



NEW AUSTRALIAN MUSIC:

Ben is a passionate advocate and champion for new Australian music through numerous personal commissions, co-commissions, and Australian and world premieres. The below is a selection of some of the works in which he has been directly involved in the commission and / or premiere performance (Links are to video or audio recordings of the works):

- Caerwen Martin: Sticks, Leaves & Butterflies (oboe concerto) (2013)
- Caerwen Martin: Grandmother (for oboe, baglama and uilleann pipes) (2017)
- Caerwen Martin: Women of the Earth (for flute, oboe, violin, viola and cello) (2019)
<https://youtu.be/PQ5eczr-bgk>
- Caerwen Martin: The Book Beneath my Bed (for flute, oboe, violin, viola and cello) (2019)
- Melody Eotvos: House of the Beehives (for flute, oboe, film and electronics) (2015)
https://youtu.be/_DCZcHYummc
- Melody Eotvos: October in the Chair (for flute, oboe, violin, viola, cello and harp) (2017)
<https://youtu.be/P-FXiyAwCsk>
- Melody Eotvos: Street of the Four Winds (for flute, oboe, 2 violins, viola, cello and double bass) (2019) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8-k7SiVxvc>
- Johannes Luebbers: Cromulent (for oboe, violin, viola and cello) (2017)
- Johannes Luebbers: Opioid (for solo oboe and mixed jazz dectet) (2018)
<https://www.facebook.com/johannesluebbersmusic/videos/1146504995687696/>
- Johannes Luebbers: From Inner Space (for flute, oboe, violin, viola and cello) (2019)
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiqr6Ukp5QjJpt6b6cjha5MLeWqPEApiN>
- Luke Styles: Bodice and Ribbons (for flute, oboe, violin, viola and cello) (2015)
<https://vimeo.com/137933556>
- Luke Styles: Neon Highway (oboe concerto) (2019)
<https://soundcloud.com/luke-styles/neon-highway-sample>
- Vincent Plush: The Archduke and the Platypus (for oboe and harp) (2019)
- Peter de Jager: Crystals II (for oboe and piano) (2014)
- Peter de Jager: Oboe Sonatina (for oboe and piano) (2020)

- Nikki Edgar: Confirmation Bias (for flute and oboe) (2015)
https://youtu.be/gR5_QznmUZs
- Cyrus Meurant: Monuments (for solo oboe) (2016)

DIVERSE OUTPUT:

As a performer, Ben is uniquely versatile and has the unusual distinction of working with artists across jazz, chamber, orchestral, experimental and folk music. Some of the projects he has contributed to include:

- Composer and jazz artist Johannes Luebbers in his ensemble for several years including collaborative work on creating new compositions.

A video of 'Opioid' a collaborative work by Johannes Luebbers Dectet

<https://www.facebook.com/johannesluebbersmusic/posts/3017993751556613>

- He also collaborates with Ad Lib Collective and electronic music artists 'Sleep D' in the creation of new work.

A short showreel from their debut collaboration as part of Play On:

<https://www.facebook.com/playonmusicevent/videos/624581437954756/>

- He has also been collaborating with acclaimed baglama virtuoso, Ozan Toprak & uilleann pipes artist, Matthew Horsley.

A short clip of a rehearsal with the trio:

<https://www.facebook.com/BenOpieOboe/videos/435726563459390/>

- This diverse output also includes activities in remote Australia, working with First Nations artists, Rayella in Tennant Creek

A link to the album they created in Tennant Creek:

<https://music.apple.com/au/album/rayella-feat-ben-opie-erkki-veltheim-josh-stilwell/1209940350>

He has also worked with Australia's symphony orchestras, often acting in leading roles as well as jumping at composer workshop opportunities and outreach programs.

- WASO: Acting associate principal oboe / acting principal cor anglais
- DSO: Principal Oboe
- MSO: Acting associate principal oboe
- ASO: Acting principal oboe / acting second oboe
- AOBO: Casual oboe
- OV: Casual oboe / cor anglais

ARTISTIC DIRECTION:

Ben is the Artistic Director of the **Peninsula Summer Music Festival**. In his two years directing this festival, he has:

- facilitated the inclusion of First Nations artists where previously there was no representation (including James Henry in 3 separate performances in 2019 and a special event at Everywhen Artspace by Eric Avery).

