



# ENSEMBLE OFFSPRING

ENSEMBLE OFFSPRING MIX SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN COMPOSERS, PREMIÈRING NEW WORK  
BY MATTHEW WHITESIDE AND JANE STANLEY ALONG WITH MUSIC BY KATE MOORE,  
THOMAS MEADOWCROFT, ANDREA KELLER AND PAUL MAC



THE  
NIGHT  
WITH...

THE BLACK BOX  
18-22 HILL STREET,  
BELFAST, **BT1 2LA**

**8:00PM 9<sup>TH</sup> SEP**

THE HUG AND PINT  
171 GREAT WESTERN RD,  
GLASGOW, **G4 9AW**

**8:00PM 10<sup>TH</sup> SEP**

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE  
43-45 HIGH STREET,  
EDINBURGH, **EH1 1SR**

**8:00PM 11<sup>TH</sup> SEP**

BELMONT FILMHOUSE  
49 BELMONT STREET,  
ABERDEEN, **AB10 1JS**

**8:00PM 12<sup>TH</sup> SEP**

**GLOW - JANE STANLEY (W.P.)**  
**MEDIEVAL ROCOCO - THOMAS MEADOWCROFT**

**— INTERVAL —**

**BLACKBIRD SONG - KATE MOORE**  
**RAMA - MATTHEW WHITESIDE (W.P.)**

**— INTERVAL —**

**MESMERISOM - PAUL MAC (ARR. JESSICA WELLS)**  
**LOVE IN SOLITUDE - ANDREA KELLER**

## **Jane Stanley Glow (2019)**

Glow features three distinct sections through which there is a build towards the flute, clarinet and vibraphone playing together. The piece opens sparsely with the flute playing agile and intricate bird-like gestures, complemented by claves and finger cymbals. All three players also sing at various points during the opening, producing faint chant-like utterances.

Glow evolved from ideas originating in an earlier piece of mine entitled D-re-A-mi-N-gl-Y (2015/2018) for mezzo soprano, piano and percussion. The journey in composing Glow is something of a departure from my usual working method. Ensemble Offspring played an integral role in helping to shape it. They created an improvisation based on ideas from D-re-A-mi-N-gl-Y, and their realisation served as a key reference point for Glow.

Jane Stanley (1976) is a UK-based, Australian-born composer. She specialises in composing chamber and orchestral music. Her music has been performed and broadcast throughout the world, having featured at festivals and conferences including Tanglewood, ISCM World Music Days, and Gaudeamus Music Week. Jane received her PhD from the University of Sydney and in 2004-5 she was a Visiting Fellow at Harvard University. She is a Senior Lecturer in Music at the University of Glasgow. Her music is published by Composers Edition in the UK and the Australian Music Centre.

[www.janestanley.com/](http://www.janestanley.com/)

## **Thomas Meadowcroft Medieval Rococo (2016)**

Medieval Rococo is an oxymoron for our time - how is it possible to generate an abundance of wealth, ornamentation and redundancy on the back of an impoverished idea? The terms 'medieval' and 'rococo' are not used to reference periods of European art history but are used in the populist sense of the words. 'Medieval' denotes music crude and backward, 'rococo' denotes music garish and arty. The piece is dedicated to Ensemble Offspring, for whom the piece was written.

Thomas Meadowcroft is a freelance Australian composer, musician and arranger based in Berlin. His music has been described as 'reaching an inexpressible purity' (Le Monde), 'nerve torture' (Süddeutsche Zeitung) and 'dreamy post-rock' (The New York Times). He has worked with a variety of artists, ensembles and institutions including Oliver Pohl and the German Film Orchestra, Dirk Von Lowtzow, Brett Dean and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, ABC Creative Audio Unit, Speak Percussion.

[www.thomasmeadowcroft.com/](http://www.thomasmeadowcroft.com/)

## **Kate Moore Blackbird Song (2018)**

Blackbird Song is an expansive melody written in response to the early morning cantillation of a merel. In the earliest twilight hours of the morning, before the sunrise chorus of birds, a tiny unassuming blackbird clad in shiny jet-black feathers, perches upon a high post and sings with all its might an epic melancholic tale of adventure and fantasy with its yellow beak pointed toward the heavens. Without knowing it the bird has captivated the imagination of the listener, who, despite being unable to understand the vocabulary and grammar of its language, is taken along on a journey of the blackbird's worldly and other-worldly experiences. Blackbird Song was commissioned by Ensemble Offspring.

