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Contributor Biographies

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CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES

STEPHEN BENFALL

Stephen Benfall was born in Perth in 1957, completing a B.Mus in composition at the University of Western Australia in 1983, with tutors Dr. John Exton and Roger Smalley. As a composer, Benfall was most active in the 1980s and 1990s, writing mainly for local musicians including the WASO 20th Century Ensemble, Perth Saxophone Quartet, and Nova Ensemble. He also wrote for several of Australia's leading new music groups, including Flederman and Seymour Group, as well as international soloists Harry Sparnaay, Henri Bok, and John Harle. Composition awards from this time include a Sounds Australian Award, the Jean Bogan Prize, plus several fellowships and residencies. He is currently completing research at UWA towards Doctor of Musical Arts, focusing on the music of John Exton. Benfall has worked as a clarinet and saxophone teacher with the WA Education Department since 1989.

BEN CHRISTIANSEN

Ben Christiansen is a Western Australian musician who has performed, studied, composed and taught music across a wide variety of genres for the past 20 years. Having begun his career as a self-taught electric bassist, his musical curiosity led him to study jazz at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts from 2001 to 2005, where exposure to 20th century avant-garde

concert music cemented his desire to compose. In the period following, Ben worked as a professional performer in jazz, co-founded, composed and performed for the instrumental hip-hop and EDM group The Claps, and founded and directed the a cappella choral group The Choir of Chance. Ben returned to WAAPA in 2013 to study composition, where he is completing an honours degree under the supervision of Dr Lindsay Vickery. He is currently taking time off to study and perform Irish traditional music.

SAM GILLIES

Sam Gillies is a composer and sound artist with an interest in the function of noise as both a musical and communicative code in music and art. His work treads the line between the musically beautiful and ugly, embracing live performance, multimedia and installation art forms to create alternating sound worlds of extreme fragility and overwhelming density. Sam's music has been programmed at national and international conferences and festivals, including the Test Tone Series at Superdeluxe, Tokyo; the Dark Music Days Festival, Iceland; and the International Computer Music Conference. Sam was most recently awarded the Liz Rhodes Scholarship in Musical Multimedia from the University of Huddersfield, where he is studying his PhD under the supervision of Dr Julio d'Escriván.

TALISHA GOH

Talisha Goh is PhD (Musicology) student at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (Edith Cowan University) under the guidance of A/Prof Cat Hope and Dr Helen Rusak, with a dissertation focus on contemporary Australian women composers and nontraditional musical analysis techniques. Talisha completed a Bachelor of Music (Musicology) with First Class Honours in 2014 and a Bachelor of Science (Linguistics/Anatomy & Human Biology) at the University of Western Australia in 2012. In 2016, Talisha was awarded a Norman McCann National Library of Australia Summer Scholarship to undertake a period of study at the National Library in Canberra. Research interests include Australian music, women and music, and interdisciplinary studies.

CAT HOPE

Cat Hope is a composer, performer and academic originally from Perth. She has held positions as both the Head of School for Composition and Music Technology, and the Associate Dean of Research at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Hope is the artistic director of the new music ensemble Decibel, which has toured and undertaken residencies internationally, and which has developed the Decibel Score Player App. Hope was awarded the APRA|AMC Award for Excellence in Experimental Music in 2011 and 2014, and was the Peggy Glanville Hicks composer residency in 2014. Hope is the author of 'Digital Arts: An Introduction to New Media', and has been the chief investigator on the Western Australian New Music Archive project. She is the Head of School for the Zelman Cowan School of Music at Monash University, Melbourne.

JOHANNES LUEBBERS

Winner of the 2011 'Young Australian Jazz Artist of the Year' (Australian Jazz 'Bell' Awards) and the 2011 'Jazz Work of the Year' (APRA/AMC Art Music Awards), Johannes

Luebbers is one of Australia's leading jazz composers. A graduate of the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Luebbers is also a current PhD candidate researching within jazz composition and collaborative practice. He has released two albums with his award-winning ensemble the Johannes Luebbers Dectet and an EP with experimental trio Artefact Agency. He is also active as a composer and arranger in contemporary popular music and within music theatre. A past staff member at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) and the ANU School of Music in Canberra, Luebbers is currently part of the faculty at the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, at Monash University in Melbourne. He is an 'Associate Artist' with the Australian Music Centre.

