

SYDNEY  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMPOSERS  
CONCERTS  
2022

**CONTEMPORARY  
CHAMBER MUSIC**

22 December 2022  
Sydney Australia



Sydney  
Contemporary  
Orchestra

# INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the Sydney International Composers Concerts 2022!

This year we will be presenting two concerts with the newest and freshest modern music by contemporary composers from some different countries and regions around the world. These composers will contribute their innovative and original musical ideas to our audiences in Sydney giving us an opportunity to challenge and refresh our ideologies.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to these composers - for their creative work, efforts, and contributions.

I would also like to give my sincere thanks to our wonderful musicians - for their dedication and interpretation of the music.

Special thanks to our volunteer Management Committee members, without their selfless dedication all of these great concerts could not be possible.

Brian Chatpo Koo  
Artistic Director

Sydney Contemporary Orchestra



# SDYNEY INTERNATIONAL COMPOSERS CONCERTS 2022

The Sydney International Composers Concerts 2022 is a festival of new music. It is an annual event, designed to engage with and foster the local music scene through interactive festival activities led by professional musicians and composers from Australian and around the world.

The festival consists of two parts:

1. 2 video recording concerts
2. 9 open rehearsals

The video recording concerts will be hosted by the musicians of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, experts in modern music:

1. Contemporary Orchestral Music
2. Contemporary Chamber Music

The open rehearsals will provide opportunities for composers, musicians, and audiences to meet each other to share ideas, and observe how the musical ideas originated and developed, in order to stimulate composers' creativity and innovation.



# PROGRAM

## Contemporary Chamber Music 2022

Thursday, December 22, 2022 7:30 pm

**TLC Theatre**  
Baulkham Hills High School  
Sydney Australia



### **Sextet - tripled yellow**

by Marco Molteni (Italy)  
(world premiere)

### **Ishtar & Gilgamesh**

for chamber orchestra  
by Brian T. Field (USA)  
(world premiere)

### **Coda**

for Piano Trio  
by Eric Davis (USA)  
(world premiere)

### **Yello Revier**

**Piano Trio**  
by Brian Chatpo Koo (Australia)  
(world premiere)

I N T E R V A L

### **Five Autological Miniatures**

for Piano solo  
by Will Davenport (USA)  
(world premiere)

### **Toccata**

for Piano Solo  
by Richard Campanelli (USA)  
(world premiere)

### **A Night in the Woods a miniature**

for piano solo  
by Francesco Sgambati (Italy)  
(world premiere)

### **Three Pieces for Piano Solo**

Paul Dice (USA)  
(world premiere)

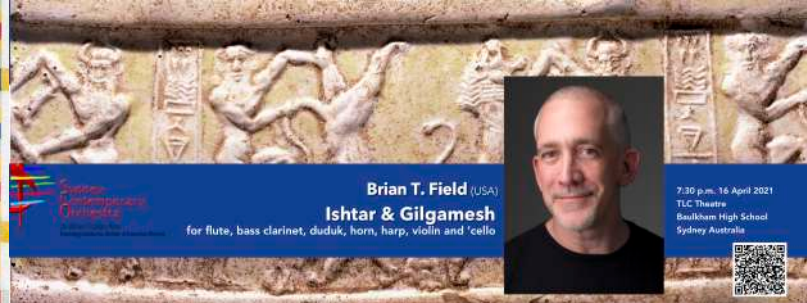
### **Piano Sonata**

by Sami Koivuneva Finland (Finland)  
(world premiere)

### **Picture of Lipo Reciting A Poem**

for piano solo  
by Brian Chatpo Koo (Australia)  
(Sydney premiere)





**MARCO MOLTENI** was born in Como (Italy) in 1962.

He studied composition with Luciano Chailly and Giuseppe Giuliano; electronic music with Riccardo Sinigaglia at the Conservatory of Music of Milan, getting his diploma in 1985 and 1988.

He attended several perfecting courses like : Accademia Chigiana - Siena (Franco Donatoni); Atelier de Recherche Instrumental IRCAM - Paris; Darmstadt Ferienkurse.

His music has been rewarded and recognized in important international competitions (Gaudeamus Music week - Concorso Internaz. "Casella" - Concorso Internaz. Icons Torino – Concorso Internaz. Guido d'Arezzo - Festival WNMD 2010 Sydney - IBLA Grand Prize NY-International Festival of Electroacoustic Music MUSLAB Mexico - NYCEMF Electroacoustic Music Festival New York etc.) and played in several places like IRCAM, Chigiana Novita, Siena, Festival Antidogma Torino, Ferienkurse fur Neue Musik Darmstadt, Gaudeamus Music Week Amsterdam, Nuove Sincronie Milano, International Review of Composers Belgrad ...

