

MEDIA RELEASE**For immediate release**

Teacher's group nominated for ARIA award

This year's [ARIA award nominations](#), recognise the talents of award-winning pianist, composer, and researcher [Dr Sean Foran](#). As one part of a trio featuring the vocal talents of [Kristin Berardi](#), and saxophonist [Rafael Karlen](#), their serene and soothing album, [Haven](#) has been nominated for Jazz Album of the Year. Now Program Chair for [Creative Industries](#) at [SAE Creative Media Institute](#), Sean is imparting his knowledge to the next generation.

Sean is a seven-time Queensland music award winner, a two-time APRA Music Award winner, and a recipient of the Brisbane City Council Lord Mayors Young and Emerging Artist Fellowship, but this is the first time his work has been recognised by the national industry association for music.

"It was a total surprise receiving the ARIA nomination - I actually found out for the first time when it was announced by ARIA on Instagram," Sean enthused.

Sean's fellow group members Kristin and Rafael are successful musicians in their own right, having previously both received the Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship. In addition, Kristin has also won the Montreux Jazz Festival's International Vocal Competition, which is commonly regarded as the world's top singing competition.

"It's a real pleasure to play with Kristin and Rafael; they're extremely proficient in what they do. *Haven* is the second album that we've released together, following on from our 2016 debut album, *Hope in my Pocket*, which was awarded the APRA/AMC State Award for Excellence in Jazz."

The mellow and beautiful sounds of *Haven* were a move away from their previous album, which was inspired by ANZAC letters.

"We really enjoyed the opportunity to delve into the state archives as part of our research for *Hope in my Pocket* and create a cinematic journey, but we felt *Haven* had to be more about the music this time.

"We just wanted to write captivating melodies and delve into the sonic world of the trio, but also add something more, so the album also features acclaimed vibraphonist Pascal Schumacher from Luxembourg, who is a very good friend of ours."



Away from Kristin and Rafael, and Sean is also a member of three-piece Jazz group, Trichotomy, which features John Parker and Sam Vincent. Prior to COVID-19 the group toured all over the world.

“I’ve been playing with those guys for 20 years. We’ve done lots of crazy things like play with a magician on stage when we were touring in China, and fly into small towns in northern Norway; it’s all been a lot of fun.”

At SAE, Sean is in charge of developing the new creative industries course for undergraduates, bringing together each of SAE’s course disciplines.

“We are embedding an entrepreneurial business mindset to the course, which is such an important part of the Creative Industries skillset.

“Having an entrepreneurial understanding of business and industry will help create momentum in your career. For example, how you go about getting your work to audiences around the world and collaborating with a wide range of artists - these are all crucial skills to thrive in the creative industries.”

Having worked in music for over 21 years and won multiple awards, Sean believes it’s vital as an educator that he continues to evolve and stay relevant for his students.

“I feel like students value my credibility in the industry, and I think that being continually industry relevant and transmitting that knowledge is important too.

“Students want to know that the information you’re giving them is current, and whoever is teaching them is someone that they can connect with and give them guidance.”

Looking to next year, Sean has some exciting projects on the horizon. “I’ve got multiple albums I’m working on, I’m collaborating with musicians internationally, and working on a remote production with colleagues in New Zealand and the UK. And I’m looking at some national tours for 2022, once borders open up a bit more. Music, like life, can take new directions, and that’s exciting!”

SAE Creative Media Institute understands creators, and provides students with the knowledge and skills from lecturers like Sean, and the equipment and connections to succeed in the industry. Find out more at sae.edu.au.

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DESIGN



FILM



GAMES



MUSIC

About SAE

SAE Creative Media Institute is the place for creatives and innovators. Since 1976 we've been the leaders in creative media education across animation, audio, creative industries, creative technologies, design, film, games, and music. Every year, we support more than 10,000 students globally to develop the skills and experience needed to carve successful careers. Students enjoy access to the latest technology and are taught by industry-experienced faculty, while putting their skills to the test in small class environments. Our graduates become part of a highly-respected global community of creatives that's been around for over 40 years. We pride ourselves on being technically explorative, transformative and brave through our range of creative media programs, from short courses and professional training through to bachelor and postgraduate degrees. In Australia, our programs are delivered at campuses in Sydney, Brisbane, Byron Bay, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide. SAE is a part of Navitas Pty Ltd. More information about SAE is available at sae.edu.au.

About Navitas

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