Kate Moore is an Australian composer based in The Netherlands. In 2017 she was awarded the prestigious Matthijs Vermeulen Prize. Her works are performed by among others Asko|Schönberg, Slagwerk Den Haag, Ensemble Offspring, The Australian String Quartet and The Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2018/ 19 she was Zielsverwanten composer in residence at The Muziekgebouw aan 'Ij.

[www.katemoore.org](http://www.katemoore.org)

## **Matthew Whiteside Rama (2019)**

Rama is a reference to Arthur C. Clarke's book "Rendezvous with Rama". Matthew Whiteside admits that he often struggles to name new compositions, but this reference floated into his head toward the end of the composition process and it seemed to fit the form of the work. It is not meant as an overt programmatic reference or listening instructions, just a small nod to the work of an author which asks big questions in interesting ways. Rama was written for Ensemble Offspring for this tour and will be performed at the Melbourne Recital Centre and City Recital Hall (Sydney) in 2020.

Matthew Whiteside is a composer and concert producer based in Glasgow, named 'One to Watch' in the Herald's Culture Awards 2017 and winner of the Light Moves Innovative Use of Sound Award for his work Entangled with Marisa Zanotti. Recent work has also included a short opera Little Black Lies commissioned by Scottish Opera Connect, with libretto by Helene Grøn and running The Night With.

[www.matthewwhiteside.co.uk](http://www.matthewwhiteside.co.uk)

## **Paul Mac (arr. Jessica Wells) Mesmerism (2019)**

Mesmerism began as a sequential pattern of modes created as the result of a simple task undertaken when attempting to learn the programme Max/MSP. As a part of this process, the composer also used a “word of the day” app to suggest song titles as creative starting points. In Mesmerism the pattern of modes begins as a kind of musical scaffolding to suggest harmonic progressions and melodies. It was then applied to drum samples to explore implied rhythms, in an effort to find satisfying answers to the questions raised by the process.

The piece started its life as an electronic track on Paul’s 2019 album ‘Mesmerism’ and Ensemble Offspring’s artistic director Claire Edwardes suggested it be arranged for quartet and backing track for their 2019 European Tour. Thanks to the amazing Jessica Wells for notating the work and thanks to the members of Ensemble Offspring who were integral in perfecting the arrangement.

Paul Mac is one of the leading figures in Australian electronic music. He is a composer, songwriter, musician and producer. Paul is a multi-ARIA Award winner for his work with underground dance pioneers Itch-E & Scratch-E and for his own solo work. The list of artists with whom he’s collaborated over recent years includes Sia, Daniel Johns, George Michael and Ngaiire.

[www.paulmac.com.au](http://www.paulmac.com.au)

## **Andrea Keller Love In Solitude (2017)**

Love in Solitude is a meditation on the eloquent thoughts presented in Letters to a Young Poet by Rainer Maria Rilke. Alongside the live ensemble, the work features a backing track consisting of pre-recorded, highly manipulated sounds made by the performers of Ensemble Offspring on stage, in-studio. Jem Savage was an important collaborator on this soundscape and the voice of Miroslav Bukovsky (a Canberra based trumpet player) recites the text. This substantial work moves through numerous moods as depicted in Rilke’s thoughts, beginning with solitude as an essential state for any artist, sadness and pain and their inevitability, and finally patience, love and optimism, of paramount importance. The work was written for Ensemble Offspring for the 2017 Merlyn Myer Commission. Watch the ‘Offspring Bites 2’ video by Peter Humble here <https://vimeo.com/339485871>

Andrea Keller (b.1973) has received three ARIA Awards, six Australian Jazz ‘Bell’ Awards, two Art Music Awards, an APRA Professional Development Award, the Melbourne Recital Centre/Merlyn Myer Composing Women’s Commission, and fellowships from the MCA/Freedman Foundation and the Australia Council. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Improvisation (Honours) from the Victorian College of the Arts (2001) and a Master of Arts (Research) from Queensland University of Technology (2011) and is on staff at the University of Melbourne.

