

International Rostrum of Composers

Palermo – 2017

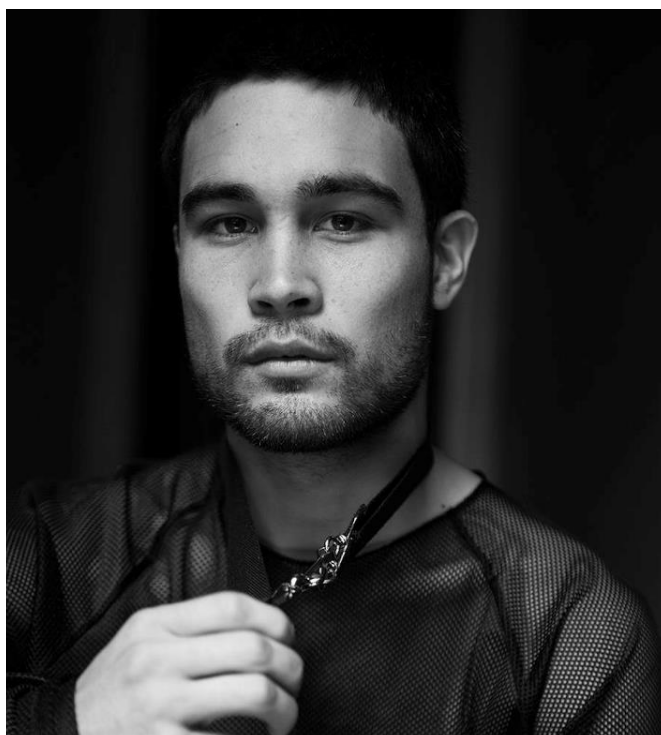


Frontier

Marcus Whale

Hubert Parry's iconic anthem *Jerusalem*, adapted from text by William Blake, is a hymn to England's God-fearing pastoral impulse, based on the belief that nature is a gift to the nation from God. This impulse was the defining feature of the British Empire's colonisation of Australia, a "manifest destiny" that drove white settlers in their gradual, brutal domination of hundreds of First Nations during the Frontier Wars across the 19th and 20th Centuries. Against this backdrop, *Frontier's* piano score corrupts the "Jerusalem" hymn, alongside doomy electronics and drone-shot footage of Australia's high country.

[This recording is the world premiere.]



Marcus Whale (b.1990)

Marcus Whale (born 24th August 1990) is a musician, whose practice covers popular, experimental and classical music. As a performer, he is a member of duo Collarbones and trio BV, as well as work under his own name, releasing an album "Inland Sea" in June 2016. Primarily forming an electronic world around his singing, the songs across these projects play out dramas of desire, projection and identity while disfiguring forms of pop, club and contemporary classical music. As a composer, he has written for Ensemble Offspring, Zubin Kanga, Claire Edwardes, Synergy Percussion, Australia Piano Quartet and The Song Company, along with collaborations with performance artists Ivan Cheng and Jess Olivieri. These works and performances have been presented across Sydney Festival, Vivid Sydney, Brisbane Festival, Underbelly Arts and The Now Now Festival.

Frontier was composed for pianist Zubin Kanga and premiered by him across Australia on his 2016 tour.

Zubin Kanga (piano)

Pianist, Zubin Kanga has performed at many international festivals including the BBC Proms, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (UK), Metropolis New Music Festival, Melbourne Festival, (Australia), IRCAM's Manifeste Festival (France) and Borealis Festival (Norway) as well as appearing as soloist with the London Sinfonietta and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Zubin has collaborated with many of the world's leading composers including Thomas Adès, Michael Finnissy, Liza Lim and Michel van der Aa and has premiered more than 80 new works. He is a member of the leading Australian ensemble, Ensemble Offspring, and is a Research Fellow at the Royal Academy of Music, London and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Frontier by Marcus Whale. Composed in 2016. Duration: 8'18

Performed by Zubin Kanga, piano (with electronics)

Recorded 04/10/2016, WAAPA Auditorium, Edith Cowan University, Western Australia.

Recording Producer: Gavin Fernie; Recording Engineer: Richard Glover.

Copies of the score available from Marcus Whale: marcusgwhale@gmail.com

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