



About Ensemble Offspring

Ensemble Offspring is dedicated to the performance of innovative new music. The Sydney-based ensemble is committed to a living classical-music tradition combining the music of today with iconic works of the 20th and 21st centuries. The ensemble embraces a wide variety of progressive repertoire from wild improvisation to meticulous complexity and has a particular focus on experimental and interdisciplinary presentations.

Ensemble Offspring is the voice of new music in Sydney, and over its 12-year history has emerged as one of the most successful contemporary music groups in Australia. The ensemble has developed a reputation for its original programming, quality of performance and successful audience engagement.

Critical Acclaim

The performance of "Cage Uncaged" by Ensemble Offspring and The Song Company was nominated as one of the top-five Sydney performances of 2007 by Peter McCallum in the Sydney Morning Herald.

"Trust Ensemble Offspring to go their own way ... another intelligent and intriguing show from a group committed to asking 'what if?'" (Harriet Cunningham, Sydney Morning Herald)

"[Ensemble Offspring and Halcyon] are responsible for some of the most innovative and adventurous programs currently heard in Sydney." (Peter McCallum, Sydney Morning Herald)

"Technically superb and striking musicality." (Anna Wozniakowska, Dziennik Polski, Poland)

"The musicians listened, felt together and worked like the best Olympic team." (Robert Israel Lloyd, RealTime)

"Intellect meets sensuality." (Harriet Cunningham, Sydney Morning Herald)

"A revelatory concert-going experience." (Melissa Lesnie, Resonate Magazine)

“A challenging and immensely enjoyable night.” (Steve Moffatt, Manly Daily)

“Well conceived and executed.” (Vincent Plush, The Australian)

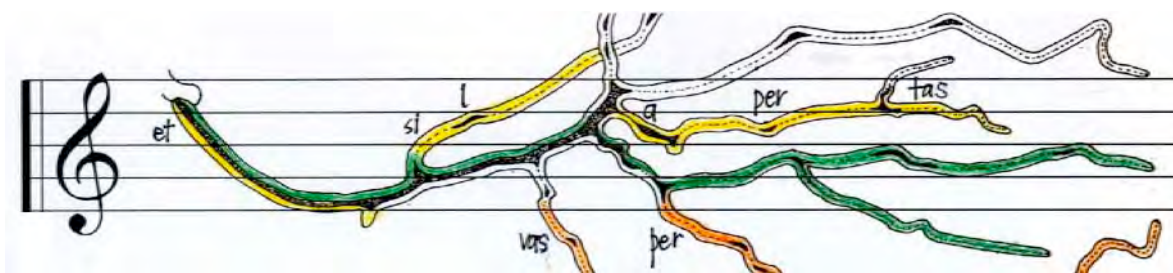
“Ensemble Offspring is here to stay ... the level of musicianship, ensemble playing and sheer virtuosity from the nine-piece band made for a genuinely thrilling performance.” (Sydney Morning Herald)



Background

With over 70 projects to its name, Ensemble Offspring has established itself as one of Australia’s leading voices for innovative new music. Past highlights have included – a European tour as guests of the prestigious Warsaw Autumn International Festival of Contemporary Music; 'Partch's Bastards', a microtonal instrument-building project; 'Spectral Guises' and 'Whirlwind of Time', concerts that focused on the new 'spectral' movement in classical composition; and numerous programs, 'Flexible Eclectic' and 'Plastic Noise', that featured open-form music.

Ensemble Offspring is also noted for its development of interdisciplinary projects. The ensemble has been featured twice as part of the Sydney Film Festival where they presented new music to experimental film and in 2008 premiered *Waiting to turn into puzzles* by composer David Young and experimental film-maker Louise Curham where the film is literally read as musical notation. Also in 2008 the ensemble presented a music and poetry collaboration with the renowned Melbourne poet Christopher Wallace-Crabbe (*A Line Has Two*) and a unique performance-installation event exploring music at opposite ends of the decibel spectrum (*To the Max*). Ensemble Offspring has also collaborated with Sibleius Software with the presentation of two nationwide composer competitions and produced the content for a music education resource published by the Australian Music Centre.



The Musicians

Ensemble Offspring represents a diverse collection of Sydney’s most talented young musicians. All the musicians have individual careers, performing in a range of contexts from international soloists to the major orchestras to rock bands. When the musicians come together as Ensemble Offspring, they are committed to trying out new ways of making music.



Damien Ricketson is a composer and Artistic Director of Ensemble Offspring. Much of Damien's music has been performed, and received critical acclaim through Ensemble Offspring as well as performances by many internationally renowned ensembles. Damien's music is fragile and otherworldly – characterised by unusual timbres, exotic pitches and intricate textures. Damien's string quartet *So We Begin Afresh* recently received the NSW State Award for the best composition by an Australian composer in the 2008 Classical Music Awards. Damien completed a PhD at the Sydney Conservatorium where he is also a lecturer.



