

METROPOLIS NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL 2019

A VIOLIN & A BALL OF WOOL

Thursday 2 May 6pm
Primrose Potter Salon

PRESENTED BY

Melbourne Recital Centre

ARTISTS

Anna McMichael violin

Damian Barbeler electronics/visuals

Tim Jetis visual design

PROGRAM

KATE MOORE

Heather

DANIEL BLINKHORN

FrostbYte, Drift

DAMIAN BARBELER

Piece for violin and ball of wool

KATE MOORE

*Synaesthesia Suite**

**This work has been nominated for consideration in the Contemporary Masters Award 2019, which is generously supported by friends of Stephen McIntyre AM.*

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Heather (2014), alludes to a wild hedge of purple flowers that grows in patterns marking the lines where an ancient building once stood. Inspired by ancient and medieval ruins scattered across the Outer Hebrides, Scotland, the piece explores the underlying layers of internal structures buried beneath the external evolution of melodies, harmony and rhythmic patterns. The piece is rich in resonant textures that intertwine and slowly rotate like undergrowth as it gradually overtakes a ruined wall.

FrostbYte, Drift is a collaboration between Daniel Blinkhorn and Anna McMichael as included on the release, *Open Polar Sea*, on the Dutch UnSounds label. A constant drifting of spectral energies across the gestural, timbral and textural continuum unfold throughout the work.

Recordings of the high arctic region of Svalbard inspire the formation of gesture and timbre on violin, which in turn shapes the trajectory of electro-acoustic materials based on the same field recordings.

In the *Piece for Violin & Ball of Wool*, Anna's otherwise beautiful violin performance is interrupted, distorted, fractured and corrupted by the physical intervention of the composer on stage with a ball of wool. Inspired by a photographic series by Tim Jetis of human figures half seen in darkness, this piece is the musical equivalent. Awake in the early hours, or looking for meaning in our relationships, our minds sometimes have to work overtime to fill in the pieces of the puzzle obscured from sight.

Synaesthesia Suite (2014) is a genre-defying, multi-media performance for violin and eight-channel electro-acoustic installation that searches for a vision of reality that transcends the darkness of encroaching doom in search of a glimmer of Utopian light. It is one of a series of pieces exploring the correlation between the nature of instruments and temperament. The piece takes the form of a dance suite, in four sections harking back to the tradition of Renaissance and Baroque music. In so doing, temperament and tonality and the geometry and proportion of strings, draws a link between the physiology and physiognomy of the human body and universal cosmology, outlining the synergy between science, art, nature and culture.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Violinist **Anna McMichael** returned to Australia in 2010 after 17 years in Europe performing in many of the major ensembles, music festivals and orchestras. Anna performs throughout Australia and is Co-Director of the Tyalgum Music Festival, a core member of early music group Ironwood and Co-ordinator of Strings at Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, Monash University.

Damian Barbeler is a composer and media artist. He is widely recognised for his idiosyncratic and playful artistic style as well as his lush, emotional creations inspired by textures and patterns from nature. He regularly collaborates with colleagues from diverse fields including architecture, software design, media arts, dance and more.

Melbourne Recital Centre proudly stands on the land of the Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation and we pay our respects to Melbourne's First People, to their Elders past and present, and to our shared future.