His music has been broadcasted by Radio France, RAI Radiotelevisione Italiana, ABC Sidney, CBC Toronto etc. and it has been published by BMG Ricordi and Ars Publica.

### Tripled Yellow

for six instruments

The piece for ensemble "Tripled Yellow" was written in 2017 and is the transcription and further elaboration for six performers of the piece for clarinet and piano entitled "Yellow for Piet", inspired by the yellow color inserted in the Piet Mondrian painting "Broadway Boogie Woogie".

The clarinet has an almost concerting part and at the end of both pieces there is a short boogie.woogie.

**Dr. Brian Field's** music is an eclectic fusion of lyricism and driving rhythm that brings together elements of post-romanticism, minimalism and jazz. He has received a host of awards, including the RMN Classical recording prize, the Benenti Foundation recording prize; First Prize, Briar Cliff Choral Music Competition; and First Prize, Victor Herbert ASCAP Young Composers' Contest among many others.

Dr. Field began his musical endeavors at age eight with the study of piano, and began his first serious compositional efforts at sixteen, earning his undergraduate degree in music and English literature from Connecticut College, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa. At Connecticut, he studied composition with Noel Zahler, piano with the Polish pedagogue Zosia Jazinovich, organ with John Anthony, and harpsichord/figured-bass realization with Linda Skernick.

Devoting himself to composition, Dr. Field continued his musical studies at the Juilliard School in New York City where he was awarded his Master of Music degree. At Juilliard he was a student of Milton Babbitt. From Juilliard, Dr. Field attended Columbia University, earning his Doctorate. At Columbia, he was a President's Fellow and studied composition with George Edwards and Mario Davidovsky.

Dr. Field's musical works include music for television and stage; solo acoustic, chamber, ballet, choral, electroacoustic and orchestral works. His compositions have been performed throughout the United States and internationally and are recorded on RMN Classical, Parma Recordings and Ablaze Records.

*Dr. Brian Field cont...*

Compositions by Dr Field have been performed by the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra:

From the Clash of Race and Creed in Sydney International Composers Concerts 2018 - Contemporary Orchestra Music.

### **Ishtar & Gilgamesh**

for flute, bass clarinet, duduk, horn, harp, violin and 'cello

The Epic of Gilgamesh, from ancient Mesopotamia, begins with five Sumerian poems about Gilgamesh, king of Uruk, dating from the Third Dynasty of Ur (c. 2100 BC). The Epic is recorded on a set of twelve clay tablets dating to the seventh century BC, found in the Library of Ashurbanipal in the Assyrian capital of Nineveh. Gilgamesh became the hero par excellence of the ancient world—an adventurous, brave, but tragic figure symbolizing man's vain but endless drive for fame, glory, and immortality.

This musical work depicts a moment from tablet six ("Ishtar and the Bull of Heaven") where the goddess Ishtar—enamored of Gilgamesh—seeks to wed the hero. Gilgamesh, who knows how fickle Ishtar is with her suitors, spurns her which sets her into a rage. She ascends to the heavens and persuades her father, Anu, to lend her the Bull of Heaven to wreak havoc on the city of Uruk and kill Gilgamesh. As the Bull charges through the city in its calamitous fashion, Gilgamesh and his comrade Enkidu slay the Bull.

This musical work is presented in four continuous parts that follow this narrative: the work begins calmly, with the almost meditative "Ishtar's Song," where Ishtar attempts to woo Gilgamesh "singing" a five-note theme that represents our hero; this is followed by "Gilgamesh Scorns Ishtar" that is somewhat mocking and up-tempo. The third section, "Ishtar's Wrath & the Bull of Heaven" features a thumping, heavily-galloping motif, and a broken, disruptive counter-theme. The work concludes with "Gilgamesh and Enkidu Battle the Bull" that interposes the themes of Bull and hero to a resolute conclusion.



**Eric Davis** is a composer and performer based in Austin, TX. Eric graduated in May with a Bachelor's in Music Composition from the University of Oklahoma, where he also studied French Horn, piano, organ, and music technology. As a performer, Eric has played works for a wide variety of instruments, including mandolin, bass guitar, steel drums, and live electronics, and has performed in numerous chamber groups and large ensembles. This blend of influences is evident in the fluid compositional style present in his works, which have been performed across 15 U.S. states and 3 countries.

