

## ***Dead Leaves***

Zubin Kanga

*Dead Leaves* is a work inspired by two different works that explore the potential hidden within piles of paper. It takes its name from the Debussy's "Feuilles Mortes" from his second volume of *Preludes*, and retains the pun on this title, referring both to the dead leaves fallen from a tree in autumn, and the pages of an ancient book. All the pitches and much of the rhythmical material within the work are derived from Debussy's work. The other work that *Dead Leaves* draws upon is Stanley Kubrick's film, *The Shining*, and its scene in which Wendy comes across the pile of paper typed by her husband, and recoils in horror as she realises that it only contains the words "All work and no Play makes Jack a dull boy". The paper here is terrifying, its contents a confirmation of Jack's murderous madness.

This work explores these ideas by filling the piano with paper, creating an instrument wide method of preparation. Tremolo keyboard techniques, and percussive sounds inside the piano are combined with delays of different length in the live electronics to build up massive textures, the sound of paper vibrating in ways that are unreal and undead.

[This recording is of the work's concert performance premiere]



### **Zubin Kanga (b.1982)**

Zubin Kanga is a pianist, composer, improviser and technologist. Over the last decade he has established his reputation in Europe and Australia as a leading innovator of new approaches to the piano. His work in recent years has focused on new models of interaction between a live musician and new technologies, using film, AI, motion capture, 3D modelling, animation and virtual reality.

Zubin has performed at international festivals including the BBC Proms, Cheltenham Festival, London Contemporary Music Festival, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (UK), ISCM World New Music Days, BIFEM, and Sydney Festival (Australia), and is a member of Ensemble Offspring and the Marsyas Trio. He has collaborated with composers including Thomas Adès, Beat Furrer and Liza Lim, premiering more than 90 new works. As a composer, his solo piano works have been performed at the Waterloo and Bangor Festivals and broadcast on the BBC and ABC. A Masters and PhD graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, London, Zubin recently finished a post as post-doctoral researcher at the University of Nice and IRCAM, Paris and is currently the Leverhulme Research Fellow at Royal Holloway, University of London, writing a book on musician-technology interactions. [www.zubinkanga.com](http://www.zubinkanga.com)

***Dead Leaves*** by Zubin Kanga. Composed in 2017. Duration: 5'15

Performed by Zubin Kanga (piano).

Recorded 16/10/2017, at the Peggy Glanville-Hicks House, Paddington, Sydney, Australia.

Recording Producer: Stephen Adams; Recording Engineer: Andrew Edgson.

Copies of the score available from Zubin Kanga: [zubinkanga@gmail.com](mailto:zubinkanga@gmail.com)

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

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