First Nations artist, James Henry with interdisciplinary artist, Stephanie Arnold performing in collaboration with Whistlewood Indigenous Art Gallery and Baluk Arts (urban Aboriginal community arts centre), an initiative instigated by Ben Opie:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shfreuCrG6Q>

- significant increase in works composed by non-male identifying artists: careful programming discussions with artists meant most classical performances included female and Australian representation in 2019 and 2020 (eg. Solstice Trio performed only female composed works in their 2020 concert)
- prioritised a significant increase in development of new works (eg. Unknown Mirrors created new work for their performance at Peninsula Hot Springs in 2020)
- established free events for the community:

A free outdoor musical 'promenade' in Pelican Park, Hastings:

<https://www.facebook.com/127564867296529/videos/230917954492812>

- Inclusion of interactive children's events:

Carnival of the Animals where children make instruments to be performed with the musicians:

<https://www.facebook.com/127564867296529/videos/383659942210418>

<https://www.facebook.com/BenOpieOboe/videos/214279529516420/>

A free community 'big sing' with choir director Scott Buchannan

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=3184854504900868&set=pcb.3184854844900834>

Ben is also the co-founder of **Inventi Ensemble** which in the space of 6 years has grown to become one of the most prolific chamber music ensembles in the country with over 50 events per year including concert recitals, children's shows, outreach workshops, new commissions and establishing new concert series.

Please follow the link which outlines highlights of the work they have been doing:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/y2sx0gqllw9omv9/1%3A%20INVENTI%20ENSEMBLE%20INFORMATION.pdf?dl=0>

OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

- As creative director of 'Sound Matters', Ben designed a workshop to train ANAM musicians in interactive outreach workshops for visually impaired children. In collaboration with Melbourne Recital Centre and Vision Australia, the musicians participate in a 'training' session with Ben and members of Vision Australia. They then collaborate to create an actual workshop for children with visual impairment.
- Ben was invited to participate in the Flying Carpet Festival in Turkey in 2019, supporting Syrian refugee children through creating interactive music workshops for them including creating music instruments from found materials. He was the only Australian artist to be invited in 2019 and plans to return when it is safe to do so.

Ben demonstrating the oboe to children in Nusaybin:

<https://www.facebook.com/flyingcarpetfestival/videos/2110321895757630/>

- Ben, through Invention Ensemble, facilitated twice weekly interactive music workshops in Melbourne's immigration detention centres from 2014 to 2017. These workshops have continued still and remain an important activity in the centres. This was a unique initiative they established because of their passion for creating and sharing music with those who do not have access.

An article on the work they were doing in immigration detention centres:

<https://www.limelightmagazine.com.au/transcending-transforming-and-transporting-music-behind-bars/>

MASTERCLASSES AND TEACHING

- Ben regularly runs masterclasses and workshops nationally and internationally at double reed society events where he demonstrates extended techniques on the oboe and exposing new ears to Australian Music.

Demonstrating extended oboe techniques at the New Zealand Double Reed Society Conference:

<https://www.facebook.com/benjamin.opie.9/posts/667813170015028>

- He has been invited numerous times to tutor Australian Youth Orchestra National Music Camps and Young Symphonists program and has been the expert woodwind specialist on the audition panel.
- He regularly mentors young artists either as a tutor for organisations such as Melbourne Youth Music or the Melbourne Conservatorium of music. He is also often engaged to lecture on career diversification, entrepreneurialism and professional development at a tertiary level.
- Ben facilitates a monthly 'Oboe Academy' offering a free session where oboists of all ages can come and learn about the oboe and its world. This ranges from period instruments, to new Australian works, reed making, extended techniques and a general understanding of music style and interpretation. Oboists from as far as Albury, Ballarat and Gippsland travel to these sessions, demonstrating the enthusiasm and demand for these activities
- He is the main teacher in oboe at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and his students have gone on to professional careers as well as higher learning internationally. Including Giselle Gabriels who went on to work in the Estonian National Opera and is now undertaking her masters with leading European oboist Jean-Louis Capezalli.

MEDIA:

The below link will take you to a selection of media reviews:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/q20utywajbbkqie/AAAHEt7bdZiv1_MtAXQj0PqIa?dl=0