

## Halcyon and austraLYSIS



*From afar...*

explorations in time, sound and space

Presented by the

**New Music Network**

Music Workshop,  
Sydney Conservatorium of Music  
Saturday 24 November at 8pm

# Program

Morton Feldman *Voices and cello* (1973)  
Alison Morgan soprano, Jo Burton mezzo soprano, Geoffrey Gartner cello

Pro stool

Iannis Xenakis *Orient-Occident* (1962)  
Roger Dean sound artist

Jon Drummond *Book of Changes III* (2012) WORLD PREMIERE  
Alison Morgan soprano, Jo Burton mezzo soprano, Jon Drummond sound artist

Interval

Kaija Saariaho *Lonh* (1996)  
Alison Morgan soprano, Jon Drummond sound artist

Roger Dean *Akurra: Lives in a new world* (2012) WORLD PREMIERE  
Alison Morgan soprano, Jo Burton mezzo soprano, Roger Dean sound artist

Handwritten notes and diagrams:  
- "seal" with a diagram of a person sitting on a stool.  
- "seal" with a diagram of a person sitting on a stool.  
- "MC" with a diagram of a person sitting on a stool.  
- "Grand" with a diagram of a person sitting on a stool.  
- A box containing "Have Nies".

## Artists

Alison Morgan soprano  
Jo Burton mezzo soprano  
Geoffrey Gartner cello  
Roger Dean sound artist  
Jon Drummond sound artist

This program is being recorded by ABC Classic FM for future broadcast

## new music network

The New Music Network is an energetic collective of Australian ensembles, sound artists and organisations that maintains a dynamic presence in national and international music communities and fosters awareness of contemporary art music, composers and performing artists through performances and public forums.

The Network distributes a FREE monthly eNews. To join up email [nmn@newmusicnetwork.com.au](mailto:nmn@newmusicnetwork.com.au) or go to [www.newmusicnetwork.com.au](http://www.newmusicnetwork.com.au) and stay connected...

The New Music Network receives core funding from Arts NSW and the Australia Council for the Arts.

## **Roger Dean**      ***Akurra: Lives in a new world (2012)***

For Alison Morgan and Jenny Duck-Chong of Halcyon, with pre-recorded multichannel sound.

The piece concerns the imagined afterlives of Akurra, the creators of Wilpena Pound (Ikara) in the Flinders Ranges of South Australia, a great isolated valley almost completely surrounded by two mountain ranges. Where did they next appear after the pound was made? Our two singers use dislocated speech-sounds to describe and illustrate their post-history in the context of changing climates and the imagined creation scenario.

For the Adnyamathanha people of the Flinders Ranges, Akurra is a snake deity, associated with the idea of the Rainbow Serpent and the power of the shaman. In the book 'The Rainbow Serpent' (ed. I. R. Buchler; de Gruyter publishers, 1978). There are several myths which may relate to Akurra. Charles P. Mountford describes one in which there are two akuru, who destroyed a circumcision party by making powerful whirlwinds. Then 'lying head to head, [they] were transformed into the steep walls that now surround Wilpena Pound'. Later they travelled eastward and formed separate homes.

The piece tries to evoke perceptions and imaginations rather than to provide a programmatic representation of defined events.

© Roger Dean

**Roger Dean** is a composer/improviser, and since 2007 a research professor in music cognition and computation at the MARCS Institute, University of Western Sydney. He founded and directs the ensemble *australYSIS*, which has performed in 30 countries. He has performed as bassist and pianist in contexts from the Academy of Ancient Music and the Australian Chamber Orchestra, to the London Sinfonietta and the Hoarded Dreams Jazz Orchestra. His improvising collaborations range from Ted Curson to Derek Bailey and Evan Parker, and from Sandy Evans to Oren Ambarchi. Improvisation and computer-interaction merge in his *MultiPiano Event*, a solo performance exploiting live piano, real-time audio processing, generative physical synthesis piano, and electroacoustic sound. His creative work is on 50 commercial audio cds, and he has released many digital intermedia pieces, and recently, sound installation works. His 400 substantive research publications include 7 humanities books. Previously he was CEO of the Heart Research Institute, Sydney, researching in biochemistry, and then Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Canberra.

[www.australysis.com/rdean](http://www.australysis.com/rdean)

## **Biographies**

*australYSIS* is an ensemble of composers, improvisers, and performers. It has developed unusual techniques for control of rhythmic, timbral and harmonic interaction in several creative and performative contexts, and since 1995 has used computer interactive and networked technology. 'Incredible interaction', said the Wire (UK); 'eclectic and consummate', said BBC Radio 3. Formed originally by Roger Dean in 1970 as the innovative European group *LYSIS*, *australYSIS* has played in 30 countries, and appears on more than forty commercial recordings.

*australYSIS* has evolved continuously from an ensemble in the 70s and 80s focused on commissioning and premiering new compositions, and presenting contemporary classics, together with improvised music, to one which creates real-time computer interactive work, and elaborately composed acousmatic music, often in intermedia contexts involving real-time image manipulation and text presentation and generation. Most work is created by members of the ensemble, often collaboratively.

In 2010, *australYSIS* has presented work in Australia, Canada, Denmark, UK and USA, as well as broadcast internationally.

[www.australysis.com](http://www.australysis.com)

Regarded as a leading exponent in the field of new music, **Halcyon** presents stunning performances of vocal chamber music from around the world, with a special emphasis on Australian content. Artistic directors and singers Jenny Duck-Chong and Alison Morgan direct the popular and acclaimed Halcyon

## NEW RELEASES



Roger Dean's new double CD on Tall Poppies, which creates a massive territory of piano playing in solo, duo and multiple strand performance, mostly realised in real-time.



Renowned for "immaculately prepared and impressively detailed vocal performances", in the past decade Halcyon has commissioned and premiered over twenty new vocal chamber works, a significant contribution to the chamber music catalogue. Our recent focus has been to record these wonderful and diverse pieces for commercial distribution - we want to get this music out into the world!

We'll be releasing new recordings in 'waves', so watch out for more to come. **Waves I** is Halcyon's first release of studio recordings and features two Australian works - Elliott Gyger's *Petit Testament* (2008) for soprano, mezzo and piano and Andrew Ford's *Willow Songs* (2009) for soprano, mezzo, flute/piccolo/alto flute, clarinet/bass clarinet, percussion and piano. You can buy it online at [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com).

## UPCOMING NEW MUSIC NETWORK PERFORMANCES

Saturday 3.30pm & 6.30pm, Saturday 8 December 2012

What is Music!

Sonic Systems Laboratory

This program features Robbie Avenaim and Dale Gorfinkel from 'SSL', joined by Chris Abrahams (piano/electronics) and Cor Fuhler (piano/electronics). The extended SSL ensemble combines traditional and extended techniques with physical modification of the artists' instruments. The group will employ various motorised percussive mechanisms alongside traditional instrumentation, and in so doing, will have access to greater scope for both composing and improvising. This is an integral part of the compositional process of the group and represents a collective effort to build better relationships between mechanical devices and improvisers.

**Where:** Old Darlington School, Maze Crescent, Darlington, Sydney.

**Tickets:** \$10 - \$20 Donation

**Information & Bookings:** Philippa Horn, Manager, New Music Network

Phone: 0411 606 077 or Email: [nmn@newmusicnetwork.com.au](mailto:nmn@newmusicnetwork.com.au)