**"Coda"** was written as an homage to the capricious and virtuosic finales of classic multi-movement chamber works. The piece opens with a fanfare-like primary theme in the cello before transitioning to a virtuosic piano cadenza, which introduces a secondary theme that is also developed throughout the work. A slow and brooding interior theme emerges, building into a second cadenza in the violin before ending the piece with a fiery recapitulatory passage.



Brian Chatto Koo (Australia)

## PIANO TRIO

'The water of the Yellow River came up from the sky and rushed to the sea without returning.'

### Contemporary Chamber Music

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL COMPOSERS CONCERTS 2021



**Piano trio** was written in 2000, inspired by an ancient Chinese poem from the Tong Dynasty. It expresses the flowing water of the yellow river implying the constancy of the passing of time and the mortality of our lives.

In a single movement, the music is divided into 4 sections. Derived from a Chinese folk tune, a flowing background passage is transferred from one instrument to another, symbolizing the movement of the Yellow River.

The music in the second section of the trio imitates the theme of the original song. Accompanied by the cello's tremolos the violin plays the song fragmentally and leads to a fresh blooming passage.

The 3rd section is a retrograde variation of the first section which builds to a climax before fading to the final tune of the song and later, it is taken over by the cello. The music suddenly becomes joyful led by the piano.

In the final section, the violin emerges in with the background music slowing the tempo and moving to the high register and finishing off the music on its high lonely harmonic

**Will Davenport** (b.2000) is a midwest-based composer studying at Ohio University under the direction of Dr. Robert McClure and Dr. Mark Phillips. Through his music, Davenport explores the young and complex emotions that he experiences in this fast-paced, overstimulated world. He finds inspiration through art, poetry, and nature as well as his own life experiences. Many works of his are based on specific moments in his life. Ask him about it. Recently he has written work to be performed and recorded by the Tower Duo.

### FIVE AUTOLOGICAL MINIATURES FOR PIANO

This piece was composed for a project at Ohio University under the

direction of Dr. Robert McClure. The goal was to write five miniatures for piano using set theory, over the course of ten weeks, one miniature every two weeks. As each miniature was finished, it became apparent to me that each miniature reflected my experiences during the two-week period of its creation. In a way these miniatures transformed into a journal and became much more personal than what I originally intended. The term "autological" refers to a word that describes itself, like "unhyphenated", and I thought it was a fitting term to give to these miniatures.





**Richard Campanelli** received his M.M. degree from Hartt School of Music where he studied with Donald Harris. He was a Nikos Skalkottas fellow at Tanglewood during the summer after graduating from Hartt School where he studied with George Perle. Mr. Campanelli received his DMA from the University of MI where he studied with Leslie Bassett, George B. Wilson, William Bolcom and Eugene Kurz. Mr. Campanelli's awards include yearly ASCAP grants, a Meet the Composer grant, a Charles Ives Fellowship and a Goddard Lieberon Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts & Letters, The Holtkamp Award for new organ music, a Marimolin prize for new music for violin and marimba, and 2 Michigan Council for the Arts grants.

He has had two orchestral pieces premiered by the Detroit Symphony.

Mr. Campanelli has also received commissions from the Detroit Symphony, Oboist Harry Sargous, and the Contemporary Music Forum of Washington, DC where he was on the production board.

His piano duo was premiered at the Busan Cultural Center by pianists Seung-Hwan Kim and Hyo-Jin Jang.

His compositions **Toccata** will be performed in Sydney International Composers Concerts 2022, on 17 December 22, 2022, and his composition **Shifting States** will be performed in Sydney International Composers Concerts 2023, on April 14, 2023.

**Francesco Sgambati** is born in Neaples (Italy) on April 4, 1990. He starts playing classical guitar when he was 14. After the graduation at the high school he is admitted to the conservatory of Neaples "San Pietro a Majella" in the 2009. After finished the bachelor he manages to get into the master in didactics and pedagogy.

Between 2014-2015 he won more than 10 guitar competition Nationally and Internationally such as the XV National Guitar Competition – City of Taranto, VII International Music Competition – City of Airola, II International Guitar Festival – City of Eboli, X International Music Competition "Luigi Densa", XIV International Music Competition - City of Caserta, XIX International Music Competition "Napolinova".

