

7. Chris Cobilis: *Forever Alone Together Again Or* (2012)

Yeah, I heard a funny thing
Somebody said to me
You know that I could be in love with almost everyone
I think that people are
The greatest fun
And I will be alone again tonight my dear
[Alone Again Or, Love, 1968]

"I'm sitting in a café in Taipei early in 2012 and across from me is a family at a table, in attendance. Well, a woman, a man and two small children. I'm sort of weirded-out by what I assume to be the father, transfixed upon his telephone, held in landscape all blurry with colour and sound, who at this moment is profoundly engaged in that flicking and tapping motion (you know the one; you do it every day). He seems to be tackling life very much on his own terms. I'm wondering why the child next to him, hanging about her chair like a sad, bored orang-utan hasn't stood up and left. Perhaps she's waiting for her turn.

I'm not that good at the Internet, but I still manage to survey the tides. Am I a willing participant or do these memes break around me anyway? I'm a console gaming native who after playing for 25 years can sometimes be gone for hours, days... weeks. Sometime around November 2011 I was invited to compose a piece for DECIBEL and it was then that I started playing Skyrim. A year later and I'm still playing Skyrim and thinking more and more about myself as an organic vessel moving through time as I sit barely upright in the ephemeral 'other' world of games. Still, even as an experienced gamer all this instant tech interface stuff scares the shit out of me.

In her book *Alone Together* Sherry Turkle writes: We discovered the network—the world of connectivity—to be uniquely suited to the overworked and overscheduled life it makes possible. And now we look to the network to defend us against loneliness even as we use it to control the intensity of our connections. Technology makes it easy to communicate when we wish and to disengage at will." CC

But to be perfectly honest with you...



Chris Cobilis is a self-trained composer & improviser living and working in Perth, Western Australia. In addition to working in numerous bands including The Tigers and SMRTS, Cobilis has contributed original music to film, dance and theatre. As an improviser he has performed internationally including tours of Taiwan and Japan together with performances in France, Greece, US and UK. Cobilis' 2012 album *Heritage Listed Skate*

Park is free to download from <http://chriscobilis.bandcamp.com/>. This work was commissioned by Decibel with generous assistance from the Department of Culture and the Arts.

8. Lalo Schifrin: *Scorpio's View* (1972)

Schifrin's strong jazz blues riffing is a characteristic of his scores for the *Dirty Harry* films. Similar to other screen composer greats such as Ennio Morricone, Schifrin's film scores are renowned for their experimentation with orchestral colour, yet Schifrin's unique touch is his jazz influences and open, semi improvised scoring. In *Dirty Harry*, this music creates an atmosphere designed to depict the disturbed mind of the killer known as 'Scorpio'. Featuring a mythical lead role of 'Dirty' Harry Callahan by Clint Eastwood, and directed by Don Seigel, the first iteration of *Dirty Harry* shocked audiences for its open depiction of violence and mental disturbance on American streets.

Lalo Schifrin is an Argentinian composer, pianist and conductor. Associated largely with jazz, despite his training as a classical violinist, Schifrin has written many award winning film and TV soundtracks, including *Mission Impossible*, *Bullit* and *Enter the Dragon*. He studied with Olivier Messiaen at the Paris Conservatoire and performed as a pianist with Astor Piazzolla and in Dizzy Gillespie's quintet. In the early 1960s he moved to Hollywood where he began his film music career where he has gone on to create over sixty film scores. An extract of his score for *Cool Hand Luke* was the news theme for Channel 9 for many years, and he currently tours extensively with his jazz and the orchestra project.

Decibel

Cat Hope - Director, flutes, bass guitar, double bass.
Lindsay Vickery - Reeds, electronics, radio
Stuart James - Piano, electronics, network systems
Tristen Parr - Cello
Aaron Wyatt - Violin, viola and ipad programming.

Special guests:

Josh Hogan - Electronics, percussion.
Ricki Malet & Andrew Gioia - trumpets.
Ben Collins - Alto Sax.
Sean Little - Tenor Sax.
Mace Francis - electric guitar.