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## Ensemble Offspring

Claire Edwardes (percussion), Lamorna Nightingale (flute), Jason Noble (clarinet) and Zubin Kanga (piano)

Living new music has no greater champion than Ensemble Offspring. A devotion to fearless music making has seen us premiere over three hundred new works over the course of twenty-four years. Led by acclaimed percussionist Claire Edwardes, Ensemble Offspring comprises some of Australia's most innovative and virtuosic performers and champions marginalised compositional voices including female and first peoples Australian composers. In 2016 the group won the APRA Art Music Award for Excellence by an Organisation. Ensemble Offspring has recently toured to Hong Kong, Albany, Amsterdam and Brewarrina and has regularly been featured at Mona Foma Festival as well Sydney Festival. We have a cult following at our Sizzle Series at the local bowling club and support the next generation of Australian musicians and composers through our Hatched Academy. Driven by a philosophy of promoting artistic integrity and challenging the way audiences perceive new music, Ensemble Offspring prides itself on a holistic commitment to the music of our time.

[www.ensembleoffspring.com](http://www.ensembleoffspring.com)

Thanks to **Timothy Cooper** for live sound [www.timothy-cooper.co.uk](http://www.timothy-cooper.co.uk)

If you are interested in supporting The Night With... in any way please get in touch with Matthew Whiteside: [matthew@thenightwith.com](mailto:matthew@thenightwith.com)

For all press enquires contact Jane Nicolson on [jane@thenightwith.com](mailto:jane@thenightwith.com)

We are part of Amazon Smile programme. Go to <http://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and find The Night With.... Every time you shop on Amazon 0.5% of your basket will be donated.

We are also part of Easyfundraising. Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/thenightwith/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/thenightwith/) and follow the instructions on how to support The Night With... with your online shopping.



## CALL FOR SCORES

Call for scores for The Hermes Experiment (soprano, clarinet, harp, double bass)

Deadline 1st October 2019

Workshop in Scottish Music Centre, 24th November

Concerts week of 25th November

The Night With... announces its third call for scores for emerging composers for works for The Hermes Experiment to be performed at The Night With... The Hermes Experiment concerts in November. The concert will also include works by Matthew Grouse, Josephine Stephenson, Robin Haigh and Meredith Monk.

From the initial submissions up to five works will be chosen for a workshop with The Hermes Experiment on 24th November in the Scottish Music Centre, Glasgow (time tbc). Fewer may be selected at the discretion of the judges. One of the five works will be chosen to feature in The Night With... concerts later in the week. This call for scores is as much about finding and developing interesting new music and composers as finding a new work that will fit within the programme.

Scores will be assessed entirely anonymously and The Night With..., as an inclusive organisation, particularly welcomes applications from emerging female and non-binary composers based in Scotland.

All scores must be submitted under a pseudonym. Any scores with identifying marks will be discarded.

Works are ideally for the full quartet (soprano, clarinet, harp, double bass). Subsets of the ensemble down to duo will be accepted but are not encouraged. Solo pieces will not be accepted. Works should be between 5 and 10 minutes long.

For full info on the call and how to submit go to [www.thenightwith.com](http://www.thenightwith.com)



**THE NIGHT WITH... IS A CHARITY BASED IN GLASGOW PRESENTING SALON STYLE CONCERTS OF INTERESTING MUSIC IN INTIMATE, INFORMAL VENUES ACROSS SCOTLAND AND FURTHER AFIELD. RUN BY MATTHEW WHITESIDE, IT PROVIDES DEVELOPMENT AND COMMISSIONING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG AND EMERGING COMPOSERS.**

THE NIGHT WITH... 2019 SEASON FEATURES 25 CONCERTS IN GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, ABERDEEN AND BELFAST BETWEEN AUGUST AND DECEMBER. FULL INFO AND LISTINGS CAN BE FOUND

[WWW.THENIGHTWITH.COM](http://WWW.THENIGHTWITH.COM)



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