



To whom it may concern,

My name is Glenn Dickie and I am the Export Music Producer for SOUNDS AUSTRALIA.

SOUNDS AUSTRALIA is Australia's export music market development initiative, established to provide a cohesive and strategic platform to assist the Australian music industry access international business opportunities.

SOUNDS AUSTRALIA is a joint initiative of the Australia Council For The Arts and APRA AMCOS, supported by the Federal Government together with State Government Agencies and Peak Industry Associations.

As a globally recognised brand, SOUNDS AUSTRALIA has now become synonymous with producing stellar showcasing events around the globe, featuring all Australian line ups, with some of world's most influential bookers, buyers, agents and promoters in attendance alongside the tastemakers of tomorrow.

Our aim is to provide the best possible environment for Australian artists at international events, offering additional exposure to industry and fans, fast-tracking Australian Music success globally.

Within my role at Sounds Australia, I have worked with Joel Sarakula on a number of occasions over the last 4 years. SOUNDS AUSTRALIA featured Joel at our premier international showcase event THE AUSSIE BBQ in London in May 2014 and at the Reeperbahn Festival, Hamburg in September 2015.

Much like South by Southwest these showcase festivals offer no remuneration, they offer the opportunity for up-and-coming artists to promote themselves on a world stage to industry professionals in a cultural exchange with their host countries in the hope of furthering their international career.

Joel's shows were very well received and I have found Joel to be an extremely professional individual with exceptional talent as well as a proud and responsible ambassador of Australian music. I also found him to be of sound character and very appreciative of the opportunities he has been rewarded with over the last few years.

I know Joel to be diligent and responsible in all his roles so I am sure it would be a terrible emotional and financial disappointment for him to be denied entry to the U.S.A. at this late stage. With his flights and accommodation already booked and only weeks before South by Southwest (SXSW) which is arguably the biggest event on the SOUNDS AUSTRALIA calendar it would not only mean that Joel would be missing out on a career defining opportunity but both SOUNDS AUSTRALIA and the SXSW programming team would need to look at filling Joel's showcase spot at the last minute.

Therefore, if there was a possibility of fast-tracking his interview for the B-1/B-2 VISA, both Joel and SOUNDS AUSTRALIA would be very thankful for this change. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions.

Kind Regards,

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