

ABC

Re your request for submissions concerning the ABC's programming, here is a recent letter I sent to the Herald which was published, with cuts, in the Herald on September 10.

Harold Levien

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There is a mighty disconnect between ABC CEO Mark Scott's statements and ABC programming. He proudly states "We want the ABC to live up to its charter role 'to encourage and promote the...performing arts in Australia' in the most relevant way possible". He then continues "we know... that Australians have a high level of interest and engagement with the arts...It's our responsibility to do all we can to see that (this) interest... is reflected in the audiences ABC TV is reaching..."

How then can the CEO justify using its precious second channel to duplicate the type of populist programs that occupy over 70% of its evening time slots on its first channel? Here was/is a superb opportunity to broadcast orchestral concerts, chamber music concerts, recitals, major operas, ballets, great dramas-- all without an outlet; and more of the brilliant British documentaries currently being screened on SBS but sadly undermined by advertising every 12 or so minutes.

Where is the commitment and vision that was expected of the ABC's managing director?