

A photograph of four people (three women and one man) standing in front of a large, multi-paned window in a rustic, industrial-style setting. The window has some peeling paint and is set into a white brick wall. The people are smiling and looking at each other. The man on the far left is wearing a black leather jacket over a white shirt and dark jeans. The woman next to him is wearing a dark teal t-shirt and black pants. The woman in the center is wearing a teal long-sleeved shirt and light blue jeans. The man on the far right is wearing a patterned polo shirt and dark blue jeans. The floor is concrete with some blue chalk markings.

OMEGA ENSEMBLE

**NEW NOW
2026**

**COLAB: COMPOSER
ACCELERATOR PROGRAM**



OMEGA ENSEMBLE

NEW NOW 2026

Robert McIntyre

Solastalgia

- I. Nostalgia
- II. Solastalgia

Jessie Leov

a map to nowhere

Thomas Misson

The Cicerone Suite

- III. Hefeweizen
- IV. Belgian-Style Blond
- V. Dry Irish Stout
- VI. West Coast IPA

Beth Roche

The Lambton Worm

David Rowden Clarinet

Mark Ingwersen Violin

Neil Thompson Viola

Paul Stender Cello

Vatche Jambazian Piano

Sydney

Friday 14 August, 7PM

The Neilson,
ACO on the Pier

Duration

This performance is approximately
75 minutes without interval.

Please check your phone

This performance may be recorded.
Please take a moment to ensure your
phone and any electronic devices are
switched off.

Photos and video

We encourage you to take photos
of your concert experience. To
avoid unintended disruptions to the
performance, the best time to take a
photo is during applause.

Love me or leave me

Keep this booklet as a complimentary
souvenir or leave it on your seat
following the performance to be
collected, reused and recycled.

MUSIC NOTES

Robert McIntyre (VIC)

Solastalgia

World Premiere • 14 minutes

Coined by Australian environmental philosopher Glenn Albrecht in 2003, *Solastalgia* is a homesickness while you are still at home. From an experiential perspective, more now than ever is the deteriorating feeling of environmental nostalgia – as how can you yearn for something that you've never truly known? From older generations to now and new, this fundamental shift from environmental nostalgia to only solastalgia is a concerning one, and only exacerbating over time should inadequate measures be taken to restore our climate.

Musically in two parts and grounded by newly commissioned poetry by regular collaborator Savanna Wegman, as a compositional source material, you can experience this shift – realising the beauty of environmental nostalgia subtly transform into the tense, sublime solastalgia of our collective home in real time. While it may often be apt to see things change and end in order to properly remember them by, our climate is most definitely not one of them.

1: Nostalgia

Eyes washed with younger watercolours
As steady arms of wind brush open
familiar verdant paths

This home is a lilac pressed vision
Butterflied by hands, an opening of
rooms into veins of memory

As it finds ground so do they
Collecting some rush of atmosphere
And breathing it in until they turn velvet

2: Solastalgia

We tried to recognise our ancient earth
Stretch the wingspan as spirals skies

hide in sandcastles

Shuddering in bones made clay
Our carrion filled homes wait, desirous
for the un-disappearing

Where time and blood once found gardens
They now find statues of salt
Haunting in each search
for what once glowed

© Savanna Wegman 2026

Robert McIntyre (he/him) is an Australian composer whose work draws on nature, social issues and personal experience to create music that gives overlooked moments renewed visibility. Described as "strikingly contemporary" (Limelight), he is a Represented Artist with the Australian Music Centre and holds First Class Honours in Composition from the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. His music has been performed by leading Australian ensembles including the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Flinders Quartet. In 2025, he represented Australia at the ISCM World New Music Days Festival in Portugal. McIntyre is the co-founder and co-leader of Changing Wilds Ensemble.

Jessie Leov (NZ)

a map to nowhere

World Premiere • 13 minutes

a map to nowhere navigates the rich sensory experience of the forest through the eyes of a child, surrounded by ancient towering trees, skittering insects, creaking branches, damp earth, and a myriad of unseen but extraordinary ecological processes.

This piece was inspired by a walk in the forest with my best friend Avalon and her toddler. We passed a tree on which the bark had completely peeled off over time, revealing a stunning natural artwork on the trunk beneath. The naturally formed whorls and grooves



Thomas Misson and Matthew Hindson

on the tree trunk strongly resembled a map; appearing to outline continents and oceans.