Technical and Support:

Production Manager- Sam Jones
Stage Assistant - Bob White
Paper Plane construction - Luke HO

Thank You:

Tos Mahoney, Gabrielle Sullivan, KFord, Tim White, Henry Anderson.
<http://decibel.waapamusic.com>



Decibel New Music Ensemble in partnership
with **Tura New Music and the Western Australian Museum**
presents:

SOUNDING A ROOM

Monday December 3, 2012 • 7.30PM
Hackett Hall Gallery, Western Australian Museum.

- 1. Tristan Murail: *Winter Fragments* (2000)**
for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, MIDI keyboard and electronics [Australian premiere].
- 2. Lindsay Vickery: *Agilus, Mimoid, Symmetriad* (2012)**
for small ensemble and electronics [World premiere].
- 3. Mace Francis: *From Traffic Rises* (2012)**
for ensemble and found sound recording [Australian premiere].
- 4. Lionel Marchetti: *Première étude (les ombres)* (2012)**
for 3 ocarinas, Chinese flute, violin, violoncello, piano, 5 small Tibetan bowls and spatialised recorded sounds.
[World premiere].

[Interval]

- 5. Erik Griswold: *Bury The Sound* (2012)**
for small ensemble and electronics [World premiere].
- 6. Cat Hope: *Miss Fortune X* (2012)**
for violin, cello and electronics [Australian premiere].
- 7. Chris Cobilis: *Forever Alone Together Or* (2012)**
for ensemble [World premiere].
- 8. Lalo Schifrin: *Scorpio's View* (1972)**
for ensemble [arranged by Decibel]

Welcome to the final of Decibel's Perth concert series for 2012. This concert focuses on the way music of different musical genres respond to acoustic space. Highlighting works with jazz, indie, noise, music concrete and minimalistic influences, the concert integrates the acoustics of the museum space as an important part of the works.

As always with curating Decibel concerts, what starts and what becomes can be radically different things. In this concert, we feature two French contributions represent rather different approaches to space; Murail's spectral memories of the European Winter is a wonderful foil to the acoustmatic contemplations of Lionel Marchetti, where the carefully crafted prer-recorded sounds become a score the live musicians. Memory and its relationship to space plays an important part in *Miss Fortune X*, as it does in the way urban recordings inform the score for Mace Francis's *From Traffic Rises*. The homage to Erik Griswold's namesake in his work *Bury the Sound* takes forms beyond the aural, and even Schifrin's sound world created for *Dirty Harry* may be seen as a journey to a different space, imaginatively, musically and stylistically. We are excited to feature the final of our new series of commissions for Perth songwriters as part of our program, in our collaboration with Chris Cobilis.

Thanks to you all for your support up to now, we can't do it without you coming to our concerts! And of course...Happy Birthday Tura.

Cat Hope,
Artistic Director, Decibel.

1. **Tristan Murail:** *Winter Fragments* (2000)

Winter Fragments shows us snapshots of winter, static instants depicting the frozen character of snow-covered landscapes. The cracking of dead wood and the breaking up of ice give the music its fragile character. Made up of five large sections, the work features silences alternating with microtonal acoustic parts and echoing electronics that make for a chilling sound space. In this wonderful examination of spectral fabric, Murail creates a fractal yet cohesive sound world where electronics are carefully interwoven with the instruments.

Tristan Murail is a French composer who received degrees in classical and North African Arabic as well as economics before turning to composition. A student of Olivier Messiaen, he won the Prix de Rome in 1971 and spent two years at the Villa Médicis. Upon his return to Paris in 1973, he founded Ensemble Itinéraire with a group of young composers and performers. The group became widely renowned for its ground-breaking explorations of the relationship between instrumental performance and many aspects of electronics. In the 80's, Murail began using computer technology to further his research into acoustic phenomena. This led him to years of collaboration with the IRCAM, where he taught composition from 1991 to 1997 and helped develop the Patchwork composition software. Murail has also taught at numerous schools and festivals worldwide, including the Darmstadt Ferienkurse, l'Abbaye de Royaumont, and the Centre Acanthes. He is currently professor of composition at Columbia University, New York.