DOMINIK KARSKI

Dr Dominik Karski is an internationally active composer, whose works have been performed by leading new music interpreters such as violinist Karin Hellqvist, Flute o'clock, The Roentgen Connection, Ensemble SurPlus, cellist Séverine Ballon, or percussionist Claire Edwardes, among many others. Festivals at which his works have been presented include the Totally Huge New Music Festival, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (UK), Gaudeamus Music Week (The Netherlands), Samtida Musik (Sweden), the Warsaw Autumn (Poland), Wien Modern (Austria), ISCM World New Music Days (Switzerland), and Frum Festival (Iceland). He studied at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (1993-96), Queensland Conservatorium (1997-98), University of Melbourne (PhD between 2005 and 2012), and Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien (Austria, 2006-07). In his work, he focuses on the player-instrument relationship as the primary source of the musical substance. His works have been released on CDs in Australia, Canada, Poland, UK, Austria, and Sweden.

SKoT McDONALD

SKoT McDonald is a music software engineer and researcher from Perth. McDonald has worked on audio software technology for the University of Western Australia, tomandandy, FXpansion, and now ROLI. His fields of interest include music information retrieval, machine listening, artificial composition, synthesis, new interfaces and performance technology. As CTO of FXpansion, he was Project Lead on the multi-award winning BFD acoustic drum software, until their acquisition by ROLI. McDonald continues his work now as a Lead Developer and Head of Audio Research at ROLI. He is also a founding member of the Perth Artifactory, a collective-run makerspace and live music venue that runs the regular NoizeMaschin!! event series.

ROBIN RYAN

Dr Robin Ryan studied music at UWA; the University of Washington, Seattle, USA; and Monash University, Melbourne, where she worked as a research assistant to Professor Margaret Kartomi. Robin advised and contributed to *Currency Companion to Music and Dance in Australia* during her appointment as a research fellow at Macquarie University, Sydney (2001-2005). As an adjunct lecturer at WAAPA, Edith Cowan University since mid-2012, she has situated her interests in eco- and ethno- musicology within the broad continuum of Australian music history. This is evidenced by her contributions to the volumes *Current Directions in Ecomusicology: Music, Culture, Nature* (Routledge) and *Collaborative Ethnomusicology* (Lyrebird Press); and to the journals *Environmental Humanities*, *Perfect Beat*, *M/C Journal*, *Societies*, and the *Journal of Music Research Online*.

ADAM TRAINER

Adam Trainer is a researcher, musician and broadcaster from Perth. He obtained his PhD from Murdoch University in 2006, and has taught film studies, cultural studies and popular music studies at both Curtin and Edith Cowan Universities. Adam's research interests include local and digital music communities, and post-digital aesthetic theory, and he has published on the history of popular music in Perth, visual noise and the aesthetics of the sublime, and post-ironic musical aesthetics. Trainer has been involved in the Perth music scene since the early 2000s, as both a solo performer and member of numerous indie and experimental rock bands. He has also worked as a research assistant and project officer on the Western Australian New Music Archive.

MEG TRAVERS

Meg Travers is a musician and archivist with a passion for electronic musical instruments that started in high school when she first got her hands on a Roland drum machine. She is a PhD candidate at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, where she is researching and rebuilding a Trautonium. She has a keen interest in electronic and digital arts, and was part of the team who won the inaugural Hack the Festival event in 2015. A multi-instrumentalist, she also performs as a soloist and with her ensemble MotET.

LINDSAY VICKERY

Composer, researcher and performer Lindsay Vickery has created over 150 works for acoustic and electronic instruments in interactive-electronic, improvised or fully notated settings, ranging from solo pieces to opera. Has was a founder member of Western Australian and International New Music groups Decibel, SQUINT, HEDKIKR and Magnetic Pig. His current compositional preoccupations include the relationship between modes of presentation of the musical score and musical structure, between electronic/acoustic, composed/interactive and

interpretative/improvisational approaches. His work on methods of coordinating live performers and electronics has been at the leading edge of international developments for the past five years. He is coordinator of Composition and Music Technology at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts at Edith Cowan University.

DANE YATES

Dane Yates is composer and collaborator focusing on electroacoustic practices and the relationship between music, dance and film. His work focuses on the organic and the subversion of subject, resulting in commissioned works, performances throughout Australia, and a release on Perth based label Twice Removed. Dane has continually collaborated with dance and movement based works through WAAPA (Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts) and dance companies STRUT and Co3 as well as independent works leading to award winning pieces in the 2016 Perth Fringe and performances in Sydney and Melbourne Fringe Festivals. Dane's collaboration with film has led to screenings around Australia and internationally, including an award winning score in the 2016 Revelation Film Festival (WA) for "Revelation Award for Best Music Soundtrack". Dane currently holds a Bachelor of Music in composition and music technology through WAAPA, currently beginning his post graduate studies and collaborating further with multidisciplinary works.