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Presented by Arts House and  
Melbourne Festival

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# The Secret Noise Ensemble Offspring

Image: Heidrun Lohr

Arts House



Season 2

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Fri 14 – Sat 15 October  
75 minutes

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## Creative Team

Concept-Composer  
Damien Ricketson  
Director  
Carlos Gomes  
Devising Performers  
Narelle Benjamin (Dancer)  
Kathy Cogill (Dancer)  
Claire Edwardes (Artistic Director/Percussion)  
Katia Molino (Actor)  
Jason Noble (Clarinet)  
Bree van Reyk (Percussion)  
Lighting Design  
Fausto Brusamolino

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## Artist Statement

I am curious about the personal, the secret and the mysterious. In this noisy world of public utterances, I find myself attentive to private sounds. Stumbling upon inconspicuous otherworlds, I relish the heightened consciousness that comes with sensations of sympathy towards situations of strangeness.

*The Secret Noise* finds inspiration in cultural practices that, for various reasons, have been shielded or hidden from public consumption. The work has evolved as a promenade of scenes, each of which poetically references diverse types of music-making at the fringes of public experience. From sacred forms of ceremonial music; to legally extinguished compositions and personalised sonic encounters, *The Secret Noise* is a poetic response to such practices. It is a critical commentary on our understanding of music as a public or private exchange. In addition to the live performance, *The Secret Noise* also exists in the form of CD and vinyl recordings that are peculiar to their particular media.

— *Damien Ricketson*

## Biographies

### **Damien Ricketson**

Concept Composer

- Damien Ricketson is a Sydney-based composer and Chair of Composition at the Sydney Conservatorium, University of Sydney. Damien's exotic and immersive works have featured in the Sydney Festival, toured China and received prestigious awards such as 'Instrumental Work of the Year' in the Australian Art Music Awards. Damien studied with renowned Dutch composer Louis Andriessen and has a PhD from the Sydney Conservatorium. Damien co-founded, and for 20 years co-directed, Ensemble Offspring, a unique arts company dedicated to innovative new music through whom much of his music has been performed.

### **Carlos Gomes**

Director

- Carlos Gomes is a Brazilian-born performance maker, director and designer. He trained with the Centre for Theatre Research (CPT) in Brazil and holds a MA of Theatre (UNSW). Carlos is the Artistic Director of Theatre Kantanka and has created diverse cross-cultural works that include text-based, visual theatre and site-specific works, performances and installations. He has collaborated with major contemporary performance companies in Australia. Carlos has just returned from Kampot, Cambodia where he directed a rock opera produced by Intimate Spectacle and performed by Cambodia Space Project.

### **Narelle Benjamin**

Devising Performer (dance)

- Narelle Benjamin is a Sydney-based independent dancer and choreographer. She has danced with many Australian companies including, Chunky Move, Australian Dance Theatre, and Bangarra and choreographed many independent works, including seasons at Spring Dance and Sydney Festival. Her most recent work *Hiding In Plain Sight*, was presented at Carriageworks as part of Performance Space's season 'Score'. Narelle is currently the recipient of an Australia Council Creative Fellowship.

### **Kathy Cogill**

Devising Performer (dance)

- Kathy Cogill is a dancer, actor, performance maker and teacher. Kathy has danced with companies such as Force Majeure, Australian Dance Theatre, Dance Exchange, The One Extra Company and in Europe with Les Ballets C de la B, Compania Vicente Saez and prominent director Robert Wilson. Most recently, she worked with Marregeku, and as Movement Director for Urban Theatre Projects' *The Buried City* for 2012 Sydney Festival. Together with Narelle and Katia she is currently in an ongoing collaborative work led by Julie-Anne Long.