He attends different masterclasses with important musicians like: Leo Brouwer, Antigoni goni, Gohar Vardanyan, Rene Izquierdo, Lorenzo Micheli and Aniello Desiderio.

Due to an unfortunate incident he stops playing guitar for several years and starts studying classical composition and film scoring composition at the "European Academy of Art and Music in Neaples" with M° Patrizio Marrone and the film composer Franco Campanino.

In 2019 he is one of the 5 finalists composers of the "XVIII International Lavagnino film festival". In 2020 he is one of the three winners of "XV Veria International Composition Competition". He also was awarded the First Price to the "Acerra Guitar Composition Competition" (John W. Duarte Centenary Celebration) by Chris Duarte.

In the same year he was admitted to the composition course held by Salvatore Sciarrino at the prestigious "Accademia Chigiana" in Siena.

From 2020 he is a Bergamann Edition artist composer.

On August 2020 he has published a work for guitar duo with the prestigious canadian



Francesco Sgambati cont...

publishing house "Les Productions d'Oz".

From 2016 he is a teacher of guitar in the musical high schools in Italy.

### **A Night in the Woods**

a miniature for piano solo

What it would be like to spend a night in the woods?

Can you hear the rustle of leaves?

Are you afraid of the dark?

While you're walking, something is moving behind you.

The moonlight dimly illuminates a path through the trees.

It is the magic of the woods

and only music can drive you in this fascinating walk.



**Paul Dice** studied composition at the Boston Conservatory of Music with Joel Kabakov, privately in Boston with John Adams and with Lou Harrison at the Atlantic Center for the Arts in Florida and at Harrison's home in California. His commissions include those from the American Composers Forum, Central Conservatory of Music Beijing), Carleton Chinese Music Ensemble, Gao Hong (pipa), the experimental vocal ensemble Listen, Chinese guzheng (zither) artist Zhongbei (Daisy) Wu, the Edina Concert Orchestra, the Chinese Heritage Foundation, and Fedogan and Bremer Publishing among others. Dice has received numerous grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and McKnight Established Artist Awards from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council. Finding enjoyment in composing for instruments throughout the world, Dice has composed for Western symphonies, chamber ensembles and soloists; traditional Chinese instruments; Indonesian gamelan; Philippine kulintang; Japanese hichiriki (Japanese wind instrument); accordion; metal sculpture and harmonic singers. His music is primarily inspired by movement and sounds found in nature, and techniques and practices used in other art forms or cultural traditions that he adapts for use in his own special brand of music.

Dice's music has been performed throughout China, Russia and the US.

In 2009 Dice became the only foreigner to be commissioned by a new program at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing designed to encourage composers to combine Western and traditional Chinese instruments in their works. In 2016 he was awarded a Dunhuang Cup in China. Dice was Music Advisor for the six-part TPT-PBS series *Made in China*, English editor for the Hal Leonard Pipa Method Book written by Gao Hong, and producer of several world music albums published by ARC Music (UK); Indigenous Treasures (US), and IFTPA (US). Dice was also an Artist-in-Residence at the Xian Conservatory, a member of the People to People Citizen Ambassador Program Music of the Minorities Delegation to China and

*Paul Dice cont...*

Kazakhstan, and presented papers at Chinese and ethnomusicology conferences in Chicago and Rock Island, Illinois; Heidelberg, Germany; and Wuxi, China. His music is published by the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing and the UCLA Music Library.

Dice is the founder and president of International Friendship Through the Performing Arts, a nonprofit organization that promotes intercultural friendship, understanding and interaction through activities in the performing arts. Dice was a judge for the 2021 Dunhuang Cup Composition Competition and has been a panelist for the Minnesota State Arts Board.

### **Three pieces for piano solo**

by Paul Dice

Program Notes

#### **Variations on a Theme by Alida Dice (2021)**

As I awaited the arrival of my daughter at a family Christmas gathering in Guilin, China, I tried to figure out what sort of gift I should give her. Since I depend on others so much in China for

everything, I opted out of buying her a present and decided to transcribe a short piano piece she had composed instead. As soon as I began working on it, I realized how fun it'd be to write

variations based on her theme. The resulting piece begins in a somber A minor but the variations travel through an array of different moods and tonalities before coming to calm and peaceful conclusion.

#### **Portrait**

This piece is A self-portrait that reflects the struggles, emotions and eventual triumphs of my life during my late teens and early twenties. Portrait was premiered at Walker Art Center in Minneapolis by pianist Shirley Weston and was also performed at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It was featured on a broadcast of "Music in Minnesota" on Minnesota Public Radio hosted by Randy Bourne, and on KFAI-FM's "These Things Happen" with host John Brower.

