



MUSES TRIO  
& VULCANA

TRAILBLAZERS

USC ART GALLERY  
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2017  
HORIZON FESTIVAL

Muses Trio with guest circus artists Bianca Mackail and Mayo Muto directed by Celia White AD of Vulcana Women's Circus offers adventurous audiences a secret glimpse into the current lives and processes of women in the current classical music industry. Experience a chamber music concert with a signature circus piece - the beginning of an exciting new show between Muses Trio and Vulcana Women's Circus.

Muses Trio will present seven leading women composers forging ahead in their field representing the strength, vitality and diversity of contemporary composition across the globe. The majority of these works will receive their Queensland premiere performance at this event. The concert explores ways to deepen audience engagement and understanding of what it is to be a composer and a creative woman.

# PROGRAM

## TRAILBLAZERS

Muses Trio and Vulcana Women's Circus present an intimate chamber music concert with a signature circus collaborative piece.

Our collaboration joyfully celebrates living female composers and explores female creative leadership through sound and circus.

### USC CHOIR SUPPORT ACT

NICOLE MURPHY - *SPINNING TOP* (AUS)

JEAN AHN - *FLASH OF RAVEL* (KOREA/US)

GILA CARCAS - *BESIDE THE LAKE AT TAIZE* (UK)

CHRISTINE MCCOMBE - *ANREGUNG* (AUS)

NICOLE MURPHY - *SURFACE 2* (AUS) + CIRCUS VIGNETTE

JOYCE WAI-CHUNG TANG - *SNOWY LANDSCAPE* (HK)

EMMA WILDE - *APHRODITE* (UK)

HILARY KLEINIG - *COCKATOOS* (AUS)

BIANCA MACKAIL AND LOUISE KING



## MUSES TRIO

MUSES TRIO are some of Australia's leading and most exciting musicians in contemporary classical music, known for their edgy, spine tingling and virtuosic performance style. They celebrate music composed by women, performed by women, and focus on bringing this relatively unknown, yet vastly deserving collection of outstanding works to the concert stage. Discovering, inspiring, collaborating, commissioning, connection and supporting creative women to pursue and share artistic excellence drives the passion and impetus of their artistic focus.

## VULCANA WOMEN'S CIRCUS

Vulcana Women's Circus creates opportunities for women, trans and non-binary genders, young people and communities to participate in physical and creative processes, to express ideas of transformation, risk and expanded notions of "normal", through the learning, teaching and performance of circus. Vulcana Women's Circus creates bold, daring, and striking performance with communities, students, and emerging and professional artists. Across all our performance work we aim to articulate diverse stories and represent diverse bodies, abilities and creative responses. As feminist performance makers, we aim to question how diverse bodies are represented and received through the visceral and dynamic medium of circus performance.

Vulcana performances are renowned for being an empowering celebration of the performers' experience, cultural exchanges between participants and arts-workers, cross-arts collaborations, the innovative use of circus and theatre, and inspiring circus skills.



# COMPOSERS

## NICOLE MURPHY

*SPINNING TOP* 2016

Commissioned for Musica Viva Australia by Andrea and Malcolm Hall-Brown to encourage greater support of the arts.



The piece is inspired by Jarrad Kennedy's sculpture Spinning Top located at the junction of Turbot, Whickham and Boundary streets in Brisbane. Kennedy's artwork marks the site of the unrealised Holy Name Cathedral, designed by Archbishop James Duhig in the 1920s. The artwork is a scale-model of the dome of the unfinished cathedral that rests on its tip in the midst of the city high rises, like a spinning top that has come to rest. The artwork is reflected in the music through perpetual rhythmic motion and the cyclic nature of repetition.

The bring mood of the piece reflects the child-like nature of a spinning top toy. It is intended to be a joyous and celebratory piece, in honour of the generous spirit in which Andrea and Malcolm commissioned the work. Spinning Top was composed in 2016 for the Benaud Trio.



## JEAN AHN

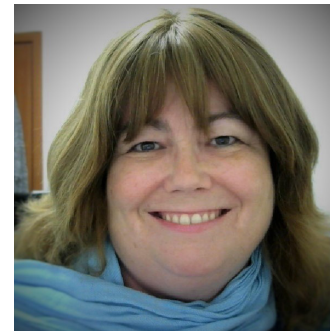
*A FLASH OF RAVEL* 2011

Suppose that a composer had a glimpse of the first movement of Ravel's trio in a fast forward flash. Then she is left with images and trying to organize her impressions. This piece uses a loose Sonata form. The first theme and the second theme somewhat related to Ravel's although it is not a direct quotation. The Development is focusing on not only the two themes, but the ornaments from the exposition. The Recapitulation starts in a conventional matter but quickly move onto the improvisatory coda which is a dream-like summarization of all the impressions. The fade out ending suggests that the writer's thought is ongoing.