### **Claire Edwardes**

Devising Performer (Artistic Director/percussion)

- Internationally acclaimed percussion soloist, chamber musician and Artistic Director of Ensemble Offspring, Claire Edwardes has been described by the press as a 'sorceress of percussion'. She was recently granted a prestigious Australia Council Music Fellowship, is a two-time recipient of the AMC/APRA Art Music Award (2007/2012) and winner of the Symphony Australia Young Performers Award. From 1999-2006 Claire was resident in Europe where she had success in numerous international competitions and performed solo in Het Concertgebouw (Amsterdam) and Queen Elizabeth Hall (London). In Australia she has performed with all of the leading orchestras.

### **Katia Molino**

Devising Performer (actor)

- Katia Molino is a freelance performer who has worked with many companies such as Stalker, The Opera Project and Urban Theatre Projects. She is a long time devising performer with Theatre Kantanka, that recently premiered *Club Singularity* and *Bargain Garden* with Ensemble Offspring. Recently Katia has worked with Roslyn Oades' using her audio-verbatim technique in *I'm Your Man*.

### **Jason Noble**

Devising Performer (clarinet)

- Ensemble Offspring clarinetist Jason Noble performs in styles from classical to experimental and popular music. He has experimented with all members of the clarinet family and dabbled on saxillo, clarinis, keyboards and bagpipe. Recent projects include the world premiere of *Am I* with Nick Wales and Shaun Parker Dance Company at Sydney and Adelaide Festivals. He has recently returned to the Afghanistan National Institute of Music in Kabul, and has also recorded an album with the indigenous women's choir of the Tiwi Islands, Gnarakuruwala.

### **Bree van Reyk**

Devising Performer (percussion)

- Bree van Reyk is a versatile musician with a career spanning from percussionist with Synergy Percussion, to drum-set player with Paul Kelly, Holly Throsby, Sarah Blasko, Sally Seltmann, Lior, Darren Hanlon, and Katie Noonan; to an ongoing collaboration with visual/performance artist Lauren Brincat. She is also a composer of music for film, and has been commissioned to write live and electronic soundtracks for Shaun Parker, Sydney Dance Company, Bell Shakespeare Company, NOMAD Percussion, the MCA and Bianca Spender.

### **Fausto Brausmolino**

Lighting Designer

- Fausto Brusamolino graduated in Multimedia Technologies at FSE School, and then specialised at the unique AGON Ars Magnetica series of modular workshops in Milan. He has been working and touring professionally for fifteen years in Italy, Australia and New Zealand, covering a large number of roles that includes light design, lighting operator, sound design, foley artist and venue and production management. Occasionally Fausto works as an art installer, plays bass guitar and produces his own music.

### **Ensemble Offspring**

- Ensemble Offspring are champions of adventurous new music. Presenting music from seminal chamber work to free improvisation, alongside the creation of striking interdisciplinary productions, the group embraces open-minded music making of all forms. Based in Sydney, Ensemble Offspring is led by acclaimed percussionist, Claire Edwardes, and features some of Australia's most innovative performers. The group has toured locations including Hong Kong, London, Brugge and Warsaw, performs at Australia's favourite festivals, Carriageworks, the Sydney Opera House, and even the local bowling club. Passionate about nurturing the work of emerging, as well as established composers, Ensemble Offspring has premiered over 200 works in its 20-year history.

## Thank You

Yarmila Alfonzetti, Daniel Biederman, Jonathan Blakeman, Andrew & Kate Fellowes, Janusz Florek, Stewart Jackson & Judith Greenwood, John Grill, Steffan & Paolo Ianigro, Sharon Kelly, Kate Lidbetter, Don MacLeod, Emma Pierce, Harry Pierce (plis cachetés drawings), Peter & Pamela Ricketson, Russell Staley, Penny Stannard, Carla Theunissen and Richard Toop.

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## Arts House

Arts House is a program of the City of Melbourne and our home is North Melbourne Town Hall. Melbourne's centre for contemporary and experimental performance, Arts House provides a nexus for cultural expression and social connection in a city environment. Arts House is committed to championing independent artists' practice, developing contemporary, experimental and participatory work and engaging audiences. Locally engaged with the diverse communities that surround it and a collaborator across the city, Arts House engages not just an arts audience, but a broad spectrum of audience and participants.

For more information, please contact us on the details below.

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