Percussionist, **Claire Edwardes**, is a leading interpreter of contemporary classical music and Artistic Director of Ensemble Offspring. Recent career highlights include concertos with the Radio Chamber Orchestra (The Netherlands), Melbourne Symphony and The Queensland Orchestra as well as solo festival appearances at the Huddersfield Festival of Contemporary Music (UK) and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music (Townsville). In 2007 she was awarded an AMC/APRA award for outstanding contribution to Australian music, in 2005 she was the recipient of the MCA Freedman Fellowship and in 1999 she was named Australian Young Performer of the Year.



Roland Peelman is best known as the Artistic Director of The Song Company. He is also Ensemble Offspring's resident conductor and keyboard player. Through Roland's direction, The Song Company has developed into an international touring ensemble of the highest standard, appearing at major festivals throughout Australia, Asia and Europe. He has also conducted the Australian Chamber Orchestra and directed numerous opera and music theatre productions. Roland received the NSW State Award in the 2005 Classical Music Awards in recognition of his sustained contribution to Australian music.



Jason Noble is a freelance clarinettist specialising in contemporary repertoire. He has performed at prestigious festivals such as the Warsaw Autumn, Aldeburgh (UK), Sydney Spring Festival, and Sydney Film Festival. As both a soloist and chamber musician Jason has appeared with Ensemble Offspring, Sonic Art Ensemble, Halcyon Ensemble, Synergy, and Sydney Childrens Choir. He also teaches in the Musicology faculty at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.



Bree van Reyk is a successful cross-over percussionist maintaining a career in both classical and popular music. As well as performing percussion (and occasional accordion) with Ensemble Offspring, Bree performs with Australia's leading percussion group Synergy and the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra. Bree also plays drum-kit for singer-songwriters Holly Throsby and Darren Hanlon and appears with many popular music acts including Rand & Holland, Charge Group, Coda and The Initials.



Violinist, **Veronique Serret** graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium before being awarded the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Fellowship and the Young Artist Chair with The Australian Chamber Orchestra. Veronique recently returned from performing with the Malaysian Philharmonic. In addition to her orchestral experience and involvement in Ensemble Offspring, Veronique is also active in the field of popular music with recent appearances at The Big Day Out, the Woodford Folk Festival, the ARIA awards and the Independent Film Awards.



Diana Springford has played clarinet with Ensemble Offspring, Halcyon Ensemble, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Chambermaids Wind Quintet, Symphony Australia and the Sydney Wind Ensemble, among others, and has recorded for SBSTV, 2MBSFM and the ABC. She has taught clarinet and saxophone for many years and, at the University of Wollongong, tutored and lectured all sorts of philosophy courses. She is completing her PhD thesis on the philosophical understanding of the relationship between music and politics.



James Cuddeford has performed throughout Europe, Asia and Australia as both a soloist and chamber musician. He has performed concertos with orchestras including the Camerata Lysy Switzerland, BBC Scottish National, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Queensland, Adelaide and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras. As a chamber musician he performed with the Grainger Quartet, the Sydney Soloists and the Australian String Quartet. James is highly active interpreter of contemporary music and his own compositions have been performed by groups such as the Nash Ensemble, Psapha Ensemble and the Queensland Philharmonic.

Administration



Paulien Gort is a passionate new music lover. She has studied Musicology and Arts Management in Utrecht and Amsterdam. For the past fifteen years she has worked in financial management eight of which were for the Ives Ensemble and the Nederlands Blazers Ensemble in Holland. She has also organised exhibitions, made radio programmes and was involved in the organisation of several arts festivals.

Board



Paul Armstrong (chair) is a Partner of Gadens Lawyers, a top ten national law firm and head of the Banking group. Gadens Lawyers is a longstanding supporter of the arts with a particular interest in experimental and modern interpretations. Paul studied the piano to concert level and is committed to the promotion and performance of contemporary live performance in Australia.



Catherine Oates Smith is Gadens Lawyers' Business Development Director. Prior to this appointment, Catherine worked in the UK as a journalist interviewing personalities such as Margaret Thatcher and Salman Rushdie. Back in Australia, Catherine gained experience in the not-for-profit sector, working as an Executive Director with Frank Sartor and Lucy Turnbull, and led the Sydney Cancer Foundation at RPA Hospital.



Alan Watt studied Arts/Music at the University of Melbourne before working in orchestral management at the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and artist development at Symphony Australia. Most recently, he was the Philanthropy Manager of the Sydney Symphony where he developed projects such as the music4health program which was awarded the Australian Business Arts Foundation National Toyota Community Award for 2007. Alan has recently taken up the position of Development Manager at the Australian Youth Orchestra. .



David Roffey was for 12 years a Partner in PA Consulting Group, and came to Australia in 1999 to manage their Telecoms and Media business in Australia and NZ, retiring in 2001. He is NSW State Chair of Oxfam Australia, and Managing Director of Webdiary Pty Ltd, an online publishing company.

Staff & contact details

Damien Ricketson – Artistic Director

0411 320 480

damien@ensembleoffspring.com

Claire Edwardes – Artistic Director

0409 848 750

claire@ensembleoffspring.com

Paulien Gort – Administrator

0420 751 225

paulien@ensembleoffspring.com

Debbie McInnes – Promotion

0412 818 071

debbie@dmcpr.com.au

Ensemble Offspring
PO Box 3189
Marrickville Metro PO
2203 NSW
Australia

www.ensembleoffspring.com