



12 May 2017 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ABC Classic FM brings Australian composers to the world stage

ABC Classic FM will showcase three emerging Australian composers at next week's IRC (International Rostrum of Composers) in Sicily.

Marcus Whale, Cathy Milliken and Wally Gunn will have their work featured at the annual congress.

Held by the International Music Council, the IRC brings together broadcasters from around the world to showcase and exchange the best of new contemporary music. Works compete for the opportunity to be broadcast on participating international music networks.

Marcus Whale's *Frontier* reimagines and corrupts the iconic *Jerusalem* hymn, calling into question the pastoral impulse of European settlers in Australia and their acceptance that nature was a gift from God.

In Cathy Milliken's *Earth Plays II*, the singer, as a 'witness' through time, pays tribute to the sounds and acoustic 'imprints' of the plays and healing ceremonies that were held at the ancient Greek theatre of Epidauros.

Wally Gunn's *Pinwheel* was commissioned by the ensemble Three and makes sunny harmonies from melodic and rhythmic patterns to capture the eternal optimism of lazy springtime afternoons in Australian parks.

"This is a great opportunity for Australian composers to build their profiles through wide international radio broadcast," said Richard Buckham, Manager of ABC Classic FM. "We're delighted to be able to promote Australian contemporary music at this global event, and to bring our listeners a harvest of new music from around the world."

The composers' works were recorded by ABC Classic FM in the last 12 months and feature some of Australia's most highly-regarded performing artists and ensembles.

Featured works:

Marcus Whale: Frontier

Composed in 2016. Duration: 8'18

Performed by Zubin Kanga, piano (with electronics)

Cathy Milliken: Earth Plays II: Epidauros

Composed in 2015. Duration: 9'20

Performed by Jessica Aszodi (mezzo) and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ilan Volkov.

Wally Gunn: Pinwheel

Composed in 2016. Duration: 9'22

Performed by Three: Joel Brennan (tpt), Don Immel (tbn), Ken Murray (el-g)

--Ends

For further information, please contact Louise Alley at ABC Classic FM on 0422 348 652, alley.louise@abc.net.au

Notes

Cathy Milliken studied in Australia majoring in performance (oboe and piano). A founding member of the Ensemble Modern, Germany, she has worked with musicians such as György Ligeti, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Pierre Boulez, Heiner Geobbel and Frank Zappa and performed with the ensemble in major contemporary music venues throughout the world. She has composed for concert, opera, radio and film and is a winner of the Prix Italia, the Prix Marulic and the Australian ArtMusic Awards. She divides her time between Berlin and Brisbane, where she is presently a doctoral candidate at Griffith University.

Marcus Whale is a musician, whose practice covers popular, experimental and classical music. As a performer, he is a member of duo Collarbones and trio BV, as well as work under his own name, releasing an album "Inland Sea" in June 2016. As a composer, he has written for Ensemble Offspring, Zubin Kanga, Claire Edwardes, Synergy Percussion, Australia Piano Quartet and The Song Company, along with collaborations with performance artists Ivan Cheng and Jess Olivieri.

Wally Gunn hails from rural Australia, and first played in rock bands, then attended Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, before moving to New York to study with Julia Wolfe at Manhattan School of Music, and then pursue a Ph.D. at Princeton University. Wally writes concert music and collaborates with theatre makers and visual artists.