2. **Lindsay Vickery:** *Agilus, Mimoid, Symmetriad* (2012)

Agilus, Mimoid, Symmetriad takes its name from three of the "oceanic formations" of the sentient planet Solaris, as described by Stanislaw Lem in his 1961 novel of the same name. The work employs a scrolling score allowing for coordination of complex and continuously evolving structures. The original string quartet version of the work, premiered earlier this year, is here augmented by piano and electronic processing of the acoustic instruments.

Lindsay Vickery is active as a composer and performer across Europe, the USA and Asia. His music includes works for acoustic and electronic instruments in interactive-electronic, improvised or fully notated settings, ranging from solo pieces to opera and dance and theatre. He was a founding member of Alea New Music Ensemble (1987-1992), Magnetic Pig (1992-2003), GRIT (2001-), HEDKIKR (2002-), and multimedia group SQUINT (2002-). Recent Projects include presentations of research at the International Computer Music Conference in Huddersfield, the Musicological Society of Australasia in Dunedin and the Australasian Computer Music Conference in Canberra.

3. **Mace Francis:** *From Traffic Rises* (2012)

The sound of standing on a pedestrian bridge over the Mitchell Freeway. From the persistently irregular wash of sound rises melody. Vehicles passing in each direction. The initial hum of

traffic focuses into individual voices approaching and then passing. The recorded soundscape surrounds you. The vehicles become pitches, approaching and passing. The recorded soundscape morphs into an acoustic soundscape surrounding you. From traffic rises the single pitch, swirling around you, spiralling upwards and then downwards resting at your feet where you were originally standing on a pedestrian bridge over the Mitchell Freeway. The work was commissioned by Decibel with generous assistance from the Australia Council for the Arts.

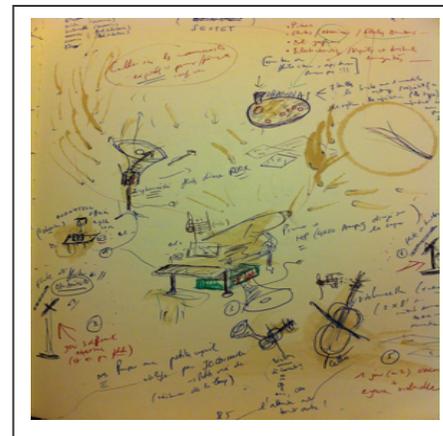
Mace Francis has been establishing himself as a predominant figure and advocate for original Australian big band music since forming his 14-piece ensemble in 2005 – the Mace Francis Orchestra (MFO). MFO have recorded 5 CDs, toured nationally four times, performed with international artists Jim Pugh (USA), Jon Gordon (NY), John Hollenbeck (NY), Satoko Fujii (JAP), Ed Partyka (BER) and Theo Bleckmann (NY). Mace also works as lecturer in Arranging and Composition at WAAPA and as Artistic Director of the WA Youth Jazz Orchestra. Currently Mace is embarking on a three-year journey into a PhD at WAAPA exploring site-specific composition. <http://www.macefrancis.com/>

4. **Lionel Marchetti:** *Première étude (les ombres)* (2012)

By mixing recorded sounds broadcast by loudspeakers located amongst the musicians who faithfully imitate these same recorded sounds, Marchetti is seeking to create a source of friction or discord for the ear - a spark - which, as with a fire produced by rubbing two pieces of wood together for a long period, is able to spread warmth and light. Marchetti does not use notes to compose music – this work was composed in the studio, in front of the loudspeakers, with these sounds, and numerous sonic units - which he calls shadows - destined to be reproduced by imitation through a living, spatial interpretation. An analogue tape recorder is used to produce loops which are deliberately irregular and altered - one could even say pulverized - whereas other sonic sequences have been composed using electroacoustic techniques.

This concrete approach to the production of sounds is not intended to be fixed, as is Marchetti's usual approach, but rather conceived for performance and for a scenic interpretation, in the hope that what will emerge is a natural music which he characterises as strange and disturbing. Sharing the space with the instrumentalists, like so many shadowy mouths, are five loudspeakers, with which the performers must harmoniously co-exist. The instrumentalists possess a supply of imitative sounds which are laid out according to simple but strict rules; however, the formal arrangement of the entire composition is left free. Thanks to: CFMI de Lyon. This work was commissioned by Decibel. (translated from the French by Dr Jonathan W. Marshall).

