



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

MEAA statement on the sanctioning of a musician by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

The Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance is disturbed at the news that a musician has been sanctioned for simply voicing a personal view about the human tragedy that continues to unfold in Palestine.

Pianist Jayson Gillham had his performance with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra cancelled following comments he made about the killing of journalists in Gaza while introducing a piece of music dedicated to their memory.

The musicians of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra were not consulted on the decision to cancel Gillham's performance.

Musical and artistic expression have long been a vehicle for political commentary and a lens through which we examine the world, and MEAA is concerned that freedom of expression is being compromised across the creative workforce.

MEAA advocates for professional security, well-being, and the freedom to express opinions without fear of silencing, censorship or retribution.

Creative workers should not feel the need to restrict the expression of their opinions for fear of damaging their careers.

MEAA takes allegations of censorship and harassment extremely seriously and will support its members in pursuing professional and personal safety and their freedom to express political opinions.

MEAA members stand in solidarity with Jayson Gillham and with journalists working in Palestine.

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