

ARTISTIC CREDITS

Saxophones and composition: John Surman
Double bass: Chris Laurence
Recorders: Genevieve Lacey

Piano (Friday only): Andrea Keller

String Quartet
Violin: Cameron Hill, **Violin:** Lerida Delbridge, **Viola:** Justin Williams,
Cello: Michelle Wood

Audio design and operation: John O'Donnell
Lighting design and operation: Nathan Evers

Cover image: Elizabeth O'Donnell

Presented by Serious in association with Arts House

serious.org.uk

THANKS TO

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Serious is a London-based international producer of live music. An established innovator, Serious is responsible for producing a vast range of concerts, tours and special events (including the annual London Jazz Festival, the UK's largest celebration of jazz) and acts as a catalyst to create the conditions to inspire diverse artists and to shape unforgettable musical experiences. The company works with partners across the UK and internationally, has an inspiring learning and participation program and also plays a pivotal role in bringing emerging artists and international musical cultures to the attention of new audiences.

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ARTS HOUSE

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Arts House develops, produces and presents dynamic cultural experiences, which enable people to make meaningful connections on a local, national and international level. Each year Arts House presents a curated program of contemporary art featuring performances, exhibitions, live art, installations and cultural events, which are programmed to inspire dynamic community engagement.

Australia is home to the oldest living culture on earth. Respect and engagement with this ancient culture and its contemporary lineage continues to make a unique contribution to creativity in this place and inspire our collective consciousness and understanding. The presenters acknowledge and respect the customs and traditions of Indigenous Australians and their special relationship with the land. The artists and organisers respectfully acknowledge that this program takes place on the land of the traditional owners of the Kulin Nation.

Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative.

Arts House has made every effort to offer wheelchair and limited mobility access throughout the program. Please contact Arts House on 03 9322 3719 for further information.



John Surman and Genevieve Lacey

THREE LANDSCAPES

Arts House, Meat Market
Friday 3 – Saturday 4 April 2009

‘John Surman is perhaps the most gifted British jazzman of this generation’ - The Times (UK)

‘The night’s most moving moment came in the simple, fluttering poetry of Lacey... Her ability to make her own dexterity appear effortless and the care she dealt out to every note ensured the festival began with a touch of magic.’ - The Age

ARTS HOUSE





John Surman



Genevieve Lacey

INTRODUCTION

Three Landscapes is a new musical collaboration that brings together cult British jazz saxophonist and composer John Surman with Australian recorder virtuoso Genevieve Lacey, UK bassist Chris Laurence and a selection of Australia's finest jazz and string players. It is a collaboration that incorporates musicians from different genres (jazz, classical and new music), from different generations (early career, mid-career and established performing artists) and from different landscapes (Australia, Scandinavia and the UK).

Three Landscapes is also the title of a new work, the centre-piece of these performances, which has been written especially by John Surman to showcase the extraordinary skills of Australian recorder virtuoso Genevieve Lacey.

The performances at Arts House this week are the culmination of many months of planning and preparation and it is envisaged that it will be the first of many such intercontinental collaborations between the key participants.

FRIDAY 3 APRIL - PROGRAM ONE

All works by John Surman except *
In the distance for solo recorder
Dandelion* by John Warren
Gone to the Dogs for saxophone, double bass, piano
No Finesse for saxophone, double bass, piano
Counter Measures for saxophone, double bass, piano
The Cloud Song for saxophone, double bass, piano
Burton for saxophone, double bass, piano

INTERVAL

An Illusive Shadow for saxophone, double bass and string quartet
Three Landscapes for recorder, saxophone, double bass and string quartet

120 minutes with interval

SATURDAY 4 APRIL – PROGRAM TWO

All works by John Surman
In the distance for solo recorder
Wayfarers All for saxophone, double bass and string quartet
Blues Urbano for saxophone, double bass and string quartet
Stone Flower for saxophone, double bass and string quartet
Hubbub for saxophone, double bass and string quartet
Sombras de Lisboa for saxophone, double bass and string quartet

INTERVAL

An Illusive Shadow for saxophone, double bass and string quartet
Three Landscapes for recorder, saxophone, double bass and string quartet

120 minutes with interval

BIOGRAPHIES

Composer and multi-instrumentalist **John Surman** is a key figure in a generation of European jazz musicians who crucially expanded the international horizons of jazz during the last three decades of the twentieth century. A stalwart of the ECM record label and long acknowledged as an improviser of world class, he is the composer of a body of work that extends far beyond the perceived boundaries of the jazz repertoire. In the early twenty-first century, Surman is at the height of his considerable powers.

John Surman was first noticed in the late 1960s as a virtuoso and original voice on baritone saxophone, then on soprano saxophone and bass clarinet. In the 1970s he began to explore a new world of electronics and synthesisers, emerging as a composer of real substance with two landmark recordings *Westering Home* and *Morning Glory*. In recent years Surman's extended compositions have caught many new ears. His solo work *Road to St. Ives*, inspired in part by the intriguing place-names of Cornwall, has been re-arranged for orchestra and has been programmed by the BBC Concert Orchestra, Orchestra della Toscana and Bournemouth Sinfonietta. In the 1990s he was commissioned by the Salisbury Festival to write *Proverbs & Songs* - a work for saxophones, pipe organ and 80-strong Salisbury Festival Chorus. This piece premiered in Salisbury Cathedral, was recorded for BBC Radio 3 and the subsequent release by ECM was nominated for a Mercury Music Prize in 1996. *Proverbs & Songs* signalled a direction in Surman's compositions that has gathered momentum and has resulted in a body of work that combines improvisation with the resources of European chamber, orchestral and choral music. He has written for the Balanescu Quartet and the Oslo Radio Symphony Orchestra, and London Brass to name a few.

