



Sydney  
New Music  
Festival  
2016

# SYDNEY NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL 2016

24 September - 11 October 2016 Sydney Australia



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# CONTEMPORARY PIANO MUSIC

**Sydney New Music Festival 2016**

**24 September 2016**

SCO CONCERT NO. 7

## Program

Luz meridional by Andrian Pertout (Australia)

Dance Suite by Ian Mitchell (UK)

Double Variations by Margarita Zelenai (Russia)

Interval

Pop Suite by Luiz Casteloes (Brazil)

Water Fantasy by Shoryu Itazu (Japan)

Meteors by Brian Chatpo Koo (Australia)

TLC Theatre

Baulkham Hills High School

Sydney NSW Australia



# Benjamin Kopp

## Pianist

Sydney-born pianist Benjamin Kopp has performed as soloist with the Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Western Australian Symphony Orchestras, and Orchestra Victoria, collaborating with many renowned conductors.

Benjamin completed his postgraduate studies with Pascal Devoyon at the Haute Ecole de Musique de Geneve. During his time living in Switzerland, from 2007-2012, Benjamin performed as soloist with several orchestras, including leading contemporary-music group Ensemble Contrechamps, l'Orchestre du HEM Geneve and Ensemble Namascae.

In 2007, Benjamin was the winner of the Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year in the keyboard category.

Prior to this Benjamin was a full-scholarship holder at the Australian National Academy of Music, with teacher Rita Reichmann. Benjamin completed his Bachelor of Music at the Sydney Conservatorium, with teacher Daniel Herscovitch, and previously studied with Jennifer Hammond. Benjamin's solo and chamber music performances are regularly broadcast on Radio Suisse Romande, ABC Classic FM, 2MBS FM and 3MBS FM.

Benjamin is pianist and co-founder of the Streeton Trio, "Australia's most internationally successful piano trio" (Musica Viva). They have played in such venues as Wigmore Hall, Shanghai Oriental Arts Centre and the Het Loo Royal Palace.





## Andrián Pertout (Australia) LUZ MERIDIONAL

Dr Andrián Pertout was born in Santiago, Chile, 17 October, 1963, and lived in Gorizia, Northern Italy for several years before finally settling in Melbourne, Australia in 1972. In 2007, he completed a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree at the University of Melbourne on Tweddle Trust, Australian Postgraduate and Melbourne Research scholarships, studying composition under the guidance of Brenton Broadstock.

Composition awards include the Boston Metro Opera 'Mainstage Award' (USA), Jean Bogan Prize, 'John Cage Centennial' Wolf Museum of Music and more... He is currently the Australian Delegate of the ACL (Asian

Composers' League), Honorary Fellow at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (University of Melbourne) and National Academy of Music (Thessaloniki, Greece), and between 2009 and 2013 was President of the Melbourne Composers' League. As well as being a freelance composer, he additionally works as composition lecturer, teacher, supervisor and examiner at the University of Melbourne at Bachelor, Masters and PhD levels.

'Luz meridional' or 'Southern Light' was commissioned by Julian Burnside AO QC and especially composed for Australian pianist Michael Kieran Harvey as part of a 2009 State

Library of Victoria Creative Fellowship, and while each individual movement pays homage to one of twenty-four early Australian composers, the work as a whole represents a Homenaje a Henry Cowell (1897-1965).

The twenty-four solo piano études incorporate quotations from early Australian composers sourced from the State Library of Victoria's Australian Manuscripts collection, and represents a composition project dedicated to researching melodic material from the State Library of Victoria's Australian Manuscripts collection in order to then compose a

*"The twenty-four solo piano études incorporate quotations from early Australian composers..."*

set of twenty-four études for solo piano, utilizing and transforming this material in various ways: contrapuntal procedures, formal structures, pointillism, time point sets, tempo canons, combinatoriality, imitation, linear additive composition models, ornamentation, ostinato, quotations, rhyme schemes, serialism, inversions and palindromes, interval exploration, reharmonization, additive rhythms, bell ringing sequences, De Bruijn sequences, isorhythms, metric modulations, non-retrogradable rhythms, polyrhythms, True Random Number Generators, etc. In 2012, the work was recognized as the Winner of the Jean Bogan Prize (University of Newcastle, Newcastle, Australia).

# Ian Mitchell (UK) DANCE SUITE



Ian Mitchell was born in Scunthorpe in 1968, and started studying the classical guitar at the age of 7 under John Gladwin, the trombone at the age of 9 and the piano at 11. By the age of 14 Ian had gained a distinction at Grade VIII on the trombone and was studying trombone at Huddersfield University under Barrie Webb.

