

Sunday, 28 November, 2011
"Australian Country Report on Recent Contemporary Music"
2011 Asian Contemporary Music Festival (29th Asian Composers League Festival
& Conference), 26 November – 3 December, 2011, Taipei, Taiwan
International Conference Room, NTCH

The 'Australian Country Report' includes information about Australian contemporary music since the previous 2009 Asian Contemporary Music Festival (27th Asian Composers League Festival & Conference), 27 March – 2 April, 2009, Tongyeong and Seoul, Korea.

The Melbourne Composers' League

The Melbourne Composers' League is a non-profit organisation with charitable status, which promotes the indigenous and art music of Australia in an Asian Pacific context.

It produces professional concerts of Australian and Asian-Pacific new music with premier musicians including Michael Kieran Harvey, Peter Neville, Speak Percussion, Barrie Webb, Deborah Kayser, Geoffrey Morris, Carl Rosman, Mark Knoop, Isin Cakmakcioglu, Rachel Atkinson, Andrew MacGregor, Mark Kruger, Edit Golder, amongst many others. It has performed the music of many Australian composers including Brenton Broadstock, Julian Yu, Stuart Greenbaum, Peter Tahourdin, Ros Bandt, Thomas Reiner, Andrián Pertout, Helen Gifford, Scott McIntyre and Brendan Colbert.

Since its inception in 1997, the MCL has presented 387 works in concerts, many with ABC FM and 3MBS FM broadcasts, of which 303 works have been Australian, 68 from Asia-Pacific, 4 from Latin America, while 12, European. Twenty-nine concerts have been performed which juxtapose the music of Australia with that of another country, including music from New Zealand, Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Indonesia, Sumatra, Romania, Israel, Turkey, Taiwan, Chile, Malaysia and Italy.

In 2001, it presented Federation Music Week, with sixteen concerts and four seminars involving Asian Pacific and Australian music, to create a forward looking relationship for Australia with its neighbouring countries for coming years. In this event, as in most of our concerts, the composers were invited to come to Melbourne to meet Australian composers, musicians and audiences.

In 2008, the MCL and independent producer Anna Monea presented *Below the Star-Stretched Sky* – a concert of new music for trombone and string quartet from Australia and Korea featuring Barrie Webb and Silo String Quartet at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York, NY, USA.

In addition, the MCL produces café concerts for members, as well as composition workshops and CDs. In July 2008, a new double CD entitled 'Rear Vision' was released featuring twenty-seven Australian composers and numerous Australian performers.

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At present the Melbourne Composers' League has ninety-two members. The MCL's present Executive Committee is Andrián Pertout (Chairman), Eve Duncan (Secretary), Antonio Tenace (Treasurer), James Wade, Johanna Selleck, and David Keeffe.

www.melbournecomposersleague.com

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The Melbourne Composers' League has hosted six concert events since April, 2009, which include:



First Light – featuring new chamber music for violin, violoncello and pianoforte from Australia, Italy and Japan performed by Tim Veldman, Alister Barker and Michael Kieran Harvey. This concert incorporated the music of composers Domenico Gabrieli, Colin McKellar, Judy Pile, Eve

Duncan, Brendan Colbert, Andrián Pertout, Anthony Wilson and Kanako Okamoto, and took place on the 24th of September, 2011 at Trinity Uniting Church, Brighton, Melbourne, Australia.



Five Pointed Star – featuring new chamber music for string quartet and voice from Australia performed by Aaron Barnden (violin), Jessica Bell (violin), Ceridwen Davies (viola), Caerwen Martin (violoncello) and Deborah Kayser (mezzo-soprano). This concert incorporated the music of David Holyoake, Adam Starr, Haydn Reeder, Judy Pile, Andrew Batterham, Eve Duncan, Brenton Broadstock and Joseph Giovinazzo, and took place on the 24th of October, 2010 at Trinity Uniting Church, Brighton, Melbourne, Australia.

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The Melbourne Composers' League also presented the 'Four Seasons' Concert Series, which was a huge success. Presented were 40 works by 36 composers from Australia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Hong Kong and the Philippines. 'Winter' received a special repeat performance thanks to the support and generosity of Professor Kevin Purcell and the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music.



