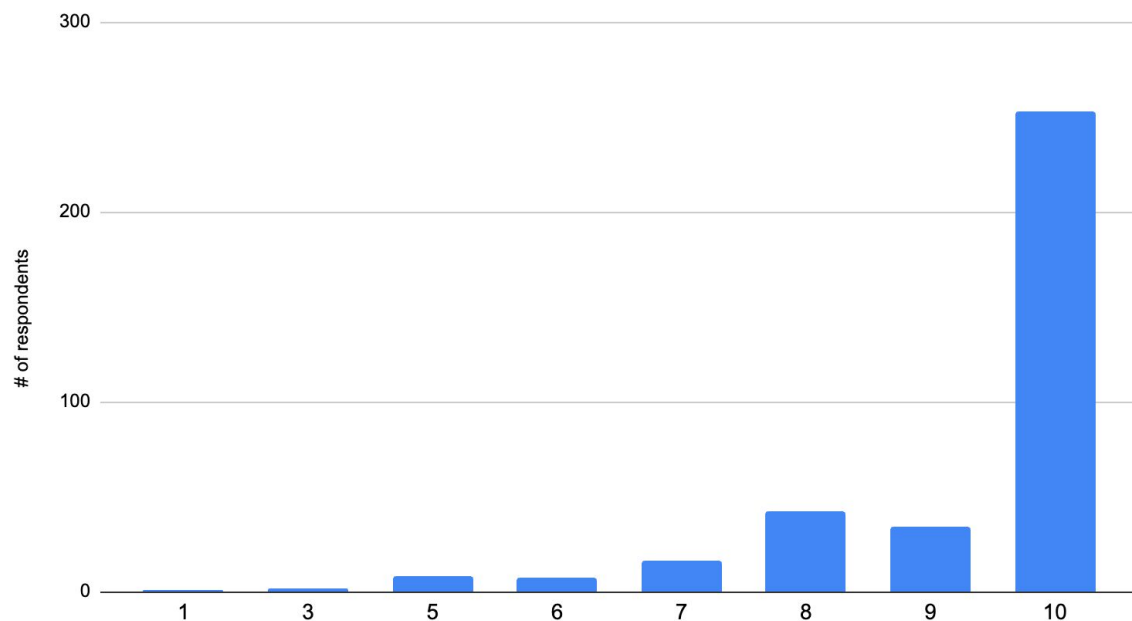
How often do you discover new bands and artists through the Gig Guide?



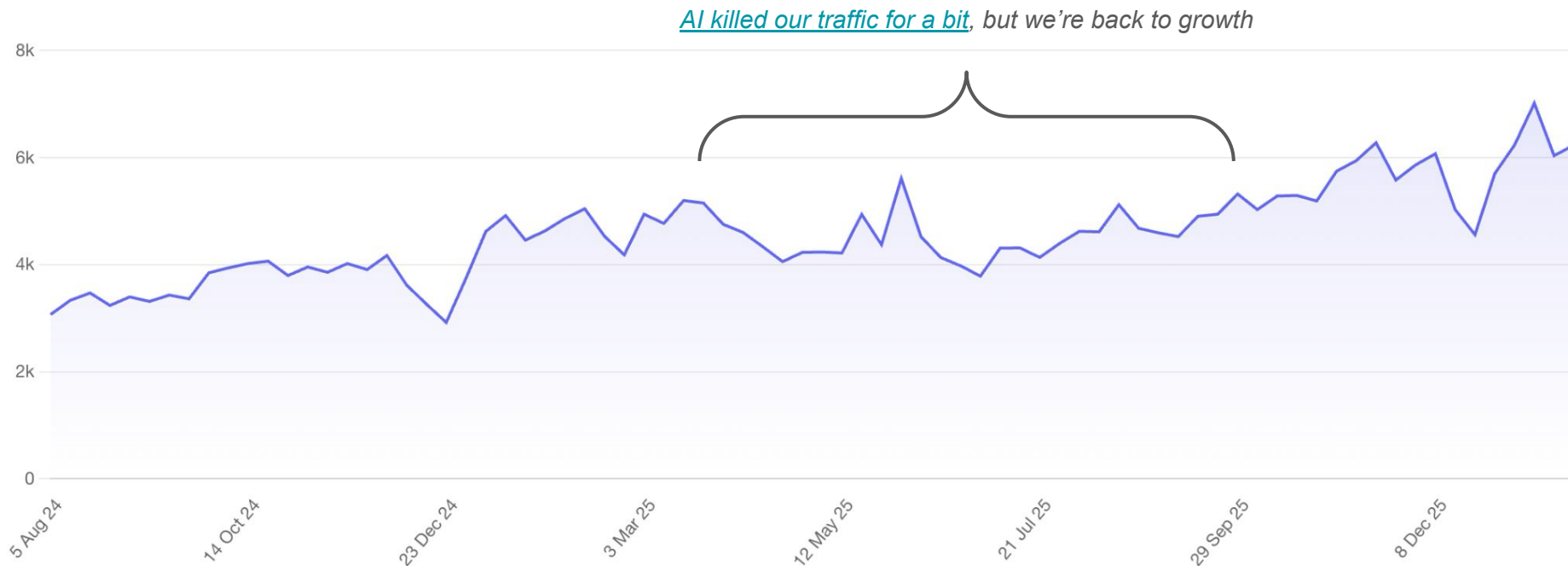
Here's how our readers rate us

This year we received a Net Promoter Score of **74** (“World Class” according to the score’s creators)

How likely would you be to recommend the Guide to another friend or colleague?



We're growing steadily ...



sydneymusic.net Unique Browsers (UB) — 5 Aug 2024 to 1 Feb 2026

Thanks for reading

Questions? Thoughts?
contact@sydneymusic.net

Sam Shinazzi @ The Midnight Special (RIP)
Photo by Darshil Shah

SydneyMusic is sharing these insights in the hope that they will prompt discussion that will benefit our community. The thoughts and opinions expressed by survey respondents can only reflect the opinions of the respondents, and SydneyMusic does not implicitly endorse the words in these responses.

Bolded text has been added at the SydneyMusic team's editorial discretion to aid skim-reading.