The main highlights of Ian's career have not only been the foreign tours or the high profile concert venues, but also the opportunities to be able to compose for a professional quality wind band, and to conduct his own music in front of large audiences. As well as being the composer of The Music Makers (The Quick March of the Corps of Army Music).

On July 2nd 1985 he enlisted into Junior Leaders' Regiment (Royal Armoured Corps) where he spent two years training prior to passing out into the regular Army on 28th August 1987. Having completed his musical and military training Ian had qualified as an Associate and later a Licentiate of the London College of Music, a grade VIII pianist, and the winner of prizes for brass playing, piano playing, violin playing and theoretical studies; he was cap-badged to join the Band of the Blues and Royals, where on 10th November 1987, he commenced his Equitation Training in Windsor, a course which he completed in Knightsbridge in May 1988.

**Dance Suite** for Solo Piano was composed in 2010. In true 'retro' fashion, the first movement of the Dance Suite to be composed was the Finale. After which quickly followed the quasi Allemande, the Toccata, the quasi Menuet, the quasi Sarabande and the quasi Aria.

My intention was not to create a strict Baroque Dance Suite, neither was it to re-invent the musical wheel in any way; it was to try and capture something of the mood and feeling of

*"...it was to try and capture something of the mood and feeling of the Instrumental Suites of J.S. Bach..."*

the Instrumental Suites of J.S. Bach, without copying their structure or style; so to try and create a piece which had its own integrity as a 21st Century

piece, but showing clear influence - with respect.

The Toccata and the Finale illustrate their point without requiring explanation. The four internal movements however may require comment: these movements are influenced by blues music, Russian Romantic pieces, the New Viennese School, Hungarian and Romanian Nationalism, and many other diverse areas. However I feel that they mainly owe loyalty to their Baroque relatives, and a performer will get closest to the musical essence of these movements if s/he approaches them from a Baroque point of view.



## Margarita Zeleniaia (Russia) DOUBLE VARIATIONS

The music of Russian-born composer Margarita Zeleniaia received its Lincoln Center premiere in 1997 and its Carnegie Hall premiere in 2001.

Among her most recent world premieres were: "Double Variations based on Mussorgsky " for piano solo" and "At the Time Line" for percussion and piano (2014), the "Lamentation" for violin solo and strings (2012), "The Agony in the Garden" (based on the El Greco's painting) for viola and piano (2011), and "The Lion that Could not Roar" (2010), a music fairy-tale that was written in collaboration with Robert Sherman. In 2009, her duo

"Homage II" (violin & cello) received its world premiere at the Chicago Cultural Center as part of the Chicago Chamber Musicians' First Monday concert series and was broadcast live on WFMT Chicago. In 2008 for creation the "Byzantine Chants", sacred concerto for a Solo Cello Ms. Zeleniaia was awarded the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance (NoMAA) grants. Dr. Jennifer Pascual, Director of music of Cathedral of St. Patrick, invited her to be a guest at the radio show "Sounds from the Spires" (The Catholic Channel SIRIUS 159 XM 117) where Dr. Pascual is a host. In 2007, she

was a recipient of the "Encore" program grant from the American Composers Forum, and a year later musicians of the New York Philharmonic were performing her works at the Kaplan Penthouse Chamber Music Series at Lincoln Center. Retaining a close relationship with the famed New York orchestra, her string quartet, "August. Sunset Bloom," was given its world premiere on the

Philharmonic Ensembles at Merkin Concert Hall series, receiving both critical and audience acclaim.

*"...my main task was to take certain themes the great composer touched on, and dig deep, peeling many layers."*

**"Double Variations based on Mussorgsky"**, reflects my adoration for the genius Russian composer. It is based on two themes from his

"Boris Godunov". As I was writing it, I felt as a playwright, an actress (and not just one actress, but an entire cast of characters), the lighting crew, and even the costume designer... all at once. This is not just a concert piece, but also a work that makes you feel like you are right in the middle of a play. Moreover, this is a very Russian work, as I envisioned it. I felt that my main task was to take certain themes the great composer touched on, and dig deep, peeling many layers.

## Luiz Casteloes (Brazil) POP SUITE



Dr Luiz E. Casteloes (b. 1977; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). Composer, Professor of Theory/Composition at Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora since September 2009.