### **Hop and Scamper**

The inspiration for this piece came from watching common frogs hop around my backyard and tiny, Spring Peeper frogs scamper away from me whenever I got too close to them. It seemed that every time I lifted up a large rock near our garden I'd discover their hiding place. They'd just look up at me and seem to say "Could you please give us some privacy?!" And then they'd scamper away, turning around every few seconds to see if I was still there. I think they knew I was harmless, but they still found me annoying.



PIANO SONATA  
Sami Koivuneva (Finland)  
December 17, 2021  
T.L.C. Theatre Sydney Australia

# SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL COMPOSERS CONCERTS CONTEMPORARY PIANO MUSIC

A concert for video recording  
2021



Brian Chatpo Koo (Australia)  
**THE PICTURE OF LI-PO RECITING POETRY** for Piano solo  
**Contemporary Piano Music**  
SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL COMPOSERS CONCERTS 2021

**Sami Koivuneva**, born in Helsinki, Finland, on the 28th February 1976 .

I started playing the piano when I was 11 years old. I had a piano teacher for two years. Ever since I have practised by myself. I begun composing at the same time when I took the first steps playing the piano.

I wrote mainly piano music the first years of composing. I arranged music for piano and cello and worked as a television pianist around the year 1999. I played and improvised music in a television show. Ever since I have composed music for theatrical dramas and comedies.

Orchestral music came along around year 2010 when I started rehearsing writing scores for symphony orchestras. My first piece of orchestral work was published in 2014 by the Finnish Wind Band Association. I orchestrated one of my early piano works for a wind band. It was a piece of music called "Daydream by the Sea".

Now I am working with my 2nd Piano Concerto which is called "Momentum".

### Piano Sonata

Sami Koivuneva's Piano Sonata was written in 2020, the year of oddness.

It has three movements. The first movement has a tempo marking 138 and it is to be played fairly fast but not rushing it - molto allegro ma non troppo. The first movement has two themes. It opens up with a rapid descent and the first theme is played in the bass notes. The second theme is a scherzo, a playful moment which tries to detach it from the dark sounds of the first theme, before returning to the first descent and bass note theme.

The second movement has a tempo marking 68. It is to be played very calmly- molto andante. The sustain pedal to is used to make atmospheric sounds echoing in the space.

The third movement has a tempo marking 144. It is a bit faster than the first movement and it has a scherzo feeling throughout the piece. There are vigorous accents and fast rhythmic playing but gentle legato in the middle of the piece. It builds up to a fast but short ending.

**Dr Brian Chatpo Koo** is a Sydney-based musician. He worked as a violinist, cellist, and conductor in several professional symphony orchestras before settling down in Sydney in 1993.

He studied music at the University of Hong Kong (Bachelor of Arts in music and Master of Philosophy in music), and the University of Sydney (Doctor of Philosophy in music) He was the first person in Australia to receive a Ph.D. degree in music composition. He 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 organizations, 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.

He is the Founding Conductor and Artistic Director of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra. The SCO Youth Symphony - the Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra and the Sydney Hills Junior Orchestra, and the Western Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

### The Picture of Li-Po Reciting Poetry

This work is inspired by a picture painted by Song Dynasty artist Liang Kai. The picture shows the Tong Dynasty poet Li Po reciting his poem. To depict the romantic charm, motion, and emotion of the picture, the music is constructed upon several isolated and contrasted phrases. The pianist portrays that poet at times in a soft murmur and at times in impassioned broad outburst.

Composed in 1999, this work has been performed at many music festivals across the world.



# SYDNEY CONTEMPORARY ORCHESTRA



Founded in 2013 and led by its Founding Conductor, Artistic, and Executive Director Dr. Brian Chatpo Koo, the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra (SCO) is dedicated to exploring and promoting new music by contemporary composers.

Based in Sydney Australia and comprised of about 100 of Sydney's finest professional musicians, the SCO offers a high standard professional video recording service for contemporary orchestral music providing significant incentives for composers to pursue creative endeavors in new music and to enrich the music culture of our times.

