

RUPERT GUENTHER BIO DEC 2016



ABOUT

Rupert Guenther's music encompasses original classical music, world music, blues, rock, and ambient sounds.

"an accomplished musician"
The Australian

Setting his concerts in cathedrals, art galleries, car parks and concert halls, his compositions, meditative improvisations, raw blues, and chamber music recitals are imaginative, mature and highly original.

"The real thing, not the snug sentimental favourites"
The Age, Melbourne

His cutting-edge work departs radically from even most contemporary concert-hall etiquette, and is all improvisation-based. It is full of intensity, meaning and inspiration.

"there is a real depth and class to Guenther's violin skills"
Nova magazine

His innovative use of sounds and playing styles fill his music with the light of far off constellations, the sounds of mosques, the silence of bamboo forests and wilderness mountaintops, and timeless ocean voyages and journeys, through ancient lands and their histories.

"Guenther's compositions have a distinctly spiritual quality"
3MBS-FM Libretto magazine, Melbourne

COMMISSIONED WORKS

Commissions include:

- Pride & Prejudice (multi-media work) for Museum of London Docklands
- Licht und Schatten for violin & cello at the State Conservatorium of Vorarlberg, Austria
- Disturbance (amplified soundscapes, spoken word & projected image) for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London 2008
- Steel Wire Blues for electric slide violin & blues band for the Perth Blues Club
- Dido & Aeneas at Tate Britain, London (for the World Monuments Fund)
- The Moxbournienna Sonatas (violin & piano) recorded for ABC Classic FM radio Melbourne
- Petraglyphs (string quartet) Milan, Italy
- Horizon Lines (violin & didgeridu) for radio 3MBS FM Melbourne
- Elegy (violin, cello, percussion, piano & dancer) at Milton Keynes UK
- Valley of Sounds (violin & resonant sound-sculpture) for LaTrobe University, Australia

CDs & MUSIC

Since 2003 he has released over 27 CDs of his music including

- Horizon Lines for violin & didgeridoo
- Immeasurable Yearning for solo violin
- Live At The Radio EP for electric violin & blues band
- The Moxbournienna Sonatas for violin & piano
- New Letters To Esterhazy for solo violin
- Gratitude for violin & keyboards
- Music On The Path To Light for violin & various instruments
- Ambient Grooves From The Western Oceans for electric violin, drum loops & FX

PERFORMANCE

He performs in many international collaborations with other distinguished musicians, poets, sculptors and visual artists, including:

- Hollywood singer-songwriter Lisbeth Scott (USA)
- cellist Penelope Thalhammer-Gunter (Austria)
- John Mayo (conceptual metal sculptor USA)
- the Sathya Ensemble (Milan)
- The Free Music Ensemble (Melbourne)
- Rod Cooper (resonant sculpture)
- Amos Roach (didjeridu)
- Allan Zavod (piano)
- David Jones (percussion)
- Andrew Duffield (keyboards)
- Don Conreux (gongs, USA)
- Anne Redmond (UK) - writer & projected text/drawing artist
- Anne Errey (Australia) - visual & projected image artist
- Melvyn Cann (Australia) - multi instrumentalist

His recitals include world premieres of new major concert-length commissioned works at

- Tate Britain (London)
- Museum of London Docklands
- Guildhall Festival (London)
- Vorarlberg State Conservatorium (Austria)
- Bombora House (NYC, USA)
- Wesak Festival, Mt Shasta (USA)
- the National Gallery of Victoria/NGV Melbourne (Australia)
- University of Western Australia UWA Winter Arts festival, Perth (Australia)
- Melbourne International Festival (Australia)
- Wesak Festival, Mt Shasta (Ca. USA)
- Centro Franca Sacchi (Milan/Italy)
- Bombora House (New York /USA)
- the St Anna Church (Vienna/Austria)

He is also violinist/founder of the Austria-based cello & violin duo The Mandelbrot Duo, frontman for The Rupert Guenther Blues Band, and leader of ambient music group Crystal Voyager.

CONFERENCES

Leading international conferences he has presented at include:

- the International Society for Improvised Music (ISIM) at Chateaux D'Oex (Switzerland) 2015
- The European String Teachers Association (ESTA) 39th International Conference (Falun, Sweden 2011)
- The Reflective Conservatoire (at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London 2009)
- the International Society for Improvised Music (ISIM) at University of Denver, (Colorado, USA 2008)

MEDIA

He has featured in interviews, reviews and feature articles in The Age, The Australian, 3MBS-FM Libretto magazine, and major articles the Austrian press. The Age newspaper included him in their Top 100 Magazine as one of the 100 major contributors to culture (January 2009 edition). The Age also produced a five-part multi-media online portal featuring interviews, music and visuals which is available on their website.

Interviews include

- Margaret Throsby on ABC Classic FM
- Full Circle Radio and The Mag programs on RTR FM (Perth)
- ABC Local (Perth & Melbourne)
- Channel 31, Melbourne

TEACHING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

His breakthrough approach to classical improvisation is recognised internationally, and he has held masterclasses at several leading European conservatoriums including:

- the Guildhall School of Music & Drama (London)
- Vienna University for the Performing Arts (MDW)
- University of Queensland
- Monash University
- Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Perth, Australia
- University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia

His private clients include principal members of:

- the Zurich Opera
- La Scala (Milan)
- the Vorarlberg State Conservatorium
- Western Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO)

On the basis of his outstanding grasp of classical improvisation he was invited to visit the Juilliard School in New York, the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London (where he stayed for nine months), and the Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey, UK.

He is also Director of the annual International Mastercourse for Improvisation in St Paul, Austria, and wrote and teaches the Classical Improvisation electives at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) at Edith Cowan University.

BACKGROUND

In his earlier professional work he played in many orchestras and operas in Europe and Australia, including principal positions in the Vienna Chamber Opera.

He was sideman to the stars with:

- Olivia Newton-John
- The Beatles producer Sir George Martin
- John Farnham
- Demis Roussos
- Tobias Moretti

He also played professionally in blues and rock bands in Melbourne for 10 years with the who's who of Australia's best session players including Chris Copping (Procul Harum), Gary Young (Daddy Cool), Bruce Haymes (Paul Kelly), John Watson (Renee Geyer), Peter Coughlin (Goanna Band), and Geoff Wright (JJ Cale).

QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING

He holds a Bachelor of Music Performance (violin) from Victorian College of the Arts/Melbourne University where he studied with Donald Scotts and Brian Finlayson. He then studied a further 3 years with the renowned Helfried Fister in Austria. In addition, he was mentored in improvisation by Stephen Housden (Little River Band), and Allan Zavod (Frank Zappa). He also holds professional qualifications as a mentor and life coach.

- Bachelor of Music Performance (in violin at VCA/Melbourne University)
- Certificate IV in Training & Assessment TAE40110
- Certificate IV in Mentoring & Coaching 52350WA

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