

Invitation for String Players to perform *Song to the Earth*

Corrina Bonshek, DeepBlue and Michael Askill are collaborating on a production called *Song to the Earth*, which will be performed at Palm Beach Parklands as part of [Bleach* Festival / Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games \(GC2018\) Arts and Culture Program](#) on Sat 7 and Sun 8 April, and at [Flowstate South Bank](#), Brisbane from Wed 16 – Sat 19 May.

String players aged 13-20 years with 3rd grade AMEB playing ability or above are invited to join the production. Participants will learn Corrina Bonshek's *Song to the Earth* along with members of DeepBlue, develop a unique installation, and perform alongside DeepBlue and master percussionist Dr Michael Askill as part of this professional production.

The cost of participation is free. You will be sent your part in January. [View a sample score here.](#)

[View a highlights video of the pilot](#) of this work for Bleach* Festival 2017.

You are encouraged to practice your part with your music teacher. You are required to attend all rehearsals and encouraged to play in all performances. Two of the Brisbane performances are optional (i.e. it's OK if you are only able to commit to two of the four Brisbane shows).

Please email gretackelly@gmail.com if you have any questions.

To participate please [click here to fill out the Registration Form](#)

Dates for participation

| Date/Time | What | Where |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Sun 25 Feb 9:30-4pm | Workshop & rehearsal | Coomera Anglican College 8 Days Rd, Upper Coomera |
| Sat 17 March 1-5pm | Rehearsal | Coomera Anglican College |
| Thurs 5 April 3-8:30pm | Soundcheck Tech rehearsal and notes | Palm Beach (performance site) 945 Gold Coast Hwy, Palm Beach |
| Fri 6 April 3-8:30pm | Soundcheck Dress rehearsal & notes | Palm Beach |
| Sat 7 April 3:30-7pm | Line check Show | Palm Beach |
| Sun 8 April 3-7pm | Line check Show | Palm Beach |

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| Tue 15 May 5-8:45pm | Soundcheck 5-6pm Prep/Rehearsal/Notes 6:15-8:45pm | South Bank Parklands |
| Weds 16 May 6-8 | Line check Show | South Bank Parklands |
| Thurs 17 May 6-8pm | Line check Show | South Bank Parklands |
| Fri 18 May 6-8pm | Line check Show | South Bank Parklands |
| Sat 19 May 6-8pm | Line check Show | South Bank Parklands |

About the creative team

Composer **Corrina Bonshek** writes nature-inspired music that has been described as 'beautifully shaped and contemplative' (Clare MacClean, 2013) and 'deeply spiritual in intent' (Anne Boyd, 2002). Her music is performed regularly in Australia by soloists and ensembles (Jason Noble, Alex Raineri, Ady Ensemble, Sirius Ensemble, Charisma Ensemble, Kupka's Piano). She has strong ties to Asia, which she visits regularly for residencies, premieres and workshops with young musicians. Corrina was inaugural visiting scholar of Nirmita Institute for Young Composers in 2016, resident composer working with young Thai musicians at Burapha University International Festival of Music and Performing Arts, and her recent compositions have been premiered at Taipei International Festival of Arts, Sydney Sacred Music Festival, Bleach* Festival.

DeepBlue, *the orchestra unleashed*, comprises strings, electronics and physical theatre. Their performances combine the lush strings of an orchestra, the groove of a band, the drama of theatre, and the excitement of a circus. Since 2007 DeepBlue have developed six shows, four CDs, one DVD and received huge exposure through their live performances and TV appearances across Australia, and at festivals in the US, India, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and China. DeepBlue were finalists in one of the highest rated episodes of Australia's Got Talent 2011 and won the Australian Performing Arts Centre Association's 2009 Drover Award for Excellent Audience Response. Their YoungBlue program began with a vision to provide rural and regional young musicians an opportunity to perform with a touring orchestra. Due to its success, the program has been extended to offer week long holiday programs and tailored school workshops across Australia.

DeepBlue Reviews

"Think ELO and Nigel Kennedy's exuberant lovechild on stage. Think cello player walking backwards on stilts. Think 17 young and mobile players enthusiastically performing everything from Bowie to Rachmaninoff and you have the DeepBlue Orchestra." *Fairfax Digital Independent Weekly*

"There was quite a lot of 'Pow!', quite a lot of 'Wow!', and it was definitely 'Now'." *Australia Stage* review by Peter Bleby

“Throw non-stop choreography that illuminates conversational exchanges between instruments and theatrical realizations of string technique into the mix and this stereotype is forever wiped... The approach is immediate. Note bound, seated, reverent and retiring these determined, bright-eyed communicators are anything but.” *Australian Stage* review by Gillian Wills

DeepBlue videos

ABC Arts story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRZomvuSVg8>

DeepBlue at the 5th International World Forum on Music

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=wGtrQQw4KLA>

Dr Michael Askill (PhD – University of Queensland) is a percussionist, composer, musical director, musical ambassador and educator - an icon of Australian music, known and admired for his enduring contribution to the Australian contemporary music landscape and his original blending of Asian and Western Sounds. Before embarking on a successful independent career, he was Principal Timpanist with the Melbourne Symphony and then Principal Percussionist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. His collaboration with one of Australia’s most highly respected choreographers, Graeme Murphy, resulted in a number of ballets including *Free Radicals*, *Salome*, *Air* and *Other Invisible Forces* for Sydney Dance Company. Michael is Percussionist Specialist at the Queensland Academy - Creative Industries Campus, Lecturer in Percussion at the University of Queensland and was a featured artist at the 2016 Australian Percussion Gathering held at the Queensland Conservatorium where he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Percussive Arts Society.