Since 2013, the SCO has hosted 12 concerts - Music Contemporary 2013, 2014, 2015, Contemporary Piano Music 2014, Chamber Music 2014, and the Sydney New Music Festival 2016 which consists of six open rehearsals and 3 public concerts (Contemporary Piano

Music 2016, Contemporary String Quartets 2016 and Contemporary Chamber Music 2016), Sydney International Composers Concerts 2017, Sydney International Composers Concerts 2018, and has performed and promoted 56 new works of the composers from 40 countries and regions around the world. The SCO also hosted and video recorded a Chinese New Year Concert for the celebration of the Chinese Spring Festival in 2015 which was highly acclaimed.

The vision of the SCO is to enrich the cultural life of Sydney and to establish Sydney's reputation as a leading center for the performance of contemporary music. The SCO promotes the music of today's composers from Australia and around the world. It is the only Australian orchestra dedicated to the performance of new music by today's contemporary composers.



Sydney Contemporary Orchestra  
ENSEMBLE MODERN 202



Dr Brian Chatpo Koo  
Conductor

Beata Stanowska  
Concertmaster

Karen Cortez  
Cello

Samantha Mailer  
Flute

Rachel Tolmie  
Oboe

Jason Xanthoudakis  
Clarinet

Annalisa Solinas  
French horn

Jee Fei Khor  
Harp

Steven Machamer  
Percussion

Ronan Apcar  
Piano

Amy Kang  
Piano

Dr Brian Chatpo Koo  
Artistic Director

Founding Conductor and Artistic & Executive Director Dr Brian Chatpo Koo is a Sydney based musician. Having studied music at the University of Hong Kong and the University of Sydney, Brian was the first person in Australia to receive a PhD degree in music composition.

Supported by the Hong Kong University Grant, Brian also studied music at the International Summer Course for New Music in Darmstadt, Germany, and obtained his Licentiate and Fellowship Diplomas from the Trinity College of Music in London.

As a composer, his compositions have been performed all around the world.

As a conductor, Dr Koo has conducted many symphony orchestras around the world for his compositions' premieres.

He founded the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra in 2013. Together with about 100 Sydney finest professional musicians and a strongly admired volunteer management team, Brian is dedicated to creating a platform where more new orchestral works can be performed, heard, recorded, published and become a part of our music culture, as he believes music development history is written by composers' creativities. To encourage and to reach the pinnacle of this creativity and art, we must through devotion, perseverance, determination, but most importantly through constant performances.

Brian also founded the SCO Youth Symphony, a training arm of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, in order to provide professional orchestral training to young musicians, as he believes with classical music training and carefully selected programs covering a variety of cultural perspectives, young musicians can be equipped to broaden their vision and to enhance their understanding of culture, civilisation and human society.



## **Beata Stanowska**

Master of Arts (Violin – Poland)

Concertmaster of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra.

1st Violin, Ensemble Modern 2013 - Sydney Contemporary Orchestra

1st Violin, String Quartet 2016 - Sydney Contemporary Orchestra

1st Violin, String Quartet 2020 - Sydney Contemporary Orchestra

Teacher of Violin Beata has extensive experience as a performer and music teacher. She gained her qualifications in the Lyceum of

Music in Warsaw, Poland and completed her Master of Arts study in the class of Professor T. Kochanski, in the Academy of Music in Gdansk Faculty of Instrumental Studies, where she held a concertmaster position with the Symphony Orchestra.

She was awarded a distinction in the National Children's Violin Competition in Lancut (Poland). Beata became a principal violinist with both the State Opera and Philharmonic Orchestra and Baltic Chamber Orchestra, with which she toured extensively throughout Europe, including France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and

Spain. She has performed at such famous venues as The Munich Philharmonic, Alte Oper in Frankfurt and Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

Since arriving in Australia in 1992, Beata has performed with Willoughby Symphonic Orchestra (leader), East-West Symphonic Orchestra, Amadeus Players (co-leader), Macquarie Symphony Orchestra and Choir at the Macquarie University (leader) and a variety of string ensembles. In 1995 she gave her solo performance during the Gala Concert with WSO, receiving an excellent review.

In 2015 Beata performed at The Flute Tree Studio and Utzon Hall at the Opera House with Hourglass Ensemble. Currently, she holds a concertmaster position in Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, leads a string quartet (Strings Attached), works as a recording musician (soundtrack for Water Diviner and movies by Pixar) while continuing teaching from her private studio in Castle Hill and providing tuition in Tara Anglican School for Girls and Marist College.

