



Ensemble Offspring

HATCHED COMPOSER SHOWCASE

Nov 11 | 7:30pm
The Neilson, ACO Pier 2/3

WELCOME

It is my absolute pleasure to welcome you to an evening of fresh ideas, celebrating the next generation of musical thinkers.

Tonight's showcase is the culmination of the 2023 Hatched Composer Intensive; a triumphant end to a rigorous week of workshops with Ensemble Offspring and a year of mentoring from leading Australian and international composers.

Rising stars **Isabella Rahme** (NSW), **Noemi Liba Friedman** (VIC), **Matthew Laing** (VIC), **Isabella Gerometta** (QLD) and **Jessica Lindsay Smith** (VIC) each unveil a new work composed especially for tonight's ensemble.

As Damien Ricketson, Lead Mentor and founding Artistic Director of Ensemble Offspring, writes: *"The five emerging composers in 2023 each have a strong and independent voice and will collectively provide a vibrant snapshot of what is coming in Australian music."*

We are proud to elevate these five premieres in a professional performance setting – the Australian Chamber Orchestra's stunning new venue at Pier 2/3 – giving new music the presentation and professionalism it deserves.

Thank you for supporting our future cultural leaders as they hatch, launch themselves into the world and let their imaginations fly!

Claire Edwardes OAM, CEO & Artistic Director



ABOUT ENSEMBLE OFFSPRING

Ensemble Offspring is Australia's leading new music group. Uniting the country's most fearless instrumentalists under the leadership of internationally acclaimed percussionist Claire Edwardes, they subvert classical music traditions and deliver concerts that *"burst with imagination, energy and inspiration"* (Seesaw Magazine).

As the foremost champions of contemporary music in Australia, Ensemble Offspring have commissioned and premiered over 350 works and have toured new Australian music around the world. Their dedication to excellence and amplifying underrepresented voices has earned multiple APRA Art Music Awards and ARIA Award nominations.

Through their pioneering spirit and relentless commitment to equality, Ensemble Offspring continue to shape a vibrant and diverse artistic future for Australian music.

PROGRAM

As this program consists entirely of world premieres, the following order is subject to change.

Isabella Gerometta – *Meteor Mash* (2023)
WORLD PREMIERE

Noemi Liba Friedman – *Tangled Waves* (2023)
WORLD PREMIERE

Isabella Rahme – *Return* (2023)
WORLD PREMIERE

Jessica Lindsay Smith – *Supernovæ* (2023)
WORLD PREMIERE

Matthew Laing – *Timepiece* (2023)
WORLD PREMIERE

Program duration: 60 minutes

PERFORMERS

Claire Edwardes	Artistic Director, percussion
Lamorna Nightingale	flutes
Jason Noble	clarinet, bass clarinet
Natalia Harvey	violin
Blair Harris	cello

MENTORS

Composition mentors: Damien Ricketson (Lead Mentor), Brett Dean (Hatched Academy Ambassador), Laura Bowler, Lisa Ilean, Cathy Milliken, Gemma Peacocke

Industry mentor: Katy Abbott (The Artists' Mentor)

Isabella Gerometta

Meteor Mash

2023

flute, bass clarinet, violin, cello, percussion

WORLD PREMIERE

Meteor Mash takes its name from a Pokemon move: a high-powered Steel-type punch that strikes like a meteor! This punchy piece explores the sound of metal among lush chords, criss-cross gestures, sci-fi sounds and meteoric sizzles and slides. Video games are a great source of inspiration for music – the artistry that goes into both making them and playing them prompts me to think outside the box, much like coming up with a great team or strategy. Finding a balance between standard combinations and quirky, unpredictable gestures to create something fun and entertaining was the main goal of this piece, and the main goal whenever I build a team in Pokemon!

Isabella Gerometta is an Australian composer and conductor. Her works have been performed nationally and internationally at the Musica Viva festival, New York City's 'The Lounge' and the Palestine Choral Festival with premieres by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Perth Symphony Orchestra, the Dusseldorf Symphoniker, the Queensland Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra, the Muses Trio, Camerata - Queensland's Chamber Orchestra and New York City's Confluss duo. From 2015-16, Isabella was Composer-in-Residence with Australian choral ensemble The Australian Voices with three of her choral works featured on ABC Classics release albums. She was selected to represent Queensland in the ABC Classics and Muses Trio collaboration 'Fire Dances' reflecting the Black Summer bushfires of 2020.

Noemi Liba Friedman

Tangled Waves

2023

flute/alto flute, clarinet/bass clarinet, violin, cello, piano, percussion

WORLD PREMIERE

Inspired by the writings of quantum-physicist and theorist Karen Barad, *Tangled Waves* examines the subtle and dynamic behaviour of waves and ripples as they are disturbed and collide with one another. They ceaselessly evolve surge and merge to shape our world, galaxy and indeed ourselves, according to the laws of physics and natural in our world and universe.