John Surman's music transcends familiar boundaries. Although a deep love of the jazz tradition (Ellington is a particular enthusiasm) runs throughout his work, he is equally affected by the melodic qualities of choral music – as a one-time choirboy – and by English folk music. Much of his work is powerfully resonant of the landscape and tradition of southwest England... "If I look back to what turned me on about music, it is what I heard before I ever came across jazz". The surprise and the enduring pleasure of Surman's art lies in a uniquely personal vision – fired by the contrasts of exquisite lyricism, richly textured sound, and intense, full-bodied improvisation.

Double bass player **Chris Laurence** is one of the few musicians to have established a successful career in both jazz and classical music. In addition to being one of John Surman's long-time collaborators, his list of performing and recording credits is vast and includes work with many of the leading figures in the British jazz and classical fields. He is also one of the busiest studio musicians in the UK, with over 25 years worth of albums, film and TV soundtracks to his name.

Genevieve Lacey is a recorder virtuoso. Her repertoire spans ten centuries, and she collaborates on projects as diverse as her medieval duo with Poul Høxbro, performances with the Black Arm Band, and her role in Barrie Kosky's production of Liza Lim's opera 'The Navigator'. Genevieve and Marc Silver (UK filmmaker/artist) have been commissioned to create '...us', a new installation and performance artwork for Adelaide Festival 2010. Genevieve has a substantial recording history with ABC Classics, and her newest album, 'weaver of fictions', was released in 2008. She works as concerto soloist with orchestras such as ACO, ABO, MSO, WASO, TSO, Academy of Ancient Music and The English Concert. She is a champion of contemporary music and has commissioned and premiered many works. Genevieve has performed at all the major Australian

arts festivals and many European festivals. 2009 engagements include concerts in Rome, Moscow, Oslo, Tallin, Paris and London.

Andrea Keller switched from classical to jazz piano in her teens and has qualifications from the University of Wollongong and the Victorian College of the Arts. She leads several bands, has collaborated with many of Australia's finest jazz musicians and has performed at all major Australian jazz festivals as well as appearing internationally. As a composer, Andrea has received commissions from the Melbourne International Women's Jazz Festival, Mike Nock's BigSmallBand and The Australian Art Orchestra and Ten Part Invention. In 2007/2008, she was commissioned to write the music for 'Hush 8' in association with the Royal Children's Hospital and the Freedman Foundation.

Cameron Hill is a Melbourne violinist who performs regularly as soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player. He completed his Bachelor of Music at the University of Melbourne, studying with William Hennessy and has recently completed three years at ANAM where he studied with Alice Waten. Cameron won the 2005 Dorcas McClean Violin Competition and the 2006 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year. He has appeared as soloist with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, The Queensland Orchestra and the Canberra Symphony Orchestra. He was a 2008 ACO Emerging Artist and has also appeared as Guest Concertmaster of the MSO.

Lerida Delbridge has performed extensively as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player throughout Australia, Europe, Asia, Canada and the United States. She has appeared as a principal player with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Australian Youth Orchestra, Australia Pro Arte, and Geminiani Orchestra. Lerida is a prize winning doctoral graduate of The University of Melbourne where she studied with William Hennessy and Marcelle Mallette. She has undertaken study in Switzerland, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Canada and the United States with the assistance of numerous awards, including an Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant and an Australia Council Grant. Lerida is a founding member of the internationally acclaimed Tinalley String Quartet, winners of the 2005 Australian Chamber Music Competition and the 9th Banff International String Quartet Competition (2007). The Quartet regularly tours Australia, Europe, Canada and the United States, performing in many of the world's finest music series, halls and festivals.

Justin Williams completed a Bachelor of Music degree with Honors in 2002 and a Master of Music Performance Degree in 2005 at the University of Melbourne where he studied with William Hennessy, Caroline Henbest and Brett Dean. The recipient of several awards, Justin was the winner of the Bertha Jorgensen Exhibition Award, the Donald Hazelwood Award, an Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant, a Melbourne Research Scholarship, and the Kaye Scott Music Scholarship whilst in residence at Ormond College. More recently, Justin has undertaken study in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. As a chamber musician, Justin has performed in Australia, United Kingdom, and throughout Europe and North America with the prize winning Tinalley String Quartet. Justin performs regularly with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra; and is a core player of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra (formerly Australia Pro Arte).

Michelle Wood began studying the cello at age 7. Since then Michelle has made her mark in Melbourne as an vibrant chamber musician. She has toured internationally as the cellist of the award-winning Tinalley String Quartet, and her solo and chamber music performances have been noted for their "...admirable display of control and care for the music..." (The Age, Clive O'Connell). Michelle completed both her Bachelor and Masters or Music Performance Degrees at the University of Melbourne, studying with Christian Wojtowicz. In addition to her involvement with the Tinalley Quartet, Michelle currently performs with the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra as a core player, as a casual cellist with Orchestra Victoria, and teaches privately in Melbourne.