**Credit Maker webinar notes: Monday 12 May 2025**

Presented by Kingston Anderson on behalf of the AGSC and with special guest, composer and Credit Maker recipient – Luna Pan

Applications close for Credit Maker 2025 on 23 May. Send you CV to info@agsc.org.au

**Background to Credit Maker:**

* The Gender Equity Committee of the AGSC was responsible for initiating the Credit Maker programme.
* It came about after an analysis of gender figures for screen composers revealed that women screen composers were severely underrepresented in the industry and quite frankly, discriminated against. (Last figures were 12% of the total screen composers.)
* The beauty of the Credit Maker programme is that it provided a new way to enable female screen composers to gain entry to the industry by giving them what they needed more than anything else- a credit that could then be considered for future work considerations.
* The Credit Maker programme was set up in conjunction with Screen Australia and also operates to give experience and credit to female cinematographers and producers as represented by the other guilds.

**The role of AGSC as a liaison:**

* The AGSC acts as a liaison between the production company and the composer(s) to ensure that any issues between these are worked out and to ensure that each project is satisfactorily completed.
* AGSC recognises that you as a composer, have certain rights which will be upheld, such as the copyright in the resulting musical works in the production.
* AGSC does not select the composers but invites female identifying composers to apply for the Credit Maker programme and then two professional senior screen composers assess all the applicants and make a recommendation to the production company based on their analysis against certain criteria.
* Although composers may be pro-active and find a production and approach a company themselves, the AGSC can assist in this process if the fit is right, although there are other ways of applying as well.

**How a composer can be selected for a Credit Maker placement:**

(i) A screen composer approaches a production company directly:

* By far the most advantageous way is for the composer to be proactive and approach a company about a specific tv series that they would like to be involved in, if they fit the criteria of being a mid-level female screen composer, OR
* (ii) A production company approaches the AGSC for a composer

Although the AGSC does not make recommendations, it does enable the process for the assessors to review the composers who have applied, to see who is most suitable or to submit a list of more than one who could be suitable for the company to choose from.

(iii) The AGSC finds a production and approaches the company for a credit maker placement:

This will still involve the senior assessors to make a recommendation unless a composer has already approached a company, and they have agreed.

**Do you get paid to be a Credit Maker composer on a production?**

* Yes, and depending on the production, this may be upfront payment or a weekly salary.
* In addition, there are other payments which may be made which are supplementary, for instance, if you needed child-care financial support or specific travel allowances for the project (for example, if the series is filmed interstate.)

**When will the placements be and how many will be made in 2025?**

* There will be 4 or 5 placements, and we are aiming for these to take place this year, but this depends on when the productions start. Later ones may continue until next year.
* Last year we had 4 placements – 2 were brought to us at the AGSC and the other 2 were recommended via the senior assessors.
* Additionally, the AGSC is trying to set up screen composer placements in individual States around Australia.

**Can you apply for Credit Maker if you are considering an overseas production?**

* Yes, as long as you satisfy the main criteria of being a mid-level composer who already has a good track record of work and who is committed to a project and works well under time constraints.

**What personal qualities do you need to work as a Credit Maker composer?**

* Ability to work as part of a team, as in most cases you will have to fit into an existing team
* Ability and willingness to work with a supervising composer, who is essential in your learning process and to ensure to the production company that the work will be of a very high standard and delivered in a timely manner as there will be real deadlines
* Flexibility of approach so that you can adapt your musical language if necessary to suit a certain production or musical flavour already established in a production, particularly if you are working on a second series of an existing tv production
* You may have a certain compositional style that attracts a producer to your music in the first place. In the case of Luna Pan, her experience using Chinese instruments made her a very good pick for the Lego Monkey Kid Season 5 placement where this sound world worked well for the project, and she had experience with these instruments.

**What type of screen productions can a Credit Maker composer be involved in?**

* The most likely will be a TV series, because a screen composer can be given a full credit as a composer or a co-composer credit for a specific episode. It could be a short animation or a long drama – there is a lot of variety of projects possible.
* It is possible but more difficult with feature films, as you it is more difficult for a main screen composer to share the credit for a feature film with you.
* Gaming placements – are possible under this scheme
* It must be a scripted work – so reality tv series are not eligible as a type of production under this scheme

**What type of screen credit can you be given?**

* Depending on your involvement in the production it may be a full credit if the sole composer, or a partial credit as a co-composer or if mentored by a supervising composer.

**What if you have applied before but have not been selected yet?**

* Don’t assume that we know everything about you. Please update your CV by sending in a new one with all relevant information about your screen composing experiences.
* If you are unsure whether or not you have sufficient experience to apply, please send us your CV and our assessors will determine this, however, keep in mind that you must have already some credits from screen composing and not be an emerging composer with no experience.

**Why is it so important that you have prior experience for this placement?**

* You need the ability to act and adapt quickly and produce potentially a lot of music in a short period of time. This comes with experience not only at composing but also in understanding what is expected of you.
* According to Luna Pan, having a really positive mindset is incredibly important when joining an existing team and being open to possibilities and different ways of thinking. This flexibility and positivity are essential as are your original musical expressions suitable for the production.

**Advice for the future as a screen composer:**

* Put yourself out there – let industry members know what you are up to and what you would like to be involved in
* Go to everything, be involved, keep people thinking about you and your work and then something is more likely to pop up with you in mind