

Exit Ceremonies

WORLD PREMIERE

The Australian Art Orchestra and Ensemble Offspring, Australia

A fascinating ritual of repetition and evolving patterns in music.

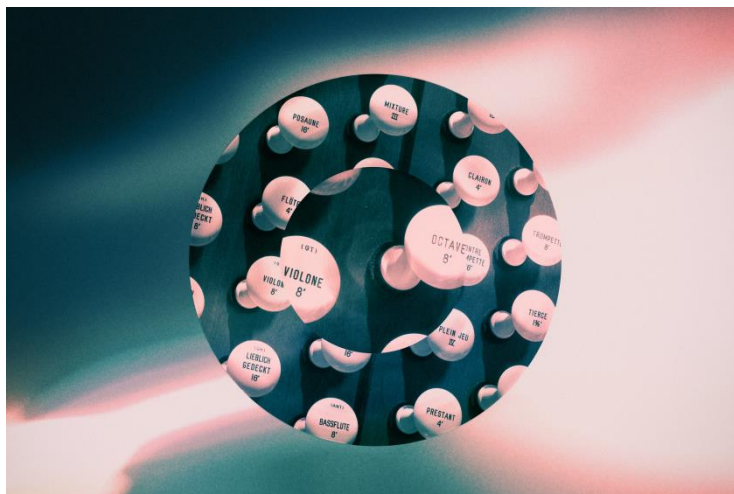


Photo: Peter Knight

"Thrilling and daunting in equal measure"
SMH on the Australian Art Orchestra

"a fresh and stimulating blend of the old and the new."

The Mercury on Ensemble Offspring

"There is also something wildly original in the way that Buckett builds portentousness out of such sparsity ... The effect is electrifying" **John Shand, Sydney Morning Herald.**

"Phillips plays with repetition, sustain and the reverberation of the recording space to create rich and blurred walls of sound."
Cyclic Defrost

Exit Ceremonies celebrates the darkness with lush, pulsating new works for pipe organ and mixed ensemble.

Two of Australia's most vibrant musical forces, the **Australian Art Orchestra** and **Ensemble Offspring**, unite with celebrated young composer-pianists **Austin Buckett** and **Simon James Phillips**, who have each created immersive works that exploit the extraordinary array of sonic effects that can only be achieved with large pipe organs.

The unexpected addition of reel-to-reel tape machines, turntables, electronics, percussion, voice, trumpet and strings will alter your sense of time and space as they are all processed live in combination with the Sydney Conservatorium's majestic pipe organ, creating an unfamiliar and entrancing world of sound.

The Australian Art Orchestra (AAO), founded by **Paul Grabowsky** in 1994, now under the guidance of Artistic Director, **Peter Knight**, has won numerous awards for its work and regularly tours both locally and internationally with recent performances in Hong Kong, Toronto, Paris, London, Brisbane and Chennai. The AAO constantly seeks to stretch genres and break down the barriers separating disciplines, forms and cultures. It explores the interstices between the avant-garde and the traditional, between art and popular music, between electronic and acoustic approaches, and creates works that traverse the continuum between improvised and notated forms.

Led by Artistic Directors **Claire Edwardes** (percussion) and **Damien Ricketson** (composer), Ensemble Offspring embraces a broad and adventurous repertoire from seminal chamber works of the past 50 years, to free improvisation and the creation of striking interdisciplinary productions. The Ensemble has premiered more than 100 new works and presents an annual program of over 30 concerts a year. In 2015, the year of the groups 20th birthday, Ensemble Offspring featured at the Shanghai New Music Week, the Canberra International Music Festival, Vivid Festival and Metropolis Festival with collaborators including Sydney Chamber Opera, Aventa Ensemble (Canada) and Ironwood early music ensemble.

MEDIA RELEASE

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Austin Buckett is an Australian composer and artist working in mediums that explore ideas focused on the perception of sound, its repetition and the environments of its presentation. He has been a featured artist at many festivals and is also a member of the experimental rock band Golden Blonde.

Simon James Phillips trained as a classical pianist in Australia and Sweden but now works primarily as an experimental improvising pianist and composer. He is influenced by electronic music, and is particularly interested in trying to replicate the mechanical and repetitive sounds that surround us. His latest release Blage 3 received rave reviews.

Commissioned and co-produced by Ensemble Offspring, the Australian Art Orchestra and Insite Arts

Where Verbruggen Hall
Sydney Conservatorium of Music

When 23 January at 8pm

Duration 70 minutes no interval

Tickets \$49 / \$44 General Admission
Sydney Festival 1300 856 876
sydneyfestival.org.au/ceremonies



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