

# COMPOSERS

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## **ANNA LOCKWOOD**

### **Wellington the way it seemed (extract)**

Pacific Films 196– . Duration 1.40

Anna Lockwood (she later changed her name to Annea) was born in Christchurch in 1939. After completing an B.Mus (Hons) she left New Zealand to study composition at the Royal College of Music in London, at the Darmstadt Ferienkurs für Neue Musik, and at the Gottfried Michael Koenig in Cologne. Returning to London in 1964 she became a freelance composer until she moved to the United States in 1973 where she continued to work as a freelance composer and teacher.

During the 60's Lockwood became known for her avant garde compositions and is most famous for her Fluxus inspired pieces involving burning or drowning pianos. In this extract Lockwood discusses her work Glass Concert in which she uses industrial glass shards and glass tubing as musical instruments. During the 70's and 80's Lockwood became more interested in environmental sounds, life narratives and performance works. More recently her work has involved writing for acoustic instruments and voices, incorporating electronics and visual elements into her music.

## **GILLIAN BIBBY**

### **Montage: A look at the arts in New Zealand (extract)**

Department of Education 196– . Duration 1.56

Gillian Bibby was born in Lower Hutt in 1945. She studied composition at Wellington Polytechnic and in the 1960's won the Mozart Scholarship at Otago University. In this extract she teaches students electronic music.

## **PHIL DADSON**

### **Let the Earth Hum (extract)**

Nina Seja 2000. Duration 15.34

Phil Dadson was born in Napier in 1946 and studied at Elam School of Fine Arts. In 1968 he travelled to London and became a foundation member of 'Scratch Orchestra'. Returning to Elam, he graduated in sculpture and performance in 1971. Dadson founded 'Scratch Orchestra (NZ)' which in 1974 became 'From Scratch'. 'From Scratch' have developed an international reputation for innovative music and performance that include elements of theatre, sculpture and ritual.

In 2001 Dadson retired from his position as Head of Time Based Art at Elam to devote himself to his own work. He has since received many major awards and commissions including a 2001 Arts Foundation Laureate Award and an ONZM in the 2005 Queens Honours.

## **JOHN PSATHAS**

### **The Big Art Trip, Series 02, Episode 06 (extract)**

ScreenTime Communicado 2002. Duration 9.02

John Psathas was born in 1966 and grew up in Taumarunui and Napier. He left high school at an early age to study composition and piano at Victoria University of Wellington, then with Jacqueline Fontyn in Belgium. Psathas now lectures at the School of Music at Victoria University and works as a free lance composer.

Psathas gained an international reputation in 1991 for his piece 'Matre's Dance' a duet for percussion and piano which was championed by renowned Scottish percussionist Evelyn Glennie. In 2004 Psathas was the composer of the music for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece and in 2005 the NZSO recorded it's title track 'View from Olympus' with with soloists Michael

Hustoun and Pedro Carneiro. This project was the biggest orchestral recording to ever take place in New Zealand.

In 2003 John Psathas was awarded an Arts Foundation Laureate.

### **JACK BODY**

#### **Big Nose and Body Music (extract)**

Image Transform/Marmalade 1988. Duration 18.08

Jack Body was born in Te Aroha in 1944 and studied Music at Auckland University, in Cologne and at the Institute of Sonology, Utrecht. Between 1976–77 he was a guest lecturer at the Akademi Musik Indonesia, Yogyakarta and since 1980 he has lectured at the School of Music, Victoria University of Wellington.

While Body's music covers a wide spectrum of genres from conventional chamber music to computer controlled sound-image installations, he is particularly interested in the music of Asia and as an ethnomusicologist has published recordings from Indonesia and China.

Body is keen to promote music from New Zealand and has organised a number of events including the 2001 New Music New Zealand at the Ijsbreker in Amsterdam. He has also been the editor of Waiteata Music Press since 1980, and has produced over eighteen CD's of music by New Zealand composers.

In 2004 Jack Body became an Arts Foundation Laureate.

### **DAN POYNTON**

#### **The Big Art Trip, Series 01, Episode 09 (extract)**

ScreenTime Communicado 2001. Duration 8.56

Dan Poynton was born in Wellington and started playing the piano at 10. While still a student he won the 1983 National Westpac School Composition Prize, and was a finalist in the 1986 TVNZ Young Musicians' Competition and the National Christchurch Concerto Competition. In 1988 he won first prize in the National Kerikeri Piano Competition.

