

MEDIA RELEASE
JULY 11th, 2016

SAVING ABC CLASSIC FM

ABC Friends Launches New National Campaign

Reports that ABC management is planning further cuts to ABC Classic FM has spread anger and alarm among the station's large body of supporters.

ABC Friends has launched a national campaign to save Classic FM, ABCF National Spokesperson and former Senator Margaret Reynolds announced today

She said music lovers are being urged to contact the ABC and Federal parliamentarians to insist that bureaucratic recommendations be set aside to protect this national icon.

"The problem with too many ABC management decisions is that they fail to understand what is valued by ABC shareholders," Ms Reynolds said.

"Of all the ABC's services, Classic FM has the most dedicated audience, scattered all over the continent."

"For many of them it is their most important source of musical enjoyment," She said.

"ABC Classic FM also has an international audience, because it is arguably the best classical music station in the world."

"This status depends on keeping together the body of experienced and professional presenters. Once diminished by imprudent staff cuts the collective elan will disappear and will take years to retrieve."

"There are also powerful historical reasons to maintain the service at full strength," Margaret Reynolds said.

"Of all the ABC's achievements, the support of the orchestras and the role of concert promoter are probably the most significant in the cultural history of the continent. ABC Classic FM is the one remaining outlier of that distinguished past. To reduce support for it in any way diminishes the whole organisation. It seems to be a case of management with insufficient sense of institutional history and heritage," she said.

For further comment, please call Margaret Reynolds on 0418 181 843