

# ORPHEUS UNSUNG

Steven Mackey

Saturday 2 September 7pm, Salon

## PRESENTED BY

Melbourne Recital Centre & MCM New Music Studio

## ARTIST

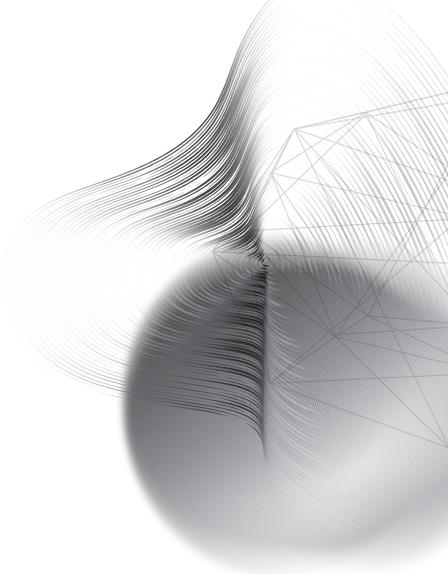
Steven Mackey guitar

## PROGRAM

**STEVEN MACKEY (b. 1956)**

*Orpheus Unsung*

Orpheus Cowboy  
The Wedding  
Snakebite  
First Lament  
Pursuit and Trespass  
Down  
Stalactites  
...And other strange things  
Lyre Music  
Up  
The Look  
Final Lament  
Orpheus Redux  
The Mob  
Orpheus Oracle (The Stream)



## ABOUT THE MUSIC

This hour-long narrative for solo electric guitar traces the myth of Orpheus in the underworld. Our hero Orpheus marries his true love Eurydice. Following the wedding, Eurydice is bitten by a snake and dies. Orpheus cannot bear this and embarks on a perilous journey to the underworld with the aim of bringing her back. He sings his plea to the ruler of the underworld who allows him to take Eurydice back with him under the condition that he not look back to check to see if she is still there. When Orpheus crosses the threshold back to the surface he can no longer resist and he looks back but Eurydice has not yet crossed and she is immediately drawn back to the underworld, gone forever. Orpheus mourns but eventually comes to terms with his loss. Later, a mob of Thracian women in a Dionysian orgy rip Orpheus apart. Dismembered, his head and lyre float down a stream, his head still singing and his lyre still playing, until they rest at the head of the stream and become an oracle.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Steven Mackey** was born in 1956, to American parents stationed in Frankfurt, Germany. He is regarded as one of the leading composers of his generation and has composed for orchestra, chamber ensembles, dance and opera. Steven has received numerous awards including a Grammy in 2012.

His first musical passion was playing the electric guitar in rock bands based in northern California. He blazed a trail in the 1980s and 90s by including the electric guitar and vernacular music influence in his concert music and he regularly performs his own work, including two electric guitar concertos and numerous solo and chamber works. He is also active as an improvising musician and performs with his band Big Farm.

*Engaged through University of Melbourne-Melbourne Recital Centre Learning Partnership*

Melbourne Recital Centre acknowledges the people of the Kulin nation on whose land this concert is being presented.



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