



HARRIGANS LANE COLLECTIVE



Media Release, 3 Feb 2020

Music of the Piano Mill 2017-19

Harrigans Lane Collective releases three albums of new music created for the Piano Mill, documenting a series of unprecedented musical experiments from 2017-19. The Piano Mill is a steampunk tower in the forest of New South Wales purpose built to house 16 vintage upright pianos. Created by architect Bruce Wolfe, the structure is a building and fantastical musical instrument all in one. Since 2016 it has won an APRA AMCOS Art Music Award for Experimental Music, a World Architecture Award, and has inspired 8 leading Australian composers to create new musical compositions. In preparation for the 5th anniversary, Easter 2020, Harrigan's Lane Collective will release the entire archive of pieces created to date.

2017 – Pianos played with golf balls and stubbie beer bottles, a collage of Messaien's Australian birdcalls, and a musical memorial to Peter Sculthorpe feature in the Piano Mill 2017. Michael Hannan's *Landscape/Soundscape II* uses a plethora of extended techniques to create fantastically dense and vivid sound textures. In *Messaien's Birds*, Colin Noble reclaims five Australian birdcalls once collected by French musical icon Olivier Messaien, returning them to their natural habitat in the Australian bush.

2018 – An embodied Piano Mill is given voice by composers Lynette Lancini, Louise Denson, and Vanessa Tomlinson, who imagine three diverse scenarios: Lancini conceives her *megaMammal* as "a fertile mashup," a vibrant tapestry of Britannia, Australiana, and even Russian themes, unified by a rolling four-chord vamp and mesmerizing vocal refrain. Machine rhythms form the basis for Louise Denson's *Mill Music*, in which the Piano Mill comes to life as a working factory. In *Lucy and Bubbles*, Vanessa Tomlinson presents a suite of musical vignettes that draw us into her surrealist story.

2019 – The 50th anniversary of the moon landing, Buddhist and Taoist philosophy inform the Piano Mill compositions of Steve Newcomb and Alistair Noble. Newcomb references a trip to the moon in his aptly titled *Astronauts Aviary Antics*, while a cosmic sense is evoked by Alistair Noble's *Tiangong*, which is both a term used in Buddhist and Taoist thinking, and the name of a space station.

Title	Music of the Piano Mill 2017, 2018, 2019
Artists	Michael Hannan, Colin Noble, Lynette Lancini, Louise Denson, Vanessa Tomlinson, Steve Newcomb, and Alistair Noble
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