

HALCYON BIOG (127 wds)

Halcyon is the only Australian ensemble dedicated to the performance of new and recent music for voice and instruments. Artistic directors and performers Jenny Duck-Chong (mezzo soprano) and Alison Morgan (soprano) draw together some of Australia's most esteemed chamber soloists, conductors and singers, in diverse programs of chamber music from across the globe.

Since its inception in 1998 Halcyon has emerged as an internationally recognised driving force in the promotion of new chamber music for voice, establishing a critically acclaimed concert series, commissioning and premiering numerous works by young and established composers and directing young composer workshops. Halcyon has performed in grand houses, art galleries, recital halls, at award ceremonies and festivals, held masterclasses for school and tertiary students and collaborated with many outstanding artists and ensembles.

Halcyon appears regularly on ABC Classic FM and has produced live and studio recordings of their performances. Their latest CD, *Cool Black*, features the chamber works of Rosalind Page. Future releases will include works by Elliott Gyger and Andrew Ford.

HALCYON BIOG (422 wds)

Founded in 1998 by singers Alison Morgan (soprano) and Jenny Duck-Chong (mezzo soprano), Halcyon is the only Australian ensemble dedicated to the performance of new and recent music for voice and instruments. Halcyon has emerged as an internationally recognised driving force in the promotion of new chamber music for voice, commissioning and premiering numerous works by young and established composers and directing young composer workshops.

This vibrant ensemble draws together some of Australia's most esteemed chamber soloists, conductors and singers, in diverse programs of chamber music from around the globe.

While a core group of artists perform in many of the programs, Halcyon remains flexible in its personnel, facilitating the performance of small to large scale chamber music. This adventurous and diverse programming makes for a dynamic musical experience for audiences as well as creating regular opportunities for composers to have their work premiered, broadcast and recorded. In particular, Halcyon is committed to championing new work by Australian composers.

As well as staging a critically acclaimed concert series each year, Halcyon performs in grand houses, art galleries, recital halls, at award ceremonies and festivals, holds masterclasses for school and tertiary students and collaborates with many outstanding artists and ensembles. In recognition of its achievements the ensemble has been nominated for a number of awards including Best Performance at the AMC/APRA Classical Music Awards and has commissioned and/or performed several of the nominated works for the prestigious Paul Lowin Song Cycle Award.

In 2007, together with Synergy and Ensemble Offspring, Halcyon was instrumental in mounting *Tehillim*, one of the most exciting and well-attended new music performances on the Sydney event calendar. Projects for 2008 included performances at the Four Winds Festival (Bermagui) and the Aurora Festival (Western Sydney), a celebratory performance to mark the ensemble's 10th Birthday and a CD release, *Cool Black*, featuring the music of award winning composer Rosalind Page. Highlights for 2009 include performing Reich's *Tehillim* at the Melbourne Recital Centre, concerts at the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival and for *Musica Viva* and in the *House Music* series at Government House Sydney, as well as appearances at prestigious new music events the Peggy Glanville-Hicks Address and the Paul Lowin Awards. In their own 2009 series, Halcyon has premiered new works by Australian composers Nicholas Vines and Andrew Ford.

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contemporary
art
music



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