After time spent studying and traveling Dan re-established his music career with a recording of New Zealand piano music which won the Classical Award in the 1988 New Zealand Music Awards. He has since become a composer in his own right and a champion of New Zealand music; touring extensively as a solo artist and working with other musicians

### **RICHARD NUNNS**

#### **The Edge, Series 02, Programme 19 (extract)**

Gibson Group 2004. Duration 3.13

When the 13 year old pakeha Richard Nunns saw a photograph of carved objects in the Auckland Museum thought to be musical instruments, he embarked on a life long journey that would see him become the authority on Taonga Puoro (Maori Musical Instruments). Over the years Nunns has learnt how to make and to play these instruments, passing back the knowledge to Maori who had previously lost it.

In doing so he has gained an international profile playing at the World Expo in Brisbane, the pre-Olympic Festival of the Dreaming in Sydney, the Polynesian Music Festival in Rarotonga and WOMADS in Adelaide and Auckland. With Hirini Melbourne, Nunns has produced two CD's and a book.

### **CHRIS CREE BROWN**

#### **The Big Art Trip, Series 02, Episode 09 (extract)**

ScreenTime Communicado 2002. Duration 6.44

Chris Cree Brown was born in Christchurch in 1953. He completed a B.A. Mus.B (Hons) at Canterbury, and in 2003 was awarded a doctorate in music. Brown has twice been awarded the Mozart Fellowship at the University of Otago, has twice been appointed Composer-in-schools, has

won two prizes in the Wellington Youth Orchestra's Young Composer's Competition and has written a number of film scores.

As well as being interested in conventional composition, Brown is also passionate about electro-acoustic and computer music, inter-media art and Aeolian harps. In 2002 he exhibited a harp in the Christchurch Botanical Gardens.

#### **BEVAN SMITH**

##### **The Living Room, Series 03, Episode 05 (extract)**

Sticky Pictures 2005. Duration 5.04

Bevan Smith was born in New Plymouth in 1974 and works under the names Aspen and Signer. He is a composer, songwriter, producer and sound designer specialising in sound alteration using software. He also incorporates visual elements into his work. Smith has been signed by the United States label Garage and has toured extensively through North America, Canada, Britain and Europe. Smith also produced eight tracks for the documentary Touching the Void which one best British Film at the 2004 BAFTA's and also best British Independent film.

In this extract Smith talks about his life living and working in Europe.

#### **GARETH FARR**

##### **Artsville 16/07/2005 (extract)**

Television New Zealand 2005. Duration 12.55

Gareth Farr was born in Wellington in 1968 and began his studies in composition and percussion performance at the University of Auckland, completing his degree at Victoria. Farr continued his post-graduate study in composition at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

In 1993 Farr was appointed composer-in-residence by Chamber Music New Zealand (he was the youngest ever to hold this position). During this time he also introduced audiences to his percussion playing alter ego, the drag queen Lilith Lacroix. Following his residency Farr returned to New York to complete his doctorate, before becoming a successful Wellington based freelance composer.

Farr's work is influenced by his background in percussion, especially that from the Pacific Rim. He is also interested in Indonesian Gamelon orchestra and Rarotongan log drum ensembles. As well as composing music for the concert chamber, dance, theatre and television Farr has produced a number of works specifically for the percussion ensemble Strike.

#### **PITCH BLACK**

##### **Holmes 28/08/2000 (extracts)**

Television New Zealand 2000. Duration 4.33

Michael Hodgson and Paddy Free are Pitch Black, electronic musicians who programme visuals into their live performances.

Hodgson says that as a child extended periods of listening to short wave radio on headphones influenced his musical tastes. By 1986 he had formed Tinnitus and with Angus McNaughton produced 15 albums over a three year period. By the early 90s he started exploring VJing for bands like Jean Paul Satre Experience, Headless Chickens and Supergroove, and with Ross George he developed Mideo, a computer programme that "enables real time triggering of full time video from synthesizer keyboard".

Paddy Free is considered one of the country's best keyboard players and was voted Best Keyboards in 1999 BFM NZ Music Awards. He has worked with various New Zealand musicians including Killing Joke, Neil Finn and Emma Paki.

#### **JOHN LAKE/STEPHEN GLOVER/CAMPBELL NEALE**

##### **(un)sound. Wellington's Experimental Music Scene (extracts)**

John Lake 2001. Duration 10.42

## **Composers**

Local musicians John Lake, Stephen Glover and Campbell Neale discuss their interest and involvement in the Wellington electronic music scene. While most contemporary music is electronically produced, the electronic music scene focuses on electronic sound “Today, the term electronic music serves to differentiate music that uses electronic as its focal point or inspiration, from music that uses electronics mainly in service of creating an intended production that may have some electronic elements in the sound but does not focus upon them” (Wikipedia).