Pondering questions of where this map might lead, a map to nowhere explores the dialogue between the concrete and the imagined; the seen and unseen; and permanence and decay; bringing to life surreal scenes of the forest rooted in a child's vivid imagination.

*Jessie Leov is an award-winning composer of New Zealand and Australian heritage whose music blends familiar and experimental sounds across contemporary classical, interdisciplinary and collaborative practice. Drawing on nature, identity and personal experience, her works have been performed throughout New Zealand, Australia, Europe, the UK and the US. Recent highlights include the 2024 Edward T. Cone Composition Institute at Princeton University, where the New Jersey Symphony performed her orchestral work *Speculations on a Rainbow*, and a 2025 composer fellowship at the Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival. Jessie is an Associate*

Artist of the Australian Music Centre.

Thomas Misson (TAS)
The Cicerone Suite
 World Premiere • 14 minutes

Both contemporary music and beer are saddled with the reputational being bitter. Those who love either often delight in their more divisive characteristics, but they can dominate perceptions of both and create a barrier to awareness of the abundant variety of style within both. *Cicerone Suite* is not-so incredibly-serious (but I hope substantive) musical pairing for 4 different beer styles in the hope that it's a more inviting way into exploring either the music or the drink.

If you find yourself listening to new music, watching new movies, playing new video games, etc., with any regularity at all, then you are on the same journey I am. I believe this journey should be full of fun, challenge, joy, adventure, self-discovery, and even moments of bewilderment. Yet, in all cases

self-deprecating credentialism and elitism discourages many from leaning into this journey of discovery.

Additionally, we are, in 2026, disconnected, distanced, and overstimulated away from the act of connecting deeply with ourselves and our senses. I hope this presents, through the optional inclusion of taste, a way for some to take a step towards the self-awareness of listening to ourselves and music deeply. It is for these reasons, and more, that *Cicerone Suite* was born.

Thomas Misson is an Australian composer, pianist and educator whose music has been performed throughout Australia and internationally. A graduate of the University of Tasmania and the University of Melbourne, his work has been commissioned and performed by leading organisations including Musica Viva Australia, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Offspring, Flinders Quartet and the Australian Chamber Orchestra Collective. Recent highlights include performances at Wigmore Hall, the Aspen Music Festival, the Osaka World Expo and the Adelaide Festival. His music is regularly broadcast on ABC Classic, and he is an Associate with TSO Publishing.

Beth Roche (NSW)

The Lambton Worm

World Premiere • 13 minutes

The *Lambton Worm* is a 14th century legend from County Durham in North-East England, which details the battle between John Lambton and a giant worm (archaic term for dragon). While fishing, Lambton finds the worm in the form of a small eel and tosses it into a well, only to find that years later upon his return to the town, it has transformed into a giant beast and is terrorising the nearby villages. The two characters battle and John wins but is left with a nine-generation curse upon his family.

This piece which shares its title with the legend, aims to capture the duality between the naivety of young John Lambton and the sinister, deceptive nature of the worm.

Beth Roche is a Sydney-based composer whose music draws on a diverse range of musical influences. A graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, her works have been performed and recorded by ensembles including Ensemble Offspring, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Fellows, the Australian Youth Orchestra, Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra and Queensland Wind Orchestra. Recent highlights include receiving the 2026 Jenny Bounds Young Composer Prize, alongside upcoming commissions and performances with Penrith Symphony Orchestra and the Sydney Conservatorium New Music Ensemble. Beth is also an active arranger across both classical and contemporary music.

A heartfelt thank you to our professional mentors for their advice, enthusiasm and shared commitment to supporting young musical voices:

Matthew Hindson, Nico Muhly, Christopher Cerrone and Holly Harrison

The CoLAB: Composer Accelerator Program is generously supported by the Darin Cooper Foundation, Sally and Geoffrey White, Mark Wakely in memory of Steven Alward, John Claudianos, Julianne Maxwell, The Abbott Foundation, and the Di Jameson Family Foundation.



Jessie Leov



Thomas Misson



Beth Roche



Robert McIntyre





EVERY GIFT HELPS TO GROW THE NEXT GENERATION OF COMPOSERS.

Make the next note possible.

Behind every world premiere is a community of generous supporters. By supporting our CoLAB composer accelerator, you are directly investing in the future of Australian music - giving emerging composers the mentorship and mainstage platform they need to thrive.

Help us keep building a vibrant future for Australian chamber music.

