

I write to commend Emma Nixon for a Contribution to Folk Music award at the forthcoming AFMAs.

Emma is a passionate advocate for the history and future of folk music in Australia.

She has performed in Australia and abroad in a number of bands (cloud street, The Wish List, The Ceilidh Clan, Emma Nixon and Tony Vandermeer, Iontach, and FRED SMITH).

She is also deeply committed to sharing folk music with young people, establishing the Queensland Youth Folk Orchestra, Folkaphonic (at Festivals) and Junior Fiddle Club.

It is her highly inclusive approach to music - to sharing the love of it and the skills for playing it - that makes Emma's contribution so remarkable. Both through private tuition and her teaching at Scottish fiddle music camps she has encouraged young and old musicians to engage in a variety of folk music.

She thinks carefully about her work. She has researched many aspects of Scottish folk music and aural transmission and has presented papers at national and international conferences, and earned a Masters degree in Traditional Music in the UK.

She has worked assiduously to translate this theory into outcomes that change people's lives, such as by creating different parts to engage people of different levels of ability and enable them to get amongst it creating music in blended ensembles.

It's people like Emma who make the folk scene the passionate and welcoming community that it is. I hope contribution can be recognised at this year's AFMA's.

best

Fred Smith OAM