DMA (Boston University, 2009), MM and BM (UNIRIO, 2004, 2001). Prizes, residencies, internships, and grants from/at the following institutions: Centro Mexicano para la música y

las artes sonoras

(CMMAS), IRCAM,

Boston University,

CAPES/Fulbright, UFRJ

School of Music

(honorable mention at

their 1st National

Composition Contest,

2012), Festival Primeiro

Plano (Prize for Best

Sound Editing, 2003),

and Funarte (1st prize

in the XIV Brazilian Contemporary Music

Biennial, 2001). Recent performances/

recordings include: Ensemble Arsenale (Italy,

2013), Orquestra da Unicamp (Brazil, 2012),

Freisinger Chamber Orchestra (USA, 2009 e

2008), ALEAll Ensemble (USA, 2008), and

Duo Amrein-Henneberger (Germany, 2012).

Recent articles published by "El oído

pensante" (Argentina, 2013), Revista

DAPesquisa (Brazil, 2011-10), International Review of the Aesthetics and Sociology of Music (Croatia, 2009), and Music Scholarship - Russian Journal of Academic Studies (2009). Research interests: Musical Onomatopoeia, algorithmic composition, Collage, and Popular Music.

*"...my main task was to take certain themes the great composer touched on, and dig deep, peeling many layers."*

**"Pop Suite"** for Solo Piano (L. E. Castelões, 2007). - Program Note  
These miniatures feature some contemporary musical interests, such as cartoon soundtracks, pop culture, humor, musical

onomatopoeia, distortion in timbre and form, non-western music (from Sudan, Cambodia, Brazil), as well as our daily superheroes, that is, Machaut, Bach, We-bern, etc. The compositional process consisted of trying to adapt these seemingly irreconcilable musical ideas to this inexorable instrument called "pianoforte". (which may sound as car horn, electric guitar, drums, speech...).



## Shoryu Itazu (Japan) WATER FANTASY

Shoryu Itazu was born in Japan in 1973. He moved to London and completed a Master's degree at Goldsmiths College, University of London where he pursued studies composition and art thought attending Doctoral course. He won SONY-Obunsha student composition prize and selected the concerts of JFC "Japanese composers 2003, 2008 and 2012" supported by Agency for Cultural Affairs, Asian Music Festival and ISCM World Music Days 2011 and 2014. He studied under Edward Gregson, Sadie Harrison, and Michael Finnissy and also participated seminars by Harrison Birtwistle, Gerard Grisey, and Jonathan Harvey. His works are performed, published and broadcasted all over the world.

*"...to give intelligence and sensibility of the "moisture" this work is to listen .."*

**Water Fantasy** has been composed in the image of various things concerning "water". What a variety of water, ground water, and mineral water, rain, babbling, the kitchen comes to mind. In addition, such as snow and ice is a crystal of water is also included. As the method of composition, was composed by a combination of free improvisation and Sherry technique that has been expanded. In the hope that in hand, to give intelligence and sensibility of the "moisture" this work is to listen ..

## Brian Chatpo Koo (Australia) METEORS



A music creator, founding conductor, Artistic and Executive Director of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, Brian has worked as a violinist, cellist, composer and as a conductor in several professional symphony orchestras before settling down in Sydney in 1993.

Brian studied music at the University of Hong Kong (Bachelor of Arts in music and Master of Philosophy in music), the University of Sydney (Doctor of Philosophy in music). He was the first person in Australia to receive a PhD degree in music composition. Brian also studied music at International Summer Course for New Music in Darmstadt, Germany, and obtained his Licentiate, Fellowship Diplomas from Trinity College of Music London.

As a composer, he has been commissioned by a variety of organisations, including the Hong Kong Composers' Guild, the Hong Kong Arts Festival, and the Symphony

Australia. His compositions have been performed and broadcasted over Asia, Europe, North America and Australia. He won the Hong Kong Young Musicians' Award in 1985 and the Himalaya Cup Award in the First International Competition for Piano Composition in Beijing in 1995.

*"when wishing upon the shooting stars, dreams can come true...."*

As an academic member, he has worked as a tutor/teaching assistant for the Music Department in the University of Hong Kong, a senior faculty member of a conservatory of music in Sydney (where he

established curricula for the Bachelor degree in Music Composition), and an external examiner for the University of Wollongong.

**Meteors**, shooting or falling stars, are a luminous phenomenon, may occur singly or in showers. They say when wishing upon the shooting stars, dreams can come true. Here in this piece then, are the sounds of shooting stars, and of course, the wishes that one may carry.