## GILA (GILLIAN) CARCAS

*BESIDE THE LAKE AT TAIZE* 2004

*"Beside the Lake at Taize" is a very personal and special piece for me, composed for the Sussex Piano Trio after my father passed away and also performed some years later at the funeral of my mother. Taize is a spiritual retreat in France where, in particular, many thousands of young people flock from all over the world every year, and there is a lake there from which can be heard the chimes of church bells. This is what the music is created to evoke at the beginning of the piece. A more active section follows, celebrating life, before the earlier material returns and the music reaches higher and higher before disappearing into the ether, as the soul leaves the body and ascends to heaven."*



## CHRISTINE MCCOMBE

*ANREGUNG* 1999

Anregung was commissioned by Musica Viva in 1999 as a 'concert opener'. In this short piece my intention was to whet the musical appetite; to focus the listener's attention, to heighten their aural awareness. This intention is reflected in the title 'Anregung' - a German word meaning to stimulate or excite. From the understated beginning, the piece emerges, gradually unfolding and transforming. In the compositional process I chose to focus on the transformation of three elements of the music - dynamics, pitch range and the rate of articulation. Each of these elements follows its own trajectory throughout the piece and it is this approach which gives the overall structure and shape to Anregung.



## NICOLE MURPHY

*SURFACE II* 2013

"When you finally get inside you realise that there is no outside, only a single curving surface, and that where you are was constructed by the imagination of where you were."

Richard James Allen *The Kamikaze Mind*

## JOYCE WAI-CHUNG TANG

*SNOWY LANDSCAPE* 2015-16

Written for Trio Morisot, *Snowy Landscape* was inspired by Berthe Morisot's 1880 impressionistic watercolor "Paysage de neige". The music depicts the icy and bleak scenery with harmonics on the strings and bare open fifths on the piano at the beginning. The violin and cello enter with expressive lyrical melodic lines on top of a chain of broken figurations of the piano, which turns into a more rhythmic, chordal, tense and passionate middle section, which is later followed by a melancholic passage bringing back the opening icy and bleak mood. This piece was commissioned by Jasper Rouge Limited for Trio Morisot in 2016 with sponsorship from CASH Music Fund.



Berthe Morisot, *Snowy Landscape*

## EMMA WILDE

*APHRODITE URANIA / APHRODITE PANDEMOS* 2016



*Aphrodite Urania / Aphrodite Pandemos* reflects on the two conflicting epithets of the goddess. In one sense, she is a representation of pure, spiritual, heavenly love (*Urania*) and on the other hand she is a representation of vulgar, physical lust (*pandemos*). These images inform the two materials of the piece: the ethereal, melodic material symbolizing "purity" is gradually superseded by the rhythmic, driving material which symbolizes the darker side of her persona. The choral or "hymn" which reoccurs in different variations throughout the piece symbolizes that in whichever way *Aphrodite* is viewed, she is worshipped all the same. First performance: Britten Sinfonia, Barbican Centre, London 2016.

## HILARY KLEINIG

*COCKATOOS IN THE  
PINE PLANTATION* 2017

*Cockatoos* was inspired by the poem of the same name by the late South Australian poet Syd Harrex from *Dedications*.





# MUSES TRIO



PIANO  
**THERESE  
MILANOVIC**

In demand as both performer and pedagogue, Therese has performed with Topology since 2009, including collaborations with the Brodsky String Quartet, Grant Collins, Brisbane Festival, Qld Music Festival, and toured nationally and internationally. Therese was the first certified Taubman Instructor in Australia, after training at the Golandsky Institute in New York. She is now Master Faculty with the Golandsky Institute (USA) and in addition to performing, she teaches in her private studio. [theresemilanovic.com](http://theresemilanovic.com)

VIOLIN  
**CHRISTA POWELL**

A highly-respected performance musician, collaborative artist and music educator, Christa obtained her Masters of Music in performance research in 1996 before co-founding Topology in 1997. Christa performs a wide range of chamber music, her long-held passion. She also plays with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, guests for visiting international acts and teaches violin privately and at various education institutions. [topologymusic.com](http://topologymusic.com)



