

RACHEL EMMA LEWINDON

Melbourne, Australia | r.lewindon@gmail.com | <https://www.rachellewindon.com/academic>

RESEARCH PROFILE

Composer, sound designer and practice-based researcher working at the intersection of music and sound for theatre, dance, and interdisciplinary live performance. My research-led practice investigates sonic dramaturgy as a compositional framework, inspired by post-humanist philosophies and founded in collaborative performance-making.

Through cyclical creative processes that interweave composition, sound design and spatialisation, my work explores sound as a dramaturgical agent through which sonic worlds reshape meaning and perception within contemporary performance. I am particularly interested in how music and sound can work alongside interactive technology to shape perception, magnify complex conceptual frameworks and encourage audience enquiry in live performance.

Current lines of inquiry:

- Sonic Dramaturgy as a method for crafting meaning in experiential environments
- Post-humanist approaches to technology and electro-acoustic relationships in live performance
- Autonomous sonic narrative creation in interactive and installation-based work
- Psychoacoustic principles in crafting audience engagement

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Green Room Award Winner 2022 for Best Composition/Sound Design for the commissioned work on *The Gospel According to Jesus Queen of Heaven*
- Commissions by Australian National Academy of Music, Melbourne Theatre Company, Queen Victoria Women's Centre
- Residencies at Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada), Bundanon Centre for the Arts (Australia), BRAZZA Research Residency (France), BIRCA Climate Art Residency (Denmark)

EDUCATION

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| 2018 | Bachelor of Music (First Class Honours) - University of Melbourne
- Marion Tomas Award for Excellence
Teachers: Kate Neal and Mark Pollard
Thesis: <i>"Back to the Future: An investigation into the role of form in the perception of time"</i> |
| 2015 - 17 | Bachelor of Fine Arts (First Class Honours) in Interactive Composition - University of Melbourne
Teachers: Anthony Lyons, Kate Neal, David Haberfeld, |

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NOTABLE WORKS (Full List of works in Appendix A)

Lead Artist Works

“Orlando” presented by Antipodes Theatre Company and fortyfive Downstairs. 2023

Directed by Maude Davey and Margot Fenley

For chamber ensemble 5 Performers/Voices, two additional voices, prepared piano, two synthesisers, violin and processing.

A contemporary chamber opera/musical based on the novel by Virginia Woolf. Utilising collaborative devising frameworks to explore the world building capacity of vocal harmony as texture and narrative device.

“/Esis” presented by Speak Percussion as part of AXON Festival at Darebin Arts Centre 2024

For Soloist Prepared Piano, Voice, Prepared Piano Hammers and electronics

A suite of three pieces exploring post-humanist concepts of ‘Borders as Dynamic’, ‘Bodies as Process’ and ‘Objects as Possibilities’ through piezo-prepared sample piano, vocal timbre and spatial processing and new instrument design.

“the truth slips through my fingers to the floor” presented by Sō Percussion at Lee Hall 2025 (USA)

For Percussion Duo on shared Bass Drum, Piano Keys, Porcelain, Contact Mics and Electronics

A duo work for percussion and electronics exploring principles of mirror-symmetry breaking and utilising technology as a co-contributor to the chamber environment.

“Snap!” Presented by Sō Percussion at Small World Coffee 2025 (USA)

For four players and four decks of cards.

A site-specific work exploring the perception of a deck of cards. Unpacking sonic possibilities of cards using a unique notational language.

Composition and Sound Design for Theatre

“World Problems” By Emma Mary Hall presented by Melbourne Theatre Company 2024.

An abstracted play exploring the dystopian concept of self in relation current climate issues. Using field recordings, found archival sound, acoustic piano and an all ages choir to create a familiar yet abstracted sonic world set in a black hole.

“The Gospel According to Jesus Queen of Heaven” by Jo Teatro presented by Midsumma Festival and fortyfive downstairs 2022

For: Chamber Vocal Quartet

Winner of Best Composition and Sound Design Green Room Awards 2023

A chamber vocal work exploring the voice as a dramaturgical device and character to aid in narrative world building.

Composition for Dance

“Never Are” Choreographed by Emma Riches presented by East Sydney Community Arts Centre 2025

For Voice and Processing

Exploring the voice and text as repetitive frameworks for the dissolution of time.

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ACADEMIC and TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2020 - Ongoing Associate Lecturer in Interactive Composition | *University of Melbourne*

Designing and delivering lectures, technology classes and composition workshops; supervising undergraduate and honours composition folios with a focus on conceptual development and critical reflection; assessing graduating folios and recitals; contributing to curriculum development

2023 Aug- Oct Capstone Uplift Assistant | *University of Melbourne*

In collaboration with the Interactive Composition Faculty, designed and implemented plans to uplift the graduating core subject. This involved liaising and planning with other departments, rubric adjustments and industry research.

