

In a Japanese Garden

Tuesday 3 July 6pm, Salon

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre & Ossicle Duo

Ossicle Duo would like to thank the Bonsai Society of Victoria for providing the beautiful trees you can see in the Salon this evening.

ARTISTS

Ossicle Duo

Benjamin Anderson bass trombone

Hamish Upton percussion

PROGRAM

DAI FUJIKURA (b. 1977)

deliquesce for solo trombone

KAIJA SAARIAHO (b. 1952)

Six Japanese Gardens for percussion and electronics

I Tenju-an Garden of Nanzen-ji Temple

II Many Pleasures (Garden of the Kinkaku-ji)

III Dry Mountain Stream

IV Rock Garden of Ryoan-ji

V Moss Garden of the Saiho

VI Stone Bridges

JOHN CAGE (1912-1992)

Ryoanji

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Step into the garden ...

Deliquesce is the process of organic material breaking down into a liquid during decomposition. Scored for solo trombone, Dai Fujikura's *deliquesce* explores musical disintegration. It is composed of fluid sounds that possess a curious rhythmic intensity and possibly invoke natural processes in motion. This work lives in the darker corners of our garden, where piles of leaves are left unattended until they break down.

Kaija Saariaho composed *Six Japanese Gardens* in 1993 after visiting the gardens of Kyoto. It is scored for solo percussion with electronics, and explores instrumental colour applied in complex layers of rhythmic movement. The six sections of the work each present a unique impression of each garden - some evoking their physical and visual qualities, others drawing on the sensations Saariaho experienced during her own visit. Among the gardens Saariaho visited was Ryoanji, one of the finest examples of the Japanese Zen-style dry garden. It is famous for its rock formations, which are arranged carefully among raked pebbles.

The same garden was of great inspiration to John Cage, who takes these two distinct elements, rocks and pebbles, and re-imagines them musically in *Ryoanji*. The percussion represents the carefully raked yet somewhat irregular pebbles as a gradually shifting ostinato pattern. The rock formations are interpreted very literally: Cage traced the shapes of their sculptural forms onto paper, and these lines in turn become contours for the trombone to play in its extreme low register.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ossicle Duo is an exciting new ensemble featuring contemporary music specialists Benjamin Anderson (trombone) and Hamish Upton (percussion). The pair met while studying in Singapore in 2010, and quickly bonded over music, hawker food and thunderstorms. Since then the pair have played together numerous times in chamber ensembles and orchestral projects, before forming Ossicle Duo in 2017. The Duo explores the great repertoire that exists for this combination, ranging from post minimalism to the avant-garde, while also being committed to commissioning new works and collaborating with other like-minded musicians. This evening's concert is the Duo's Melbourne Recital Centre debut.

ossicleduo.com

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



31 Sturt St, Southbank, VIC 3006
P: 03 9699 3333 F: 03 9207 2662
E: mail@melbournerecital.com.au
W: melbournerecital.com.au

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