

CARRIAGEWORKS AND ENSEMBLE OFFSPRING PRESENT

INCREDIBLE FLORIDAS

23—24 JUNE 2023

70 MINUTES

Incredible Floridas is commissioned by Carriageworks.



WORKS

JOSEPHINE MACKEN — *the imaginary line about which the body rotates* (2023)
Flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, percussion. World Premiere.

MARTIN WESLEY-SMITH — *For Marimba and Tape* (1983)
Marimba, electronics.

AUGUSTIN BRAUD — *Hexis* (2023)
Cello, percussion. World Premiere.

RICHARD MEALE — *Incredible Floridas* (1971)
Flute, clarinet, violin/viola, cello, piano, percussion.

PERFORMERS

Jack Symonds Conductor
Claire Edwardes Artistic Director, percussion
Lamorna Nightingale flutes
Jason Noble clarinet, bass clarinet
Véronique Serret violin, viola
Blair Harris cello
Benjamin Kopp piano

PRODUCTION

Michelle St Anne Creative Director
Amelia Lane Costume
Roderick van Gelder Lighting
David Trumpanis Audio

PARTNERS

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JOSEPHINE MACKEN

the imaginary line about which the body rotates (2023)

Flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, percussion. 6 minutes. World Premiere.

The imaginary line about which the body rotates is a work commissioned by Ensemble Offspring, intended to be programmed alongside Richard Meale's kaleidoscopic chamber work *Incredible Floridas*. The piece celebrates conceptualisations of sound and temporality through the analogy of the 'musical line'.

In performance, musicians in an ensemble direct the paths of intangible attention lines by attuning to the ever-changing trajectories of musical activity across the ensemble in relation to their own instruments/bodies.

These imaginary lines intersect with tangible ones – lengths of cotton string attached to the bodies and instruments of the players which materialise imaginary lines and activate sounds at a distance. This commission is generously supported by Nathaniel Beck and Karen Hackett.
– Josephine Macken

Josephine Macken is a Sydney-based composer and improviser whose practice centres on the concept of 'interference' as a tool for music making and an aesthetic framework for articulating the processes which underpin her music.

MARTIN WESLEY-SMITH

For Marimba and Tape (1983)

Marimba, electronics. 11 minutes.

This composition began as a tape music piece. One of the lines in the piece, Wesley-Smith says, "rapidly acquired a distinctly instrumental flavour." Therefore he re-orchestrated the tape part on the Fairlight machine... producing six works with it and different solo instruments.

The work begins with the tape part alone, establishing a sonic palette that is for the most part examples of the kinds of sonorities that tended to come out of analog tape music facilities... magical and beguiling sounds that beautifully off-set the rich tone of the marimba.
– Joseph Stevenson

Born in Adelaide in 1945, Martin Wesley-Smith taught composition and electronic music at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where he founded and directed its Electronic Music Studio. He was a pioneer in Australia of audiovisual composition and passed away in 2019.

AUGUSTIN BRAUD

Hexis (2023)

Cello, percussion. 8 minutes. World Premiere.

Hexis is a meditation on habits translated through recurring musical gestures fading away. The piece combines cello, vibraphone and waterphone to create an ethereal soundworld where the subtle interplay between the two players shapes discrete melodies, slowly emerging from the quasi-repetitions of the motives. Accents and ascending gestures contrast with these subtle sounds as a means of escaping certainty, aiming for other soundscapes and experiences. This piece was commissioned by Ensemble Offspring with generous support from Charles Davidson. The work is dedicated to Charles and its interpreters, Claire Edwardes and Blair Harris.

– Augustin Braud

Born in France in 1994, Augustin Braud holds a PhD in musicology from the University of Poitiers. He is also the recipient of the SACEM Claude Arrieu 2020 prize, awarded to a young composer of symphonic music.

RICHARD MEALE

Incredible Floridas (1971)

Flute, clarinet, violin/viola, cello, piano, percussion. 33 minutes.