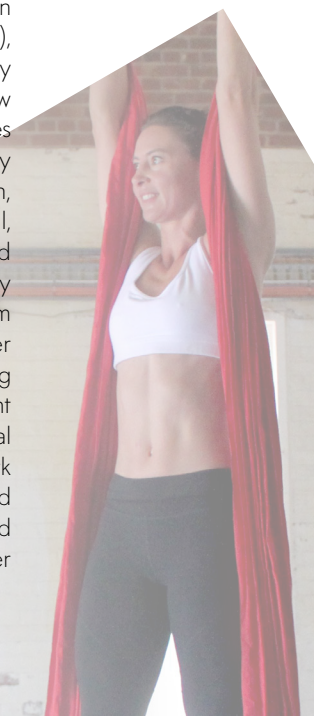
CELLO  
**LOUISE KING**

Hailed by The Australian as a 'spellbinding musician who exudes a vigorous artistry', English cellist Louise King is a contemporary classical musician who embodies passion, drive and vision. Louise is a musician who is equally at home on stage, in the teaching studio, collaborating on multi-art projects, working within regional communities and advocating for music in schools and the wider community. Louise performs with Australia's finest musicians, ensembles and orchestras and performs regularly at major festivals and established classical concert series. [cellodreaming.com](http://cellodreaming.com)

# VULCANA

**BIANCA MACKAIL** is an acrobat, aerialist and artist who combines strength, agility and flow in the air and on the floor. Co-founder of 3 is a Crowd Circus Company in 2012, and GUSH in 2017 she has developed and toured work extensively in Australia, Asia and Europe with companies such as Tumble Circus (Ireland), Cirque du Loin (Switzerland), Wilde Applause Creative Productions, The Crack Up Sisters, CIRCA, Aerial Angel Productions, Clowns without Borders (Sweden and Australia) as well as Vulcana Women's Circus with whom she works as a trainer, performer and director. A graduate of the Circoarts School in New Zealand in 2004, Bianca has also trained with specialty trainers in the Ukraine and Barcelona's La Central del Circ, Spain. Some highlights include: taking out the "Best Circus and Physical Theatre" award in Adelaide and Perth Fringe for 3 is a Crowd's debut show Fright or Flight and a sell-out season at Sydney Festival 2015; and hula hooping in a Typhoon storm to a 10,000 standing audience in Taipei that would not go home without a show! Over the last sixteen years, she has performed in festivals around the world such as Recklinghausen Arts Festival (Germany), Spoffin (Netherlands), Helsing Festival (Denmark), Adelaide Fringe Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Sydney Festival, Woodford Folk Festival, Hoopla Festival and more throughout Sweden, Denmark and Ireland.

**MAYU MUTO** is a Brisbane based freelance circus performer who specialises in unconventional aerial apparatus. She has been performing her unique acts at various festivals and cabaret in and around Brisbane including Melt Festival (Brisbane powerhouse), Queensland Poetry Festival, Anywhere Theatre Festival, Mullumbimby Circus Festival and more. Most recently she has presented her new work in progress which is being created based on Japanese folktales and Female monsters mentored by Celia White and supported by Vulcana Women's Circus. She has also been mentored by Anna Yen, Darcy Grant, Nicki Wilks, Simone O'Brian, Suzie Dee and Tiger Lil, and has collaborated with other Brisbane based circus performers and musicians. She has a strong background in Ballet and Contemporary dance, trained in Japan and at Royal Antwerp Dance School in Belgium and performed extensively during youth. Apart from creating her own work, she also works for corporate events as an aerialist, a roving acrobat, a Stilt walker and a character for Aerialicious Entertainment and Wilde Applause Creative Production. Her skills ranges from Aerial Silk, Rope, Lyra, doubles flyer and teardrop for aerials and Harness work (wall dance), Acro balance, classical ballet, contemporary dance and Salsa for ground based skills. More recently Mayu has been engaged in Theater workshops and Clown workshops to further develop her performance skills.



VULCANA and MUSES TRIO will be developing this work into a full length performance called 'Seen But Not Her', with three circus performers mirroring, reflecting and shadowing the three musicians as together they explore the creative process, the dilemmas of women composers and what it is like to be inside the music or having the music bounce off you and surround you.

## THANK YOU

Horizon Festival Team Sunshine Coast  
Council USC Art Gallery Megan Williams & Louise Jaegar  
USC Professor Music, University of the Sunshine Coast Sean O'Boyle  
USC Choir directed by Kim Kirkman  
Piano Tuner Tony Hilton  
Cello Dreaming Event Volunteers & Students  
Creative Design by [twotreescreative.com.au](http://twotreescreative.com.au)

HORIZON