Lionel Marchetti is a French, self-taught composer of musique concrète. He has built his own recording studio, and has composed in the Groupe de Recherches Musicales in Paris since 1993. Marchetti also performs improvised music with microphones and loudspeakers as a duo with Jérôme Noetinger, as part of the group quintet Avant, and with the collective Le Cube, which performs live music and interactive film. Marchetti's book *La Musique Concrète* De Michel Chion was published by Éditions Metamkine in 1998. He also writes poetry, and develops theoretical thoughts on *Musique concrète* and the art of the loudspeaker.



Marchetti's illustration/plan for *Première étude (les ombres)*.

5. **Erik Griswold:** *Bury The Sound* (2012)

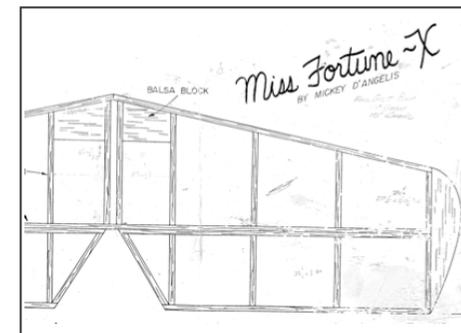
Bury the Sound takes as its starting point the iconic *Trois Gnossienes* of my namesake, composer Erik Satie. Erik imagines the sound waves from the 1893 Paris premiere of the work drifting through the ether, diffused by the atmosphere and time, somehow recaptured and miraculously brought back to life by Decibel in 2012 Perth. Harmonic resonances from the original work are heard echoing and blurring together in the intermeshed lines of the live instruments over three movements. A long digital delay, filtering and a muffled speaker add further layers to the textural moiré. Featuring prominently in the performance is a velvet cloak, referring to Satie's penchant for grey velvet suits (for which he was known as "the velvet gentleman"). *Bury the Sound* is dedicated to Decibel, for whom it was commissioned, with generous support from the Australia Council for the Arts.

Eclectic composer-pianist **Erik Griswold** fuses experimental, jazz and world music traditions to create works of striking originality. Specializing in prepared piano, percussion and toy instruments, he has created a musical universe all his own that is "sincere" (neural.it), "playful" (igloo magazine), "colourful and refreshingly unpretentious" (Paris Transatlantic). Since the late 1980s he has composed solo and chamber works for many adventurous performers in the U.S. and Australia. His work can be heard on Mode Records, Room:40, Listen/Hear Collective, Einstein Records, Accretions/Circumvention, Move, Clocked

Out, and Innova. He is currently adjunct professor at Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University, and holds a PhD from University of California, San Diego and is the co-founder and pianist of duo Clocked Out with percussionist Vanessa Tomlinson. <http://www.erikgriswold.org>

6. **Cat Hope:** *Miss Fortune - X* (2012)

Miss Fortune X is the name of a radio controlled model airplane my father built and flew several iterations of throughout his lifetime. The work uses segments of the base plan as a guide for the construction of the score, and in more detail, the piano part, where an elbow and roughened plectrums are used to alter the timbre of the instrument. The original plan, from a magazine, had been copied and resized many times over many years, creating a layer of visual noise in later copies which is also included as musical material for the work. The piece continues my explorations of drone and glissandi, and the sonic colour of radio static, which carries a new metaphorical meaning in this work. It is dedicated to Douglas Campbell Hope (1937 – 2012).



An excerpt of the plan for *Miss Fortune-X*.

Cat Hope is a composer, sound artist, performer, songwriter and noise artist whose practice is an interdisciplinary one. Cat is a classically trained flautist, self taught vocalist and experimental bassist who plays as a soloist and as part of small ensembles, which have included Gata Negra, Lux Mammoth and Abe Sada. In 2011 she was a finalist in the WA Citizen of the Year Awards in the culture and arts category, and was awarded the Inaugural Award for Excellence in Experimental Music at the APRA|AMC awards for her work with Decibel. She tours often and her work is published worldwide. Her double organ concerto *Black Emperor* was selected as a finalist for the Newcastle International Space Time Concerto competition this year where she was awarded the Peoples Choice Award.