I. Prelude, “Voyelles”

II. Interlude I, “Fêtes de la faim”

III. Sonata I, “Le bateau ivre”

IV. Interlude II, “Phrases – Veillées – Génie”

V. Sonata II, “Une saison en enfer”

VI. Postlude, “Une saison en enfer – Matin – Adieu”

Commissioned and premiered by the Fires of London ensemble in 1971, *Incredible Floridas* was subtitled by Richard Meale “Homage to Rimbaud”... This work continued a quest by him in seeking out diverse creators and their imaginative drives. In a program note for the London premiere Richard described the nature of his homage thus: “But how to pay tribute to a poet who works ‘to make oneself a seer’, who wants ‘to arrive at the unknown by the disordering of all the senses’?... I let it write itself.” *Incredible Floridas* is an intense and highly evocative piece, standing as a landmark in Australian chamber music; frankly to accurately use a much overused term, it is an iconic work and deserves to be better known, as does Meale’s work generally.

– Kim Williams

Marrickville-born Richard Meale (1932 - 2009) was one of Australia’s leading composers, whose music gained international recognition throughout the 1960s and 1970s. From 1968-1988 he was a lecturer at Adelaide University and is best known for his late opera *Voss*.

ABOUT ENSEMBLE OFFSPRING

Ensemble Offspring are 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 an ARIA Award nomination.

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

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Artistic Director Claire Edwardes OAM

Staff Ella Howard, Eitan Muir, Angus Davison, Ben Robinson

Core Musicians Lamorna Nightingale, Jason Noble, Véronique Serret, Blair Harris, Claire Edwardes, Benjamin Kopp

Ensemble Offspring would like to thank our generous donors without whom our trailblazing work would not be possible. Our End of Financial Year appeal is currently live, so if you have enjoyed tonight's event, we invite you to consider making a tax-deductible donation before the end of June!

ensembleoffspring.com

CARRIAGEWORKS TEAM

BOARD

Cass O'Connor (Chair), Geoff Ainsworth AM, Michael Gonski, Andrew Maiden, Matthew McCarron, Gitanjali Bhalla, Cameron Honey, Robi Stanton

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PUBLICITY

Kym Elphinstone, Jasmine Hersee

FRONT OF HOUSE

Marissa Bagley, Sandra Bardwell, Daisy Barrow Piper, Kate Bobis, Bea Buckland-Willis, Katie Cassidy, Jackie CHaiyakarn, Frances Colin, Eliza Cooper, Simon Croker, Laura Djanegara, Emily Elvish, Sabrina Evangeline Benes-Feher, Cailyn Forrest, Hugo Fraser, Alexander Fry, Eddie Gock, Maddi Goyen, Amy Hack, Rachael Haines, Emma Harbridge, Lucy Heffernan, Teale Howie, Ava Lagoon-Robinson, Amelia Leonard, Alina Liu, Alexandra Malcolm, Pierre Marcos, Cara Mariam Brodie, Benedicte McGowen, Nolan Murphy, Sarah Muttalak, Sarah Napier, Amy Nelson, Yue (Tanaporn) Norsrida, Ezara Norton, Jake Parker, Francesca Paula Simon, Noah Rayner, Hannah Roberts, Katie Rosewood, Alana Scherr, Jordan Sharp, Evalyn Sharpham, Saskia Shearer, Lilian Shepherd, Greeshma Shetty, Sarah Smith, Victoria Soo, Alex Stlianou, Nell Trotter, Madeleine Urquhart, Gita Vasaityte, Eleni Vergotis, Tanya Veselcic, Uma Volkmer, Jess Wang, Bianca Watkins, Ella Watson-Heath, Nix Welsh, Emma White, Emma Whitehead, Ramonne Wilson-Lemme, Strickland Young

BACK OF HOUSE

Jack Berry, Abraham Box, Garnet Brownbill, Oliver Brownbill, Gabriel Castro, Sebastian Dickens, Craig Hull, Daniel Jones, Andrew Latimer, Jack Lloyd, Finton Mahony, Greg Nicholl, Caspar Nolan-Evans, Milos Popovic, Grant Richards, Louis Roberts, Clare Rosen McGarry, Solomon Thomas, Aaron Van Dyck

THANK YOU TO CARRIAGEWORKS' GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

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KAWAI

CARRIAGEWORKS