All donations of \$2 or more are fully tax-deductible and directly fuel homegrown creativity. Donate today and shape Australia's cultural landscape.



SUPPORTERS

Our music simply would not exist without the shared vision of our supporters and partners who help us to deliver our exciting projects and important work on and off the stage.

We invite you to join this like-minded community of music lovers and arts philanthropists by making

Artistic Director's Circle Terrey Arcus AM Richard Cobden SC Jennifer Darin Paul Flynn David Gonski AC Di Jameson OAM John Kaldor AO Renata Kaldor AO Julianne Maxwell Sam Meers AO Fiona Menzies Dr Shane Simpson AM Max Stead Kim Williams AM	\$10,000 + Richard Cobden SC Norman Gillespie ☆ Julianne Maxwell Gaston Nguyen ☆ Dianne & Peter O'Connell ☆ Ian Plater and Evgeniya Kriel	Trish Richardson in memory of Andy Lloyd James Julie Robb and Michael Furlong Dalia Stanley and the late Tom Stanley ★ Kim Sutherland OAM Bruce & Mary Anne Terry ★ Anonymous ☆	\$250 + Sarah Bennett Charles and Anne Edmondson ★ Andrew & Renata Kaldor Stuart Love John and Jo-Ann Negrine ☆ Felicity O'Brien Paul O'Donnell ☆ John Vaughan and Margaret Foley ☆
\$100,000 + The Abbott Foundation Di Jameson Family Foundation	\$5,000 + The Helens Gift John Claudianos ☆ Bernard Coles ★ Nicholas and Toulia Cowell John Kaldor Penelope Seidler Simpson-Michel Foundation ☆ Nick and Kate Thomas Mark Wakely in memory of Steven Alward ★ Australian Philanthropic Services	\$500 + Lillian and Peter Armitage ☆ Stephen Booth ☆ Alan & Phillippa Clark ★ Dr Ian Cook Mary Delahunty Kees and Diny de Leeuw Kathryn Fagg Heather Flood Cathie Hull ☆ Elisabeth McDonald Robin Miles John Mitchell Robbie Nicol George Palmer ★ Trevor Parkin ☆ Naomi Richards Jann Skinner Michael Thompson ☆ Naseema Sparks AM Angus and Brigitte Uren	
\$50,000 + Darin Cooper Foundation ☆ Paul Flynn The Neilson Foundation Nelson Meers Foundation Mr Geoffrey White OAM & Ms Sally White ★	\$1,000 + Phillipa Birkett Glyn Davis Reg Graycar Robert and Lindy Henderson ☆ Judith Black AO Kevin and Deidre McCann Fiona Menzies Rupert Myer Dr Robert and Dr Tessa Philips ★ Justin and Jacqueline Playfair ☆		
\$20,000 + David Gonski AC Ezekiel Solomon AM Geoff Stearn ☆ Anonymous ★			

Supporter levels are based on total giving within the past 12 months. For full acknowledgement of all supporters and partners, or to find out more about supporting, please visit our website

★ Denotes visionary donors who have supported the Omega Ensemble for five (☆) or ten (★) years or longer.

PARTNERS

Foundation Partners



DARIN COOPER
FOUNDATION



The Abbott
Foundation

Government Partners



Industry Partner

BUDANON

Commissioning Partners



Ben Goldscheider

2026 Presenting Partners



Media Partner

The Saturday
Paper

Touring Partner

Adina
apartment hotels

Management

Michael Naphthali
CEO

David Rowden
Artistic Director

Ian Whitney
Director of Artistic
Planning

Ariel Bonnell
Producer

Amy Church
Head of Marketing and
Audience Development

Publicity
Kabuku PR

Board

Di Jameson OAM
Chair

Jennifer Darin
Director

David Rowden
Director

About us

omegaensemble.com.au

PO Box 525
Surry Hills NSW

contact@omegaensemble.com.au
1300 670 050

Omega Ensemble (ABN 40 120 304 725) is listed on the Australian Government's Register of Cultural Organisations maintained under Subdivision 30-B of Part 2-1 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth).

Photo Credits

CoLAB Photos: Gabrielle Clement
Ensemble photo: Billy Zammit

Acknowledgment of Country

Omega Ensemble acknowledges the traditional custodians of the many lands on which we work and perform, and honour their continued connection to Country, culture and storytelling.

[illegible]

20 years of Australia's best magazine **M**
subscribe at themonthly.com.au/subscribe