## Karen Cortez

Cellist

Karen Cortez is a genre-hopping cellist and amateur chorister, and completed her Bachelor of Music (Music Education) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. She is one of the founding members of educational quartet "Quart-Ed", performing and



teaching for audiences of all walks of life. The quartet's philosophy of pluralist music education means they frequently perform new Australian works, often in collaboration with composers. Karen has recently been exploring the string folk scene and performed with the Narrownecks at the Dorrigo Folk and Bluegrass Festival in 2019. Karen sustained an anxiety-related playing injury in 2016 and is now on the road to recovery with a passion for awakening and deepening people's musical identities, and developing healthy music making practices in school settings and beyond. In her free time, Karen enjoys connecting with the world and people for whom music is about and for: Recently, she was a facilitator for Girl Guides NSW, ACT & NT's environmental advocacy seminar, and is currently completing a Certificate IV in Outdoor Leadership.

Karen is the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra - Ensemble Modern 2022 musician for the Sydney International Composers Concerts - Contemporary Chamber Music concert on December 22, 2022, at the TLC Theatre. Sydney Australia.

## Samantha Mailer

Flautist

Australian flautist Samantha Mailer (née Joseph) has performed in concerts in Australia, Scandinavia, Russia, the United Kingdom and Italy, and live on ABC Classic FM, ArtSound FM and Sydney Live 2GB 873AM. Samantha divides her time performing regularly as flute soloist and chamber musician.



Samantha has been a recipient of several scholarships and grants including a Friends of the School of Music travel grant, Domann Flute Scholarship, ANU Head of Music School grant, Associazione Rome Festival and Rome Festival Orchestra, Ltd. Subsidy, prizewinner of the ANU School of Music Chamber Music Competition, and NSW Encore Award.

Following a Masters of Music degree at the Australian National University, Samantha travelled to participate in master classes and private study with the leading flautists around the world. This included a short residency at the prestigious Oxford Flute School, and a contract with the Rome Festival Orchestra.

In addition to her love of classical music performance, Samantha is equally comfortable exploring a wide range of styles and sounds, experimenting with modern works and 20th century techniques.

Her philanthropic work sees Samantha performing at fundraising events and charity concerts, as well as being an active committee member of the Flute Society of NSW.

Samantha currently works as Principal Flautist with both the orchestra of Sydney Independent Opera, and the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, and is a Preferred Player with the Australian Discovery Orchestra.

## Rachel Tolmie

Oboist



Rachel Tolmie started playing the oboe at ten years of age and the cor anglais at twelve. On successful completion of her Fellowship in Music Diploma for Oboe Performance (AMEB), Rachel travelled to England and completed with Distinction, a Post-Graduate Diploma at the Royal College of Music, London, specializing in Solo and Chamber Music Performance. Since her return to Australia, Rachel has released 8 Cd's as a soloist with the Wirripang label which specialises in Australian music. Rachel has played with Symphony Central Coast in the oboe section, off and on, for over twenty years.

## Jason Xanthoudakis

Clarinetist



Jason studied at Melbourne University, where he graduated with a Master of Music, the Victorian College of the Arts with David Thomas, Phillip Miechel and Dr. Peter Clinch, Monash University where he studied with David Griffiths and is a graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium where he studied with Frank Celata, Mark Walton and James Nightingale. He has also studied in Paris, Amsterdam and London. Jason has won 3MBS Performer of the Year Award as well as many prizes in various music competitions.

Jason has a busy performance schedule including performances with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, as well as frequent solo recitals and concerto appearances with orchestras and wind ensembles in Australia.

Jason has performed several live broadcasts on Australian radio, has recorded for ABC Classic FM and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. He has arranged/transcribed more than 50 works for Saxophone and Clarinet and is very active in the field of Contemporary Music, encouraging composers to write music for Saxophone and Clarinet and over 20 works have been dedicated to him.



## Annalisa Solinas

French Hornist



Annalisa graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 2007, majoring in Horn performance. She has played in Pro/Am and Community Musical Theatre shows for more than 20 years and performs regularly in various established and scratch orchestras around Sydney. Annalisa has enjoyed being involved in recordings with Michael H Dixon for several of his microtonal compositions including When I Roam, the Buddha and the Bounce, and Arapacana, and most recently enjoyed performing in the Sydney Microtonal festival.

When she's not performing on Horn, Annalisa is a Specialist Medical Doctor, working as an Anatomical Pathologist at the Prince of Wales Hospital and Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick.