2021 - 22 Lead Artistic Facilitator and Musical Director | *Monash University*

Co-led the creative development and realisation alongside director Moira Finucane for 'Wild By Night' by APAM Monash University presented at the Atheneum Theatre. Hosting creative workshops, songwriting workshops, orchestrating student songs for small chamber orchestra and conducting.

2019 - 2020 Research Assistant | *University of Melbourne*

Assisted Prof. Mark Pollard in interview-led creative project: formulated key questions based on thematic relevance, interviewed nominees, recorded and edited interviews for public installation.

2019 - 2023 Piano Teacher | *Red Note Music & Yamaha Music* |

Taught students aged 3 - 50 piano, music theory and composition for leisure and

AWARDS | RESIDENCIES | OPPORTUNITIES

2026 Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada) - Artist in Residence January

2026 Bundanon Australia Artist In Residence - February

2026 Lucy Guerin INC Residency with Emma Riches

2025 Sō Percussion Summer Institute Composition Fellow (USA)

2025 APRA Art Music Award Nomination for Excellence in Experimental Practice for “/Esis”

2025 Green Room Award Nomination for Best Composition/Sound Design
- Sugar (Cabaret)

2024 Green Room Award Nomination for Best Composition/Sound Design
- Far Away (Theatre)

2024 BRAZZA Artist In Residence (France)

2023-24 Speak Percussion Bespoke Artist Program

2023 APRA Professional Development Award Finalist

2022 Green Room Award Winner for Best Composition/Sound Design

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AWARDS | RESIDENCIES | OPPORTUNITIES (cont.)

2021	Australian Art Orchestra Creative Music Intensive Program - Recipient of Scholarship
2021	BIRCA Climate Art Residency (Denmark)
2020	Green Room Nomination for Best Original Songs
2020	Green Room Nomination for Musical Direction
2018	Marion Thomas Award for Excellence Recipient University of Melbourne

SKILLS

Music Composition - Chamber, experimental, electronic

Orchestration - Dorico 6, Sibelius

Sound Design - Multi-channel system design, QLab

Producer - Logic, Ableton, Protools

Musician - Piano, voice, oboe, Musical Director

NOTABLE WORKS IN PROGRESS

January 2026	Banff Centre for the Arts Musician in Residence Duo project ' <i>Breadcrumbs</i> ' with drummer/percussionist Oliver Hanane creating a new body of work inspired by selected Grimm's Fairytales. Supported by Music Australia's Export Development Fund
February 2026	Bundanon Centre for the Arts Residency Residency to develop and write body of work and notation for the <i>Hammer Harp</i> created in the work "Esis"
October 2026	World Premiere of <i>Bright Star</i> by Jane Champion adapted for the Stage Adaption of the seminal film ' <i>Bright Star</i> ' by Oscar-winning director Jane Champion, adapted by Emmanuelle Mattana (Trophy Boys) and premiered at forty-five downstairs.
March 2027	Australian National Academy of Music Commission Commissioned to write a solo piano piece for Sarah Chick as part of the ANAM Set List program to be composed over 2026 and premiered March 2027.

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APPENDIX A - Full List of Creative Work

Music (*Title* | Presenting Partner | Instrumentation)

2025	<i>the truth slips through my fingers to the floor</i> SoSI Sō Percussion (USA) Percussion Duo
2025	<i>SNAP</i> SoSI So Percussion Percussion Quartet
2024	‘/esis’ Speak Percussion Creator/Composer/Performer Piano, Vocalist
2024/25	<i>Rachel Lewindon Solo</i> Make It Up Club, Signals Hammer Harp, Vocals, Korg MS20
2021/22	<i>Rachel Lewindon Trio</i> LongPlay + Cross Street Music Piano, Bass, Percussion
2022	<i>PRESENT/MEMORY</i> by Katie Sfetkidis Queen Vic Womens Centre Vocal Quintet
2021	“ <i>True Zen (Rachel Lewindon Rework)</i> ” from <i>Friends EP</i> by Imogen Cygler Vocal Quintet and Synthesiser
2021	<i>BIRCA Climate Art Residency</i> BIRCA Denmark Voice and Prepared piano

Theatre (*Title* | Company | Director | Role)