Noemi Liba Friedman is a Melbourne-based orchestral, electronic/acoustic composer and vocalist who endeavors to traverse both genre and media boundaries, exploring intricate, textural, rhythmic, and spatialized sound. With a professional career spanning over 30 years in Australia and abroad, she has led her own ensemble (comprising voice, electronic samples, string trio, bass, and drums) for 12 years, producing four recordings and collaborating with Nimrod Weis, the founder of the multi-media and creative installation group 'eness,' on various performances. Notable highlights in her career include performing with biennale installation artist Heri Dono in 2005, arranging Yair Dalal's work *The Perfume Road* for a 21-piece Middle Eastern orchestra, and performing at prestigious venues such as the Kennedy Center, The United Nations, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music during her USA tour in 2005. She also had the opportunity to perform with John Zorn's Mycale acapella project at the Adelaide Festival in 2014.

Isabella Rahme

Return

2023

flute, clarinet, violin, cello, percussion

WORLD PREMIERE

This work explores the concept of “returning” to a place that one has never been to before. An island that was home only a few generations past. The wide array of responses and emotions in such a situation are the main focus of the piece, alongside exploration of connection to people and place when the passage of time is a factor in the experience.

Isabella Rahme is an emerging composer, harpist and vocalist based in Sydney. She recently completed her Bachelor of Music (Composition) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. She has written for choirs and ensembles of various sizes, her electroacoustic music has been featured in broadcasts such as Radiophrenia, and her music for animation made its way to the Annecy Film Festival. Her compositional style utilises both functional harmonic language and non-functional tonality, combining lyrical and avant-garde elements in a way that is contemplative and emotive. Her recent projects include a livestream improvisation on electroacoustic harp for HiberNATION festival of the lo-fi, and the debut concert of Ensemble Mnemosyne for which she composed & arranged a series of works for, as well as performed with. Some other recent works include her string quartet *Threnody* – workshopped by the JACK quartet as part of JACK Studio – and an interactive sound-installation for Backstage music's event "Clarity Engine". In 2023, Isabella has been selected to participate in the ICEBERG Institute in Vienna – a two-week composition intensive where she will have a new composition for piano trio premiered by Trio Immersio.

Jessica Lindsay Smith

Supernovæ

2023

alto flute, bass clarinet, violin, cello, percussion

WORLD PREMIERE

Supernovæ explores the intricate parallel between the complexity and fragility of human relationships and the molecules that populate vast universes. This piece offers space for contemplation on the interconnectedness of our lives with one another. Supernovae are spectacular celestial events that mark the end of massive stars, in the vacuum of space, as visually spectacular, silent events. They release an extraordinary amount of energy and contribute to the formation of new stars, planets, and ultimately life itself.

Jessica Lindsay Smith is a composer, sound artist, and performer based in regional Victoria on Dja Dja Wurrung land. She creates music that is not confined to genre, weaving with threads of jazz, folk, art-pop, and the avant-garde. Last year Jessica's opera *ESOTERIC*, supported by Creative Australia, was staged twice in Naarm/Melbourne. It was an ethereal exploration of projected light, and a dystopian medieval future. Jessica has worked with performers and ensembles within local and international contexts, creating music focussing on relationships; the relationships between people and their environments, between earth and the cosmos, between the artificial and the natural. The common thread being a search for novel colour palettes and an intrigue for curious textures.

Matthew Laing

Timepiece

2023

piccolo flute, bass clarinet, violin, cello, percussion

WORLD PREMIERE

This is a work trying to make the sound of one instrument from 6. It plays with like and unlike textures, amongst a disparate group of instruments, and simulates multiple tempi at once to give a continuous feel of acceleration and deceleration, a sense of one instrument being played by few or many people. It's inspired by the textural links amongst this set of instruments, the motor of the vibraphone's continuous pulse against tempo, and something Anthony Braxton spoke of in a lecture at the 2023 Darmstadt Summer Course; of music without arrival, in a constant state of becoming.

Matt is a freelance composer and viola player currently based in Naarm/Melbourne, Australia. His music, "described as thought provoking and unusually beautiful", is fundamentally driven by an interest in story telling through shifting sounds and textures, typically around themes of social connection and environment. Matt completed a Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne and spent two years at the Australian National Academy of Music studying viola. Matt's work *Shapes* was premiered in the Flinders Quartet's 2017 composer workshop, leading to his first big commission from the Quartet Out of Hibernation in 2019 through which he was awarded an Ian Potter Cultural Trust grant to work on the quartet with mentoring from Brett Dean. Matt was the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's Young Composer in Residence for 2021, mentored by Elliot Gyger, culminating in the premiere of his bassoon concerto *Of Paradise Lost* in July 2022.



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Ensemble Offspring would like to thank our community of trailblazing supporters. Our 2023 season would not be possible without your support.

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