

DECLASSIFY

EPISODE 0 TRANSCRIPT

Hi there, welcome to the Declassify. I'm Victoria and I'm the host and producer for this podcast or really, as I'd like to think of it - a collection of conversations. Declassify is all about the classical music industry, its past and how this relates to its current state and the challenges this facet of the wider arts industry is facing.

In light of the world's recent events and the increasing *and* necessary conversations that relate to systemic inequality, I and several of those in this community have begun to think more deeply about how the questions of diversity, accessibility and representation relate to and affect the classical music industry and its changing audience.

The heart of this podcast is to critically unpack these difficult and complex topics to ask why things are the way they are? How can we understand the perpetuation of some of the traditions that are now likely to be outdated and archaic? How does music education and the economics of arts and financial access components associated with classical music industry models affect what an audience eventually engages with on-stage or on-screen? And why this industry wishes to hold onto its historical image and despite this, how can it be a platform for more diverse artists and story-telling whilst maintaining a connection to its audience base who also enjoy a program of classics from the classics?

This conversational series features in-depth discussions between myself and one guest per episode. Each of these episodes will allow for us to structurally unpack aspects of the classical music industry in order to address some of the deeper

issues that connect an art form with society. We have a great list of Australian guests for you to listen to over the coming weeks and months, from composers, directors of ensembles, some whose voices you will even recognise from the radio waves through to conductors, performers and advocates for diverse representation. Although myself and the series' guests are Australian and we will be focusing on the classical music world in Australia, I hope that the breadth of issues we will discuss will also resonate with industry practices and the international arts community.

I would like to welcome each of you to listen to and engage with the conversations that will follow throughout the Declassify series. I should also mention that transcripts including one for this little spiel I'm making, will be made available for each episode. I'll pop the information about how to access them into the podcast description. I hope that if anything, they give you a chance to start your own conversations and to ponder where an industry is held in the public's imagination, why this is the case, and how profound the power of representation can be.

Cheers for listening and catch you all soon.

Transcribed by Victoria Pham.