

17th May 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: AMINAH HUGHES – RECORDING GRANT

I first met Aminah while touring with GANGgajang eighteen years ago. We have since worked together in various capacities, both on and off the stage, and I have come to know her as an intelligent and vocal woman of extraordinary musical talent.

I have attended many of Aminah's solo performances, during which I have witnessed her outstanding ability to captivate an audience. I have shared the stage with Aminah on a number of occasions, including in her capacity as my support act on a solo tour of the south west and as a vocalist at the 2004 Australia Day Premier's Luncheon performance of *The Sounds of Then (This is Australia)* with the Sydney Youth Orchestra, GANGgajang and Jimmy Little.

Aminah and I have co-produced a number of recordings, including her original spoken word piece "Underground," which was published on the 2003 *Mouthpiece* compilation album and featured on Triple J radio's *Artery* programme. It is a piece she seeks to reimagine with a live jazz trio as part of her new folk/jazz fusion project, *Daughter of the Southern Cross*.

Aminah combines sensuous vocal abilities with honest, poetic lyrics and an unwavering commitment to storytelling. Having worked with her, there is no doubt in my mind that she is a powerful musical force. Her songs depict real people and events as well as an analysis of culture. As a contemporary songwriter, she will have great influence in music, as have Joni Mitchell and Joan Baez. She is truly of this ilk. I believe that our troubled world needs writers and performers like Aminah.

Aminah's debut solo album demonstrated her immense capabilities as a producer, vocalist and songwriter. She coordinated a number of musicians in a variety of studios to achieve a work of great value that adds to the catalogue of high quality Australian music.

I am honoured to recommend Aminah for a recording grant for her important second project, both as a fellow musician and as a devotee of contemporary Australian music.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert James
Songwriter / Musician / Producer
(Lead Guitarist GANGgajang, Yothu Yindi, Scattered People Choir)