

RACHEL EMMA LEWINDON

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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

2018

Bachelor of Music (First Class Honours) - University of Melbourne
- Marion Tomas Award for Excellence
Teachers: Kate Neal and Mark Pollard
Thesis: *"Back to the Future: An investigation into the role of form in the perception of time"*

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 '*Breadcrumb*' 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 *Hammer Harp* created in the work "/Esis"

October 2026 **World Premiere of *Bright Star* by Jane Champion adapted for the Stage**
Adaption of the seminal film '*Bright Star*' 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 *the truth slips through my fingers to the floor* | SoSI Sō Percussion (USA) | Percussion Duo

2025 *SNAP* | SoSI So Percussion | Percussion Quartet

2024 *'/esis'* | Speak Percussion | Creator/Composer/Performer | Piano, Vocalist

2024/25 *Rachel Lewindon Solo* | Make It Up Club, Signals | Hammer Harp, Vocals, Korg MS20

2021/22 *Rachel Lewindon Trio* | LongPlay + Cross Street Music | Piano, Bass, Percussion

2022 *PRESENT/MEMORY* by Katie Sfetkidis | Queen Vic Womens Centre | Vocal Quintet

2021 *"True Zen (Rachel Lewindon Rework)"* from *Friends EP* by Imogen Cygler | Vocal Quintet and Synthesiser

2021 *BIRCA Climate Art Residency* | BIRCA Denmark | Voice and Prepared piano

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

2025 *THE CENSOR* by Vidya Makan, Cassandra Fumi and Ensemble | ArtPlay Victoria | dir. Vidya Makan/Cassandra Fumi | Composer/Sound Designer

2025 *Kaleidoscope (revised)* | City of Voices | dir. Milly Cooper | Composer/Sound Designer

2025 *No Seasons* by Oliver Ayers | Melbourne Fringe Festival | dir. Oliver Ayers | Composer/Sound Designer

2025 *Nocturnal* by Moira Finucane | Melbourne Museum | dir. Moira Finucane | Composer/Pianist

2025 *SUGAR* by Ro Bright | Edinburgh Fringe Festival | dir. Kitan Petkovski | Musical Director/Arrangements/Producer

2025 *POTUS* by Selene Fillinger | Lightning Jar Theatre Co. | dir. Marni Mount | Composer/Sound Designer

2024 *Rhinoceros* by Eugene Ionesco | Spinning Plates Co. | dir. Cassandra Fumi | Composer/Sound Designer

2024 *A Case for the Existence of God* by Samuel Adler | Red Stitch | dir. Gary Abrahams | Composer/Sound Designer

2024 *World Problems* by Emma Mary Hall | Melbourne Theatre Company | dir. Cassandra Fumi Composer/Sound Designer

2024 *The Inheritance* by Matthew Lopez | FortyFive Downstairs | dir. Kitan Petkovski | Composer/Sound Designer

2024 *House of the Heart* by Finucane and Smith | Chinese Museum | dir Jackie Smith | Musical Director

2023 *Orlando* by Rachel Lewindon and Willow Sizer | Antipodes Theatre Company | dir Maude Davey/Margot Fenley | Creator/Composer/Sound Designer/Musical Director

2023 *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* by Ray Lawler | Union House Theatre | dir. Petra Kalive | Composer/Sound Designer

2023 *Far Away* by Caryl Churchill | Patalog Theatre Company | dir. Cassandra Fumi | Composer/Sound Designer

2023 *Away* by Michael Now | TheateWorks | dir. Steven Mitchell Wright | Composer/Sound Designer

2023 *BURGERZ* 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 *Medea: Out Of the Mouths of Babes* | Theatre Works | dir Steven Mitchell Wright | Composer/Sound Designer

2022 *FUTURE.JOY.CLUB.* by Finucane and Smith | Sofitel on Collins | dir. Jackie Smith and Moira Finucane | Composer/Musical Director

2022 *Curveball* (devised) | Wielding Theatre and La Mama | dir. Milly Cooper | Composer/Sound Designer

2022 *No Ball Games Allowed* by Kristen Smyth | TheatreWorks | dir. Kitan Petkovski | Co-Composer/Sound Designer/Performer

2022 *From All Who Came Before* (devised) | Wielding Theatre | dir. Milly Cooper | Composer/Sound Designer

2021 *The Gospel According to Jesus Queen of Heaven* by Jo Teatro | Midsumma Festival | dir. Kitan Petkovski | Composer/Musical Director

2020 *The Rapture Bathtub Edition* by Moira Finucane | CPH Festival Copenhagen | dir. Jackie Smith | Composer/Pianist

2019 *The Rapture* by Finucane and Smith | Wuzhen International Theatre Festival, China | dir. Finucane and Smith | Composer/Pianist/Vocalist

2019 *Death of a Demi Diva* by Willow Sizer | Melbourne Cabaret Festival | dir. Jayde Kirchet | Composer/ Musical Director

2018 *BlackRock* by Nick Enright | St Martins Theatre Company | dir. Nicola Bowman | Sound Designer

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

2025 *Never Are* | COMPANY | Emma Riches | Composer

2022 *Giselle* as part of *PIECES* | Lucy Guerin & The Substation | Rachael Whisby | Composer

2020 *Seeing Red* | DanceHouse | Ashley Dougan | Composer

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

2019 *Cowboys and Taxes* by Rachel Lewindon and Willow Sizer | University Of Melbourne First Commissions | dir. Willow Sizer | Composer

2019 *Cranlana 100 Years* Documentary of the Myer Family | Dynamic Visuals | dir. Kieran Barber Wilson | Composer

2018 *ANCHOR* | University of Melbourne | Ashley Dougan | Composer

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

2025 Haydn Lawson | *Nullabor* | Vocalist

2023 Imogen Cygler | *Sometimes Strangers* | Vocalist, Choir Director

2023 Mama Alto | *Torch Songs at Melbourne Recital Centre* | Pianist

2023 Mama Alto | *Beleura House* | Pianist

2023 Imogen Cygler | *Sometimes Strangers* | Vocalist, Choir Director