

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates February 2017

Communications Portfolio

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 116

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Written, 10/03/2017

Topic: Symphony Orchestra recordings and broadcasts

Senator Whish-Wilson, Peter asked:

1. What changes will the ABC make to the amount, diversity or quality of recordings of symphony orchestras?
2. Will the ABC be reducing the amount of symphony orchestra recordings that it makes?
3. Will the ABC be reducing the number of different symphony orchestras that it records?
4. Will the ABC be reducing the quality of symphony orchestra recordings?
5. What changes will the ABC make to the broadcast of Australian symphony orchestra recordings?
6. Will the ABC be reducing the amount of all Australian symphony orchestra radio broadcasts on Classic FM?
7. Will the ABC be reducing the amount of new Australian symphony orchestra radio broadcasts on Classic FM?
8. Will the ABC be increasing the digital broadcast of all Australian symphony orchestra recordings?
9. Will the ABC be increasing the digital broadcast of new Australian symphony orchestra recordings?

Answer:

1. The ABC is committed to its Charter obligation to encourage and promote the musical arts in Australia. It is incumbent upon the ABC to regularly assess how this is best achieved, taking into consideration audience trends and expectations. The ABC will always look to represent diverse live performances from symphony orchestras around Australia via both Classic FM and commercial release on the ABC Classic music label.
2. No, there are no immediate plans to change the amount of live symphony orchestra recordings by the ABC.
3. No, the ABC is always looking to increase the diversity of orchestras and ensembles recorded by Classic FM and distributed by the ABC Classics music label.
4. No.

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5. Classic FM regularly reviews its schedule, and will continue to do so in regard to the broadcast of live recordings to ensure this content is as accessible as possible to the broadest audience.
6. No.
7. No. Classic FM has set a target of 300 new recordings for 2017, as per previous years. This number encompasses symphony orchestras and other classical music ensembles and performances.
8. Digital broadcast rights are subject to negotiation with each orchestra.
9. Digital broadcast rights are subject to negotiation with each orchestra.