2025	<i>THE CENSOR</i> by Vidya Makan, Cassandra Fumi and Ensemble ArtPlay Victoria dir. Vidya Makan/Cassandra Fumi Composer/Sound Designer
2025	<i>Kaleidoscope (devised)</i> City of Voices dir. Milly Cooper Composer/Sound Designer
2025	<i>No Seasons</i> by Oliver Ayers Melbourne Fringe Festival dir. Oliver Ayers Composer/Sound Designer
2025	<i>Nocturnal</i> by Moira Finucane Melbourne Museum dir. Moira Finucane Composer/Pianist
2025	<i>SUGAR</i> by Ro Bright Edinburgh Fringe Festival dir. Kitan Petkovski Musical Director/Arrangements/Producer
2025	<i>POTUS</i> by Selene Fillinger Lightning Jar Theatre Co. dir. Marni Mount Composer/Sound Designer
2024	<i>Rhinoceros</i> by Eugene Ionesco Spinning Plates Co. dir. Cassandra Fumi Composer/Sound Designer
2024	<i>A Case for the Existence of God</i> by Samuel Adler Red Stitch dir. Gary Abrahams Composer/Sound Designer
2024	<i>World Problems</i> by Emma Mary Hall Melbourne Theatre Company dir. Cassandra Fumi Composer/Sound Designer
2024	<i>The Inheritance</i> by Matthew Lopez FortyFive Downstairs dir. Kitan Petkovski Composer/Sound Designer
2024	<i>House of the Heart</i> by Finucane and Smith Chinese Museum dir. Jackie Smith Musical Director
2023	<i>Orlando</i> by Rachel Lewindon and Willow Sizer Antipodes Theatre Company dir. Maude Davey/Margot Fenley Creator/Composer/Sound Designer/Musical Director
2023	<i>Summer of the Seventeenth Doll</i> by Ray Lawler Union House Theatre dir. Petra Kalive Composer/Sound Designer
2023	<i>Far Away</i> by Caryl Churchill Patalog Theatre Company dir. Cassandra Fumi Composer/Sound Designer
2023	<i>Away</i> by Michael Now TheateWorks dir. Steven Mitchell Wright Composer/Sound Designer
2023	<i>BURGERZ</i> by Travis Alabanza TheatreWorks dir. Kitan Petkovski Composer/Sound Designer

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Full List of Creative Work (*Title* | *Company* | *Director* | *Role*)

Theatre cont. (*Title* | *Company* | *Director* | *Role*)

2022	<i>Medea: Out Of the Mouths of Babes</i> Theatre Works dir Steven Mitchell Wright Composer/Sound Designer
2022	<i>FUTURE.JOY.CLUB.</i> by Finucane and Smith Sofitel on Collins dir. Jackie Smith and Moira Finucane Composer/Musical Director
2022	<i>Curveball</i> (devised) Wielding Theatre and La Mama dir. Milly Cooper Composer/Sound Designer
2022	<i>No Ball Games Allowed</i> by Kristen Smyth TheatreWorks dir. Kitan Petkovski Co-Composer/Sound Designer/Performer
2022	<i>From All Who Came Before</i> (devised) Wielding Theatre dir. Milly Cooper Composer/Sound Designer
2021	<i>The Gospel According to Jesus Queen of Heaven</i> by Jo Teatro Midsumma Festival dir. Kitan Petkovski Composer/Musical Director
2020	<i>The Rapture Bathtub Edition</i> by Moira Finucane CPH Festival Copenhagen dir. Jackie Smith Composer/Pianist
2019	<i>The Rapture</i> by Finucane and Smith Wuzhen International Theatre Festival, China dir. Finucane and Smith Composer/Pianist/Vocalist
2019	<i>Death of a Demi Diva</i> by Willow Sizer Melbourne Cabaret Festival dir. Jayde Kirchet Composer/ Musical Director
2018	<i>BlackRock</i> by Nick Enright St Martins Theatre Company dir. Nicola Bowman Sound Designer

Dance (*Title* | *Company* | *Choreographer* | *Role*)

2025	<i>Never Are</i> COMPANY Emma Riches Composer
2022	<i>Giselle</i> as part of <i>PIECES</i> Lucy Guerin & The Substation Rachael Whisby Composer
2020	<i>Seeing Red</i> DanceHouse Ashley Dougan Composer

Film (*Title* | *Company* | *Director* | *Role*)

2019	<i>Cowboys and Taxes</i> by Rachel Lewindon and Willow Sizer University Of Melbourne First Commissions dir. Willow Sizer Composer
2019	<i>Cranlana 100 Years</i> Documentary of the Myer Family Dynamic Visuals dir. Kieran Barber Wilson Composer
2018	<i>ANCHOR</i> University of Melbourne Ashley Dougan Composer

Session Musician Discography (*Artist* | *Album/Work* | *Role*)

2025	Haydn Lawson <i>Nullabor</i> Vocalist
2023	Imogen Cygler <i>Sometimes Strangers</i> Vocalist, Choir Director
2023	Mama Alto <i>Torch Songs at Melbourne Recital Centre</i> Pianist
2023	Mama Alto <i>Beleura House</i> Pianist
2023	Imogen Cygler <i>Sometimes Strangers</i> Vocalist, Choir Director