

International Rostrum of Composers

Wroclaw – 2016



Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra

Lachlan Skipworth

At the outset, the solo part of this *Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra* is deliberately non-virtuosic in a technical sense, instead requiring the player to negotiate nuances of colour and emotional shades as they gradually emerge from and echo the orchestral texture. A cyclical dialogue ensues as waves of orchestral sonority flood in to engulf the solo line before receding to reveal moments of intimate fragility. Despite the clarinet gestures becoming somewhat more frantic, a sense of restraint pervades until at last the soloist launches into an exuberant and virtuosic cadenza. The orchestra rejoins to add forward momentum pushing the soloist into the extreme upper register of the instrument and leading to a vibrant climax to end the work.



The West Australian Symphony Orchestra's concert premiere of Lachlan Skipworth's ***Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra*** received the Australian Art Music Awards' 2015 prize for Best Performance of an Australian Composition. This recording was made as part of an orchestral composer portrait studio session in the Perth Concert Hall the same year.

Clarinet Concerto by Lachlan Skipworth. Composed in 2014. Duration: 15'11

Performed by Ashley Smith, clarinet; West Australian Symphony Orchestra; Christopher Dragon, conductor,
Recorded 15/04/2014, Perth Concert Hall, Western Australia.

Recording Producer: Karl Akers; Recording Engineer: Gavin Fernie.

Copies of the score available from Lachlan Skipworth: lachlanskipworth@yahoo.com.au

/ 170a Grand Promenade, Bedford WA 6052, Australia

Copies of the recording available from: Stephen Adams, ABC Classic FM

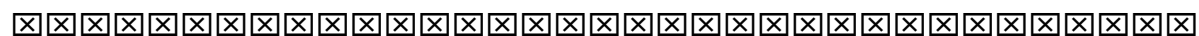
GPO Box 9994, Sydney NSW 2001, Australia. Email: adams.stephen@abc.net.au

Lachlan Skipworth (b.1982)

Lachlan Skipworth is emerging as one of the leading composers of his generation in Australia, and is currently the composer-in-residence with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. After training initially as a clarinettist, Skipworth spent almost 3 years in Japan immersed in the study of shakuhachi, an end-blown bamboo flute, and its ancient *honkyoku* solo repertoire. His teachers were revered shakuhachi masters Yokoyama Katsuya and Kakizakai Kaoru. On returning to Australia, he began to hone and refine his experience into a highly personal compositional language displaying his craft and sensibilities across a number of musical genres.

Skipworth holds degrees from the University of Western Australia and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music where he studied with composers Roger Smalley and Anne Boyd respectively. He is active as both a composer and a shakuhachi performer. In 2009 he was composer-in-residence with the Japanese traditional instrument ensemble Aura-J in Tokyo as part of an Asialink Performing Arts Residency. In 2010, he undertook a 2-semester kontaktstudium with Prof. Jorg Widmann at the Freiburg Hochschule fur Musik, Germany. In 2011 he received a fellowship from the prestigious Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, undertaking a 6-week research trip to Japan, Europe and the USA.

His music was featured at the ISCM World Music Days in both 2010 (Sydney) and 2015 (Slovenia). He has also been selected to participate in a number of composer workshops, including the MODART and CYBEC programmes in Australia, Ensemble Modern at Tokyo Wonder Site, and the Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival in Massachusetts, USA. He is Composer-in-Residence with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra for 2016.



Ashley Smith (clarinet)

Described as 'Incandescent... a masterly display of skill and insight... as an apologist for contemporary music-making, you would search hard to find this young clarinettist's equal' (The Age), clarinettist Ashley Smith has emerged as one of Australia's foremost young musicians. A current Churchill Fellow, Ashley is a laureate of two of Australia's most prestigious prizes for classical musicians: the Music Council of Australia Freedman Fellowship and the 'Other Instruments' category of the ABC Symphony International Young Performer Awards. Identified as a 'rising star' by the world's leading clarinet manufacturer, Ashley is a Buffet-Crampon Artist.

The West Australian Symphony Orchestra - <http://www.waso.com.au/>