Summer – featuring new chamber for flute, viola, harp and percussion from Australia, Japan and Korea performed by Johanna Selleck, Merewyn Bramble, Megan Reeves and Peter Neville. This concert incorporated the music of composers Brigid Burke, Warren Burt, Eve Duncan, David Holyoake, Harue Kondoh, Akira Kobayashi, Young-Eun Paik, Andrián Pertout, Haydn Reeder, Thomas Reiner, Mark Viggiani and Julian Yu, and took place on the 21st of February, 2010 at The Great Hall, National

Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia. The Melbourne Composers' League was extremely honoured to have had the presence of Harue Kondoh, Akira Kobayashi and Young-Eun Paik at the concert.



Spring – featuring new chamber for saxophones, shakuhachi and percussion from Australia and Malaysia performed by Lachlan Davidson, Tony Hicks and Stuart Byrne (saxophones), Andrew MacGregor (shakuhachi) and Eugene Ughetti (percussion). This concert incorporated the music of composers Katy Abbott, Ros Bandt, Simon Charles,

Lachlan Davidson, Douglas Gibson, Stuart Greenbaum, Yii Kah Hoe, CH Loh, Andrián Pertout and Antonio Tenace, and took place on the 6th of December 2009 at Fitzroy Town Hall, Fitzroy, Melbourne, Australia. The concert was recorded by the 3MBS FM and broadcast on the 26th of March 2010 as part of the 'Dress Circle' segment of the weekly 'Concert Hall' programme presented by Robert Hooke.

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Winter – featuring new chamber for trombone, pianoforte, contrabass and percussion from Australia and Hong Kong performed by Barrie Webb, Michael Kieran Harvey, Anita Hustas and Peter Neville. This concert incorporated the music of composers Wing-Wah Chan, Brendan Colbert, Bruce Crossman, Eve Duncan, Helen Gifford, Scott McIntyre, Paul Moulatlet, Andrián Pertout and Silvia Simons, and took place on the 21st of August, 2009 at the Iwaki Auditorium, ABC Centre Southbank Boulevard, Melbourne, Australia. The Hobart 'Winter' concert was held on Saturday,

22nd of August, 2009 at the Conservatorium Recital Hall, University of Tasmania Conservatorium of Music. The Melbourne Composers' League was extremely honoured to have had the presence of Wing-Wah Chan at the Tasmanian presentation of 'Winter.' The Melbourne concert was recorded by ABC Classic FM and broadcast on the 11th of June, 2010 'New Music Up Late' program hosted by Julian Day.



Autumn – featuring new chamber for organ, trumpet, flute and percussion from Australia, Korea and the Philippines performed by Andrew Blackburn, Tristram Williams, Jean Penny and Eugene Ughetti. This concert incorporated the music of composers Diane Blom, Andrew Blyth, Brenton Broadstock, Peter Graham, Chan Hae Lee, Colin McKellar, Paul Moulatlet, Ramon Santos and Peter Tahourdin, and took place on the 19th of April,

2009 at Trinity Uniting Church, 15 Black Street, Brighton, Melbourne, Australia.

The MCL is also planning a 'Four Colours: Gold, Silver, Orange and Indigo' concert series of four concerts in 2012.

The curatorial vision of this concert series is of four contrasting art music concerts that explore identity in Australia and the Asia Pacific after recent catastrophes through tonal colour and atmosphere. The unique environmental colours and musical tone colours of Australia and the Asia-Pacific are implicit in the title: Four Colours: Gold, Silver, Orange and Indigo. Victoria has recently experienced catastrophic flood and fire, and the colour

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and sound of its identity at this moment calls to be explored through the arts. The Asia Pacific region likewise has had significant experiences including Japan's natural and nuclear disasters, Thailand's political upheavals, Israel's tense and violent episodes, Korea's flooding and nuclear threat, and New Zealand's mining and earthquake disasters.

1. Four Colours: Gold

A concert of new chamber music for trumpet (Tristram Williams), French horn, euphonium, percussion (Peter Neville) and pianoforte (Danae Killian) from Australia, New Zealand (John Elmsley) and the Philippines (Ramon Santos) as part of the annual International Festival of Brass, Melbourne, Australia, September 2012.

