



Ensemble Offspring

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2PM & 7PM
THE NEILSON, ACO ON THE PIER



SUPPORT EO AND THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN MUSIC



Make a tax-deductible donation any time at
ensembleoffspring.com/support or by scanning the QR code

WELCOME

CLAIRE EDWARDES OAM,
CEO & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Steve Reich has been described as “the most original musical thinker of our time” (The New Yorker) and “among the great composers of the century” (The New York Times). Beginning in the 1960s, Reich’s works helped shift the aesthetic centre of musical composition worldwide - away from extreme complexity and towards new ways of thinking about pulsation and tonal attraction. His influence continues to resonate with younger generations of composers and mainstream artists alike.

Reich’s music has been part of Ensemble Offspring’s history for more than twenty years, so we’re thrilled to be celebrating his immense impact on new music today. We’re also delighted to welcome pianist Gabi Sultana all the way from Malta! We first performed with Gabi at the Canberra International Music Festival in 2015, collaborating on the music of Philip Glass.

Back in 2012, we presented *Radio Rewrite* for the first time at City Recital Hall as part of the *Extended Play Festival*. Our video of the performance has since clocked up 36,000 YouTube views - and it’s a piece I’ve personally been dying to play ever since!

The brilliant dancer Richard Cilli also joins us, bringing the music to life through the physical and the visual. We begin with *Metronomes*, from our 2019 show *RECITAL*, before Richard joins Gabi for *Piano Counterpoint*. We hope you enjoy the show!

A big shout-out to everyone joining us for the first time today - we’re thrilled to have you with us! Our concerts are all about reimagining traditions and pushing boundaries. We hope today brings moments that surprise, inspire, and maybe even blow you away. If you have any questions or just want to chat, our friendly team will be in the foyer, and the performers will be around afterwards - we’d genuinely love to meet you.



GABI SULTANA

piano soloist

Described as “a demon of energy; yet one of impeccable articulation” and “synonymous with the avant-garde ... a truly formidable exponent of the genre”, Maltese pianist Gabi Sultana is an internationally acclaimed soloist and chamber musician, especially within the contemporary music scene.

GABISULTANA.COM



SAM WELLER

conductor

Australian conductor Sam Weller was one of six ‘designated winners’ of the International Conducting Competition Rotterdam 2025, which saw him conduct ensembles such as the Rotterdam Philharmonic, Klangforum Wien and Orchestra of the 18th Century. Sam founded Ensemble Apex in 2016.

SAMWELLERCONDUCTOR.COM



RICHARD CILLI

dancer

Richard Cilli is a choreographer and performer currently working as Director Ensemble and Repertoire for Sydney Dance Company. Richard’s international performing credits include Rafael Bonachela, Lucy Guerin, Stephanie Lake, Gideon Obarzanek, Lloyd Newson and William Forsythe.

PROGRAM

RICHARD CILLI & CLAIRE EDWARDES	<i>Metronomes</i> (from <i>RECITAL</i>) (2018) for metronomes and movers	5'
STEVE REICH	<i>Piano Counterpoint</i> (1973, arr. 2011) for piano, tape and dancer	12'
STEVE REICH	<i>Quartet</i> (2013) for two vibraphones and two pianos	17'
STEVE REICH	<i>Radio Rewrite</i> (2012) flute, clarinet, two vibraphones, two pianos, electric bass, two violins, viola, cello	19'

CONCERT DURATION: 70 MINUTES

Pre-concert talk (evening concert only) presented by Vanessa Hughes, featuring piano soloist Gabi Sultana and percussionist/Artistic Director Claire Edwardes.

ARTISTS

SAM WELLER	conductor
RICHARD CILLI	dancer
GABI SULTANA^	piano soloist
CLAIRE EDWARDES*	Artistic Director, percussion soloist
LAMORNA NIGHTINGALE*	flute
JASON NOBLE*	clarinet
NIKI JOHNSON**	percussion
RONAN APCAR*	piano
VÉRONIQUE SERRET*	violin
ALEXANDRA OSBORNE	violin
DANA LEE	viola
ROWENA MACNEISH	cello
JACQUES EMERY	electric bass

^Supported by Arts Council Malta
**Core Ensemble Offspring Musician*
*** Creative Associate*



BOOK TICKETS FOR OUR NEXT AVANT GARDENS



AVANT GARDENS SPRING

Spring is coming with a quirky, vibrant program featuring rising star trumpeter Arkie Moore, with a vast stylistic range that has taken her from the world of symphony orchestras to jazz and brass bands, and into the thickets of new art music.

