

ATTACHMENT A

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**LETTER FROM TREVOR ASHLEY,
SHOWQUEEN PRODUCTIONS**



22 June 2016

Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney
Sydney Town Hall
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Lord Mayor

“FROM SYDNEY WITH LOVE - A CONCERT FOR ORLANDO”

Thank you for your wonderful words in response to the recent mass shooting in Orlando, both in the wake of the event, and last weekend at the Annual Aurora Ball. It was lovely to see you there.

As a proud Sydneysider and member of the GLBTIQ community, it was with both pride and comfort that I saw Sydney’s caring and heartfelt response to this horrific attack, including the City’s lighting of Sydney Town Hall and presentation of condolence books for the public.

Over the course of the past ten days, I have felt that I could not let this moment pass without doing something positive, not only to raise money, but to galvanise our communities. The grief we are all feeling needs to be acknowledged and I feel music is the best way to do this.

I have decided that I would like to produce a concert, both as a benefit for the victims of the shooting and their families, and as a gesture of love and solidarity from Sydney to Orlando.

I would like to present the concert on the evening of Monday 11 July at Sydney Town Hall, and am writing to request City of Sydney’s support of this benefit concert, as a presenting partner.

In particular, I would like to request that the City contribute the venue and absorb the production and associated in-house costs for this event and provide some marketing and publicity support.

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Naturally, this will be a non-profit event, with all proceeds going to the Equality Florida Pulse Victims Fund. My friend and colleague Joel Creasey has recently announced a similar benefit at the Comedy Theatre in Melbourne on 9 July, which I will be performing at, and which will also support this fund.

Many individuals and organisations from within the arts industry and GLBTIQ community have already pledged their support for the concert, including leading producers and venues. I have been deluged with musicians and artists willing to donate their time for this event. The stars who have already expressed interest in performing are Simon Burke, Kate Ceberano, Bob Downe, iOTA, Emma Matthews, Joel Creasey, and Magda Szubanski (plus many more).

Of course, I would also like to invite you to provide a welcome and some opening remarks at the concert.

I will be the Producer and Creative Director of the concert, which would be a similar format to the five annual World AIDS Day concerts I have previously produced for ACON.

I will be assisted by a committee of wonderful producers and performers who have all asked to be a part of this, including George Youakim, Catherine Alcorn, Anthony Hillis and Blue Saint Productions. Between us we have produced countless theatrical productions, concerts and events at venues from the Hayes Theatre to the Sydney Opera House, and numerous events at Sydney Town Hall.

I am confident we could fill the Town Hall for this event, which I believe is the most appropriate venue for this tribute of love to Orlando. The Melbourne concert sold out in just two hours after an announcement. Additionally, the Daily Telegraph has already offered sponsorship, including free advertising, as has SX and the Gay News Network. Ticketmaster has offered to support the event through ticketing and QT Hotels have come on board to house interstate artists.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Please advise if you would like any further information. I'm sure you appreciate that we would like to hear back as soon as possible, in order to proceed with event planning and a public announcement.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Ashley
Director/Producer
Showqueen Productions

<https://trevorashley.wordpress.com/>

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