2. Four Colours: Silver

A concert of new chamber music for flute, clarinet, violoncello and pianoforte from Australia, Israel (Ari Ben-Shabetai) and Japan (Kanakano Okamoto) with Syzygy Ensemble. The proposed date and venue is the 28th of April, 2012 at the Iwaki Auditorium, Melbourne, Australia.

3. Four Colours: Indigo

A concert of new chamber music for string quintet from Australia, Hong Kong (Nga-Ting Ada Lai) and Japan (Isao Matsushita) with the Veldman Quintet. The proposed date and venue is the 24th of November, 2012 at Trinity Uniting Church, Brighton, Melbourne, Australia.

4. Four Colours: Orange

A concert of new chamber music for trombone and string quartet from Australia, Thailand (Atibhop Pataradetpisan) and Korea (Chan Hae Lee) with Barrie Webb (trombone) and the Silo String Quartet. The proposed date and venue is the 9th of December, 2012 at Fitzroy Town Hall, Melbourne, Australia.

The Melbourne Composers' League New CD Project

As part of the 10 year celebrations, the MCL released a double CD entitled 'Rear Vision' launched on Sunday, 20 July, 2008 at Dante's in Gertrude Street, Fitzroy. The event included a performance by Rachel Atkinson of Peter Tahourdin's *Music for Cello* (included on the CD) as part of his 80th Birthday Celebrations. The MCL double CD featured the music of members; the works of 27 Australian composers. In 2012, the MCL will produce a new CD celebrating the music of MCL composers. In striking contrast to the previous CD, which set out to present music performed in live concerts, relating directly to MCL events, this new CD will focus on studio recordings.

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Composer News

In 2011, Julian Yu was the featured composer in the 35th instalment of the 'Suntory Hall International Program for Music Composition' in Tokyo, Japan. This program was established by Toru Takemitsu in 1986, and over the years has featured composers such as Takemitsu, Cage, Nono, Xenakis, Yun, Henze, Rihm, Lindberg, Salonen and Knussen. The concert on August 25 featured Yu's *For Our Natural World* for symphony orchestra, which was performed by the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra conducted by Kazuki Yamada. A second chamber concert in Tokyo on the 30th of August featured Yu's *Scintillation 2* for piano, two vibraphones and glockenspiel, along with *Philopentatonia* for chamber orchestra performed by the Tokyo Sinfonietta conducted by Yasuaki Itakura.

In September, 2011 Brenton Broadstock and Julian Yu also travelled to Beijing for a premier performance of Broadstock's *Australian Suite* for Ruan Ensemble and Yu's *Composers' Parade* with the Ruan Ensemble of the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing. The performance took place on September 18th at the Concert Hall of the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, People's Republic of China. Brenton Broadstock is currently composing several major works, including a saxophone concerto and an opera entitled *Fahrenheit 451* as part of an Australia Council two-year Fellowship, as well as a new work for the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Andrián Pertout's recent travels include the attendance of a performance of *Bénédiction d'un conquérant* by the Orquesta Sinfónica de Puerto Rico as part of the Festival Interamericano de las Artes (20 August – 2 September, 2011) in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This is the orchestra founded in 1956 by eminent Spanish Catalán cellist, conductor and composer Pablo Casals (1876-1973). In late October, he also travelled to Valdivia, Chile for five performances by the Orquesta de Cámara de Valdivia of a newly commissioned Concertante for Chamber Orchestra entitled *Namkonün (En la profundidad de las aguas)*. Other recent commissions include the 'Compulsory Chilean Work to be Performed by all Competitors' of the XXXVIII Concurso de Ejecución Musical 'Dr. Luis Sigall' 2011, Mención Violoncello in Viña del Mar, Chile. The work was consequently performed by 16 cellists from 13 different countries in the first phase of the competition. The competition is regarded as the most important interpreters' competition in Latin America, and this year's winner was Xian Zhou (China), while the winner of the best interpretation of the 'Compulsory Chilean Work to be Performed by all Competitors' was Weixi Lou (China). The second prize went to Alexey Zhilin (Russia), and the third to Mariusz Wysocki (Poland).

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Australian delegate of the ACL (Asian Composers' League), President of the Melbourne Composers' League, Honorary Fellow at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (University of Melbourne) and National Academy of Music (Thessaloniki, Greece)

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