

Anne Norman B.Mus., Dip.Ed., MA (ethnomusicology)

Anne is a composer, improviser, performer and instrument designer working in a diverse range of music creation. Recent compositions include 3 movements of her on going shakuhachi suite entitled 'Life' written for 6 shakuhachi. This was commissioned by Japan's premier shakuhachi sextet under the patronage of Living National Treasure Yokoyama Katsuya and the auspices of the International Shakuhachi Research Centre in Japan. 'We Lose Things' - a piece for shakuhachi, double bass and power pole bells commissioned by the Australian Asia Foundation; 'Dance in Our Memory' for choir & strings commissioned by Woodleigh School; 'Sylvia's Chalice' for the Federation Bells commissioned by the Melbourne Festival & Melbourne City Council; 'Heat Wave' a piece for massed shakuhachi commissioned by the Organising Committee of the 3rd Australian Shakuhachi Festival and broadcast on the ABC.

Anne has directed five seasons of shows for the outdoor program of the Melbourne Festival, and Artistically Directed the *Nadoya Music and Dance Company* - exploring a theatrical collaboration between dancers and musicians. Anne composes for and performs in a number of instrumental duos and is a member of the ensemble *Jouissance* which recontextualises early European chant in a contemporary framework. *Jouissance* has performed in Festivals in Australia, Norway & Estonia, and has been invited to perform again in Europe in 2005. Anne also works as artist in residence in primary and secondary schools, touring all states of Australia through 'Nexus Arts'. In 2001, Anne toured Victoria and SA with the duo *Questing Spirit* featuring Anne on shakuhachi with Peter Hagen on harpsichord. The duo performs contemporary Australian works, along with adaptations of Japanese and Baroque repertoire. In 2002 *Questing Spirit* were invited to perform for the Prime Minister of Japan in Sydney, and in 2004 they performed at the International Shakuhachi Festival in New York.

Originally trained on flute (Bachelor of Music & DipEd at Melb Univ), Anne took up the shakuhachi (bamboo flute) in 1986 while living in Japan. During this period she began composing for Japanese instruments and vocal ensembles. She also wrote arrangements of classical and folk Japanese music for the ensemble "Kansai Wagakki Players" which included members from eight different nationalities. This ensemble received a great deal of media attention with several television appearances.

In 1990, following a Masters in Ethnomusicology at Monash University, Anne received a two year grant from the Japanese Government to continue her studies of the traditional shakuhachi repertoire at the Tokyo University of the Arts. In this period Anne's performances included two recitals of her own compositions for Japanese instruments. Audiences received her works and performances enthusiastically, and in January 1992 Anne was awarded first prize in the 'Overseas Students Music Contest of Japan' organised by the Japan International Cultural Exchange Foundation.

Anne's work 'Inner States' for solo koto (zither) was recorded by Satsuki Odamura on the Vox Australis label in 1997, the CD winning a 1998 Sounds Australian Award. Anne's composition 'Spaces' for recorder was performed by Rachel Cogan at the First Composing Women's Festival in Melbourne, & was later recorded by Greg Dikmans. It has been performed numerous times in Europe by Jeanette Hajncl. Anne has also collaborated with QLD composer / cellist Sarah Hopkins in recording a CD with the Gyuto Monks of Tibet. In January 2001, she was artistic director of the 'Sea Ceremony', a community event for the

Frankston City Council. This involved over 60 performers comprising a choir, band, dancers, poets, actor & sculptor performing on the sand and in the water. Two new compositions by Anne for choir and band were premiered at this event. Anne is currently working with a group of young drummers known as The Up Rising, composing works for power pole bells, taiko, found objects and a degree of choreographed movement and voice. As a soloist, Anne has been invited to give a shakuhachi recital in Hiroshima in 2005 and several concerts in America.

In 2002 Anne received a Sounding Out grant from the Australia Council to construct two mounting structures for her Power Pole Bells. One of these is the 'Bell Garden', an electro-acoustic installation, involving an ongoing collaboration with Smart Controller designer Angelo Fraietta.

Anne also works with other Australian composers, premiering their new works for shakuhachi. A result of these collaborations has been the extension of the instrument's tessitura and the development of new fingerings to incorporate non-ideomatic juxtapositions of pitches.

Discography: (abridged)

Breath of Creation Greg Dikmans and Anne Norman (Move 1995)

Kagome Nadoya music & dance company (AMN 1996)

Driftwood Michael Livett and Anne Norman (AMN 1996)

Hildegard's Blood Jouissance (1997)

Gift Anne Norman & Jarek Czechowicz (AMN 1998)

Sounds of Global Harmony with Sarah Hopkins & the Gyuto Monks of Tibet (2000)

Scent of Time Le Tuan Hung, Warren Burt, Ros Bandt, Anne Norman etc (AAF 2002)

Hildegard's Dead! Jouissance in concert in Adelaide (2003)

Mikres Ikones DVD of Jouissance in concert in Melbourne (2003)

Also featured on Movie sound tracks:

Heaven's Burning (dir: Craig Lahiff, music Michael Atkinson) 1997

The Goddess of 1967 (dir: Clara Law, music Jen Anderson) 2000

Sunrise at Midnight (dir. Sean O'Brien) 2001

The Way Back (dir. Samuel MacGeorge, music Elizabeth Drake) 2002

Anne has appeared on the CDs of many other artists.

For more detailed information on Anne's performances and ensembles, please refer to her website: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~amncrow>
click on her 'past gigs' button to see a listing of performances over the last 10 years.