## Jee Fei Khor

Harpist

Jee is qualified with a Master of Music Studies (Performance) majoring in the Harp from Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney. Having started her professional career as an Orchestra Harpist with the National Youth Orchestra in Malaysia, Jee spent many years performing in the Musical Theatre, Opera and as part of the National Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestra's. She also performed as a solo harpist for Kanye West and Katherine Jenkins during their Malaysia Concert Tour. She plays a wide variety of music ranging from classical music to contemporary pop songs.



In 2002, she was awarded a scholarship to join the Asian Youth Orchestra and toured Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan and China. During the same year she received a sponsorship for 2 years to study under the world acclaimed harpist, Catherine Michel from France.

## Steven Machamer

(Percussionist)

Steven Machamer moved permanently to Sydney in 2001. He has worked continuously as a performer and educator since then with some of Sydney's top institutions including the Sydney Symphony, Australian Opera and Ballet, Sydney University and UNSW. Prior to this Steven



earned and Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School followed by twenty-one more years of freelance work in New York City.

He performed in all of the major concert halls including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and many Broadway theatres. Working with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, New York City Ballet, and the original Company of A Chorus Line on Broadway are just a few of the highlights of more than two decades of professional work in New York. International touring with classical and musical productions lead to his first visit to Australia in 1992.

Steven now lives with his Australian wife of 21 years, cellist Margaret Lindsay-Machamer and their three children, Heidi, Carl and Ivan.

## Ronan Apcar

Pianist

Ronan Apcar is a young Australian pianist, composer, and musician who is quickly garnering a reputation of versatility, edge, and tenacity. His love for music across many styles – jazz to the avant-garde, classical to contemporary music – translates into his open-minded, exciting, and unique work as a musician. Described as "a talent beyond his age" (Limelight Magazine), Ronan is best known for his work with contemporary classical and modern art music – particularly by Australian composers – and has a passion for challenging norms and breaking the stereotype of what "classical piano" looks and sounds like.



Beginning as a self-taught pianist, Ronan went on to study piano performance and composition at the Sydney Conservatorium High School and the ANU School of Music, where he graduated as dux. He has gone on to perform as a soloist in both concert halls and unusual, intimate venues, and as a collaborator with renowned musicians and ensembles across Sydney, Canberra, and regional NSW in genres including classical, jazz, contemporary, and avant-garde. The recent winner of the ACT Young Virtuoso Award, Ronan has appeared as a soloist with the Penrith Symphony Orchestra, Canberra Sinfonia, and the ANU Orchestra. He has also appeared in festivals, including the 13th International Music Festival in Moscow and the 2021 Canberra International Music Festival where he was the Young Artist. In 2021, he released his debut album, *Dulcie Holland Crescent* – a collection of forgotten, unrecorded, and unpublished pieces by the great Australian composer Dulcie Holland. Both Ronan's album and his live concert performances are broadcasted on the Fine Music network and ABC Classic, where *Dulcie Holland Crescent* was made one of the ABC's feature albums.

## Amy Kang

Pianist



Amy Kang is a Pianist and a highly qualified Music Educator with over 10 years of experience in teaching piano and music theory. After graduating from B.Mus (Honours) and B.Ed (Secondary) with STGA Scholarship under Ms Hana J Ahn (AMEB Examiner) at UNSW, she

was soon awarded with both a CSP and a full scholarship for Master of Music Performance at Sydney Conservatorium of Music, mentored by Dr Stephanie McCallum, Dr Christine Logan (Chief Examiner of AMEB) and Kevin Hunt.

As a Pianist, Amy has given a number of recitals for solo items, chamber music as well as symphonies. Venues include Sydney Conservatorium Recital Hall, UNSW John Clancy Auditorium, Sydney Town Hall, The Star Sydney, Shangri-La Hotel, Hilton Hotel, Four Seasons Hotel and many more.

Aside from performing, Amy has developed a strong passion in teaching. She worked at Turrumurra High School and Hunters Hill High School, and is now a music teacher, the official piano tutor and accompanist at Chatswood High School. She has also adjudicated

in a number of international eisteddfods and given masterclasses both locally and internationally.

With her all rounded knowledge and experiences from performances and education, Amy is well regarded for her holistic approach of teaching in integrating technical and theoretical elements to develop and inspire student excellence in music. Her unceasing passion

and exceptional teaching skills have been reflected in her students' outstanding results in AMEB, HSC music and eisteddfods, from which some have successfully become professional musicians themselves.

Amy Kang is the pianist for the Sydney International Composers Concerts - Contemporary Chamber Music 2022.

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