



NGARRA-BURRIA: FIRST PEOPLES COMPOSERS 2018 CONCERT

Presented by Moogahlin Performing Arts, Australian Music Centre, ANU School of Music,
and Ensemble Offspring

Ngarrra-Burria are Dharug words meaning to hear, to sing, and this program is intended to build bridges for First Peoples musicians to step forward, further develop their composing skills, and connect with the art music sector. The program was initiated by Aboriginal composer Chris Sainsbury, and the words 'art music' here refer to the vast spectrum of contemporary classical/new music, contemporary original jazz and improvisatory practice, experimental practice, including sound art and installation, computer music, and more.

Works by Rhyan Clapham, Brenda Gifford, Tim Gray, Troy Russell, and Elizabeth Sheppard, performed by Ensemble Offspring.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Acknowledgment of Country, Introductions

Frederick Copperwaite, Co-Artistic Director Moogahlin Performing Arts & MC

Thank yous and highlights of 2018

Dr Christopher Sainsbury, Lecturer ANU School of Music

Music Program (see below)

with commentary from John Davis, CEO of the Australian Music Centre

Closing remarks

Tim Gray, on behalf of Composers

MUSIC PROGRAM

Where Are You?

Troy Russell

Burradowi (The Women's Song to the Eels)

Warrangka Makialo

Elizabeth Sheppard

New Home – and Hymn

Troy Russell

Kaya Mary

Wonthaggi

Elizabeth Sheppard

Lupe

Tim Gray

Miriwa

Brenda Gifford

Talk To Me I'm Listening

Ryan Clapman

Rhyan Clapham's family is from Murrwarri country in Brewarrina NSW. Rhyan has completed a Bachelor of Music at the University of NSW, and an Indigenous Studies Honours (focusing on Aboriginal hip hop music) in 2015. A rapper and drummer, he has performed for various events such as Kevin Hunt's 'Our Music' concert at the Sydney Conservatorium, at Yabun NCIE, UNSW corporate and academic events, Koori Radio events and at NAIDOC. In late 2017, Rhyan Clapham was announced as recipient of the 2018 Peter Sculthorpe Music Fellowship for an emerging composer, as part of Create NSW Arts Fellowships.

Brenda Gifford is a Yuin woman, originally from Wreck Bay on the south coast of NSW. A composer and classically trained saxophonist, pianist and teacher, she has twenty years of extensive experience as a musician. She was a member of the band Mixed Relations with Bart Willoughby from No Fixed Address. She has toured extensively around Australia and internationally to Native American communities and the Pacific Islands. She worked with Kev Carmody, on his album *Eulogy (for a black person)*, playing saxophone on the track 'Blood Red Rose', album/CD/-Festival/D-30692. She wrote the album sleeve notes for the reissued *The Loner* album by Uncle Vic Simms.

Tim Gray is a Gumbaynggirr/Wiradjuri man who studied at Eora College in 2010-11, 2013 and 2016. He was trained in classical piano up to grade 5 and has always loved film music - his inspirations are John Williams, Ennio Morricone, John Carpenter, and Hans Zimmer, to name a few. Tim has a reggae/ska band called Green Hand Band, in which he plays the keyboard. He came out of the emerging artists program at Gadigal/Koori Radio and was also a volunteer broadcaster at Koori Radio. He sings in a group called Voices Carry, led by Sydney choral director Tania Bowra.

Elizabeth Sheppard was born in Melbourne and raised in Adelaide, and studied Western and Aboriginal Music and singing under Clemens Leske Snr, Professor David Galliver and Barbara Howard at Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium, Professor Catherine Ellis at Armidale's University of New England, and Opera Chorus Master James Christianson. In 2002-2008 she reconnected to her Noongar Yamatji heritage and culture through Indigenous music, culture and law diploma courses at Sydney's Eora Aboriginal College and Tranby National Indigenous Adult Education Centre. She now lives on Dharug Burramattagul country in New South Wales, and maintains connections with Noongar, Yamatji and Gundungurra country. Several of her compositions have been performed at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta, and her *Kooranginy Suite* was recorded at ANU Music Studio in June 2017.

Troy John Russell is of the Biripai/Gamillaroi people of the Greater Manning area near Taree, and the Gamillaroi people of the North West Slopes and Plains. Troy's journey with music began at 11, when a neighbour offered to teach him the fundamentals of music, and Troy flourished. He found an old photograph of his father playing a banjo and learned that his family from Taree was a musical family - a great revelation that has been inspiring him for the last 40 years.

Ensemble Offspring

Champions of new music, Ensemble Offspring present concerts from seminal chamber music to free improvisation, alongside creating striking interdisciplinary productions. Ensemble Offspring is led by acclaimed percussionist, Claire Edwardes, and features some of Australia's most innovative performers. The group has toured to locations such as Hong Kong, London and Warsaw, is regularly featured at MONA FOMA, Sydney and Melbourne Festivals, and has a cult following at their Sizzle series at Petersham Bowling Club. Passionate about nurturing the work of emerging, as well as established composers, Ensemble Offspring has premiered more than 200 works over its 23-year history.

Roland Peelman (*conductor/piano*), **Anna McMichael** (*violin*), **Sonya Holowell**, (*voice*), **Jason Noble** (*clarinet*)

Ngarra-Burria is delivered by a partnership between Moogahlin Performing Arts, the Australian Music Centre, ANU School of Music, and Ensemble Offspring, with funding support from APRA AMCOS, and in-kind support from EORA College of TAFE.

Special thanks to ABC Classic FM