SYDNEY

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 5PM, TEMPE
SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 5PM, ALEXANDRIA

BRISBANE

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 3PM, BRISBANE

RICHARD CILLI & CLAIRE EDWARDES



Metronomes
(from *RECITAL*) (2018)
for metronomes and movers

Dancer. Percussionist. Rivals. A strange and hypnotic double act. Two metronomes duel it out, phasing between opposites and unison, as the performers follow. A mesmerising fusion of sound and movement, inspired by Reich's iconic phasing techniques. Four-time APRA Art Music Award-winning percussionist Claire Edwardes and Helpmann Award-winning dancer Richard Cilli unite their distinct virtuosic talents in a unique presentation of how movement sounds, and how sound moves.

RECITAL was developed in collaboration with acclaimed director and choreographer Gideon Obarzanek, and featured the iconic electro-pop artist Paul Mac who created the music in collaboration with percussionist Claire Edwardes.

STEVE REICH



Piano Counterpoint (1973, arr. 2011)
for piano, tape and dancer

Piano Counterpoint is an arrangement of *Six Pianos* (1973) for solo pianist and tape made by Vincent Corver in 2011. Four of the six piano parts are pre-recorded and the last two are combined into a more virtuosic single part played live. For these last two parts to be played by a single pianist it was necessary to move some of the melodic patterns up an octave giving the piece an increased sparkle and intensity. The amplification of the live player along with the pre-recorded playback add additional electricity. Combined with the practicality of needing only a solo pianist, this arrangement can be heard as improving on the original.

Program note by Steve Reich.

STEVE REICH



Quartet (2013)
for two vibraphones and two pianos

The term 'quartet', when mentioned in the context of concert music, is generally assumed to mean string quartet. In my case, the quartet that has played a central role in many of my pieces (besides the string quartet) is that of two pianos and two percussion. It appears like that or in expanded form with more pianos or more percussion in *The Desert Music*, *Sextet*, *Three Movements*, *The Four Sections*, *The Cave*, *Dance Patterns*, *Three Tales*, *You Are (Variations)*, *Variations for Vibes*, *Pianos and Strings*, *Daniel Variations*, *Double Sextet*, and *Radio Rewrite*. In *Quartet*, there is just this group alone: two vibes and two pianos.

The piece is one of the more complex I have composed. It frequently changes key and often breaks off continuity to pause or take up new material. Though the parts are not unduly difficult, it calls for a high level of ensemble virtuosity. The form is one familiar throughout history: fast, slow, fast, played without pause. The slow movement introduces harmonies not usually found in my music.

The piece is dedicated to Colin Currie, a percussionist who has broken the mould by maintaining his solo career with orchestras and recitals and also, quite amazingly, by founding the Colin Currie Group which plays whatever ensemble music he believes in. I salute him and hope others will take note.

Program note by Steve Reich.

STEVE REICH



Radio Rewrite (2012)

flute, clarinet, two vibraphones, two pianos,
electric bass, two violins, viola, cello

Over the years composers have used pre-existing music (folk or classical) as material for new pieces of their own. This was particularly notable from the beginning of the 15th to the end of the 17th century when over forty settings of the Mass using the tune *L'homme armé* as its point of departure were written by composers Dufay, Ockeghem, Josquin des Pres, and Palestrina among others. Much later in the 19th century, Brahms wrote *Variations on a Theme of Haydn* and in the 20th century we find Stravinsky reworking the music of Pergolesi's for his own *Pulcinella*. *Radio Rewrite* is my modest contribution to this genre.

Now, in the early 21st century, we live in an age of remixes where musicians take audio samples of other music and remix them into audio of their own. Being a composer who works with musical notation I chose to reference two songs from the rock group Radiohead for an ensemble of musicians playing non rock instruments. The two songs chosen were *Everything in its Right Place* and *Jigsaw Falling into Place*.

It was not my intention to make anything like 'variations' on these songs, but rather to draw on their harmonies and sometimes melodic fragments and work them into my own piece. This is what I have done. As to actually hearing the original songs, the truth is—sometimes you hear them and sometimes you don't.

Program note by Steve Reich.



SUPPORTERS

REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT

MAVERICK \$20,000+

The Berg Family Foundation
Kay Vernon & Toni Robertson
Kim Williams AM & Catherine Dovey

INNOVATOR \$5,000+

John Barrer
The Darin Cooper Foundation
Charles Davidson
Helen Eager & Christopher Hodges
John & Irene Garran
Peter Howard
The Keir Foundation
James Kirby & Claire Wivell Plater
Phlyssa Koshland
Penny Le Couteur & Greg Dickson
Julianne Maxwell
Simon & Naomi Miller
Helen & Peter Murdoch
Liz & Ken Nielsen
The Ogden Family
The Simpson-Michel Foundation
Geoff Stearn
The Stoneglen Foundation
Victoria Taylor
The Tindale Foundation
Peter Wise
Anonymous (1)

Amounts are based on donations in the current calendar year, most recent calendar year, or most recent financial year, whichever amount is highest.

PATRON, BOARD AND STAFF

PATRON

Shane Simpson AM

BOARD

Simon Miller (Chair)
Hannah Mason (Deputy Chair)
Ciaran Frame (Secretary)
James Kirby (Treasurer)
Claire Edwardes OAM
Lamorna Nightingale
Sonya Holowell
Louise Buckingham
Amy Curl

CREATOR \$1,000+

Christine Bishop, Jenny Bisset, George Clark & Diana Hosking, Claire Edwardes, Robert & Dora Edwardes, Shane Geha, Cathy Gray, Kathie & Reg Grinberg, Alan Hauserman and Janet Nash, Stewart Jackson & Judy Greenwood, Peter & Margaret Janssens, Michael Katz & Frederique Katz-Hochuli, Leta Keens, Robert & Catharine Kench, Hugh Liney, Don MacLeod, Hannah Mason, Philip O'Keefe & Kelly Hargreaves, Merry & Robert Pearson, Trish Richardson in memory of Andy Lloyd James, Lynne Saunder, Mark Wakely, Anonymous (6)

NURTURER \$200+

Michael Appleby, Marissa Banu-Lawrence, Anita Beuthien, Amanda Brown & Simon Marnie, Louise Buckingham, Neil Burns, Lloyd & Mary Jo Capps AM, Miguel Carrasco & Renee Martin, Deirdre Ferguson, Terry & Dianne Finnegan, Michael Fitzgerald & Sean Morris, Janusz & Malgorzata Florek, Ciaran Frame, Kris Gale, Barbara Jane Gilby, Michael Hannan, Anni Heino, Gabrielle Henry, Sonya Holowell, Elizabeth Hristoforidis, James Humberstone, Glynis Johns, Jane Kift, Georges Lentz, Kate Lidbetter, Anthony & Sarah Lowe, Elisabeth Luke, Graham & Pamela MacDonald, Jeffrey & Anna Mellefont, Lamorna Nightingale, Marni Oaten, Jenna Price, Jacqui Smith, Jenny Stewart, Mark Tucker, Alan Watt, Christopher Whitehead & Peter Wilson, John Wynter and Raffi Qasabian, Phillip Yetton & Joan Spiller, Anonymous (7)

STAFF

Claire Edwardes OAM (CEO & Artistic Director)
Ella Howard (Business Manager)
Tess Atutahi (Artistic Operations Manager)
Isabella Rahme (Development Manager)
Hayley Chan (Marketing Manager)
Jason Noble (Hatched Academy Director)
Sonya Holowell (First Nations Director)



NGARRA-BURRIA GALA

28 October, Eugene Goossens Hall, ABC Ultimo Centre

We're celebrating ten years of collaboration and creativity through Ngarra-Burria with a deadly Gala Concert at Eugene Goossens Hall, ABC Ultimo. Experience the bridges Ngarra-Burria has built over the past 10 years, between forms, genres, stories and generations, with a "best of" collection of First Nations chamber works written for and with Ensemble Offspring. Performed with clarity, flair and heart, this music speaks to Country, connection and the evolving future of an Australian sound.



FUTURE CLASSICS

21 November, Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

In this annual showcase at the Sydney Opera House, it's your chance to discover the Future Classics of Australian art music. Be the first to hear brand new works from four of our nation's most innovative young composers, composed especially for Ensemble Offspring under the guidance of 2026 mentor Jack Symonds. Joining our Ensemble Offspring virtuosos on stage: Arkie Moore, this season's Hatched Emerging Performer, and Emerging Performer alumnus Ronan Apcar.



BOOK NOW

Scan the QR Code or go to ensembleoffspring.com to purchase your tickets.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS



Ensemble Offspring is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body and the New South Wales Government through Create NSW. Gabi Sultana is supported by Arts Council Malta.

OTHER SUPPORTERS



SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Judith Neilson and Phoenix Central Park for kindly supporting Ensemble Offspring.

REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT
REICH: REJOICE: REPEAT



ENSEMBLEOFFSPRING.COM