



Invitation to participate

Song to the Ocean

Hervey Bay Whale Festival July 2021

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the Butchulla Peoples, traditional custodians of these lands of the Fraser Coast region.

Dr Corrina Bonshek composer and creative director, DeepBlue contemporary string ensemble, master percussionist Dr Michael Askill, Maori sonic weaver & vocalist WHAIA (pronounced *Fire*) and shah kaman player Greta Kelly are collaborating on *Song to the Ocean*, which will be performed at the Hervey Bay Whale Festival on 29 & 30 July, 2021.

Violin, viola, cello and percussion students aged 13-17 years with 3rd grade AMEB (or equivalent) level or above are invited to join the production which will involve 12 DeepBlue string players, 24 YoungBlue string players, Dr Askill, Skylar Sansome, 5 gong players, and Whaia. The cost of participation is free but participants are required to attend every call.

In late May participants will receive the sheet music and audio recording of their 30 minute part and are encouraged to learn it with their teacher. In late July they will participate in the *Song to the Ocean* residency, involving after-school workshops/rehearsal to develop playing ability and expressive performance techniques facilitated by DeepBlue, Dr Askill and Whaia. Immediately following the residency participants will perform two consecutive evenings as part of this professional production.

[Register to participate](#)

Or if you have a printed invitation type this URL to access the form: <https://forms.gle/Y4xgnFFaDMRvRiHA>

Song to the Ocean is co-commissioned by Fraser Coast Tourism & Events and Fraser Coast Regional Council, with assistance of the Australian Government through the Festivals Australia program and the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), a partnership between the Queensland Government and Fraser Coast Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

Key dates

Date/times	Activity	Location
16/05/2021	Registrations close	
19/05/2021	Participants notified of their involvement	
31/05/2021	Sheet music and audio recording emailed	
Mon 26/07 3:30-6:30pm	String Workshop 1	Fraser Coast Anglican College
Tue 27/07 3:30-6:30pm 3:30-5:30pm	String Workshop 2 or Gong Workshop 1	Fraser Coast Anglican College Stage, Seafront Oval
Wed 28/07 3:30-6:45pm 5:30-8:00pm	Rehearsal + Tech run or Gong players arrive + Tech run	Seafront Oval, Hervey Bay
Thurs 29/07 3:30-7:30pm	Dress rehearsal & Performance 1	Seafront Oval, Hervey Bay
Fri 30/07 4:45-7:30pm	Performance 2	Seafront Oval, Hervey Bay

What you will gain:

- Music expression skills
- Hands on experience alongside professional musicians
- Industry contacts
- Certificate of participation

To be involved:

1. [Register to participate](https://forms.gle/Y4xgnFFfaDMRvRiHA) <https://forms.gle/Y4xgnFFfaDMRvRiHA>
2. Put the dates and times in your calendar
3. Invite your family and friends to the 29 & 30 July free performances of *Song to the Ocean*
4. Learn the music (ask your teacher for help and listen to the audio recordings as you practice)
5. Attend the two string workshops (Mon & Tue), or attend one gong workshop (Tue)
6. Attend the rehearsal / tech run (Wed)
7. Perform in the two shows (Thur & Fri)

About the project

Song to the Ocean is a love-song to the extraordinary marine life that visits the Fraser Coast. It is an immersive, outdoor music installation suited to a socially distanced audience. Audiences are invited to enter a circle of awe-inspired light sculptures, stroll among the orchestra and experience music and nature sounds up-close. Or they can sit and experience the work in picnic mode with live feed of the show interspersed with cinematic marine life images.

Working alongside Fraser Coast Regional Council and Fraser Coast Tourism and Events, this workshop driven project will connect with local high schools to develop the musical component of the project, and the broader community to develop the artistic component of the project.

Song to Ocean is an adaptation of *Song to the Earth* which was performed at Bleach* Festival / Commonwealth Games Arts and Culture Program and Flowstate Festivals in 2018 involving young Gold Coast musicians. Click here to view a [Song to the Earth Highlights video](#).

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.

Emerging from research begun in 2005, award-winning **DeepBlue** reinvents the classical string ensemble combining artistic excellence with electronics, choreography and perceptive, insightful repertoire to engage new audiences. Their national and international collaborations demonstrate passion for diversity and innovation and their four albums, TV appearances and extensive touring have earned them huge national and international exposure.

Through YoungBlue, their unique education program, and by engaging diverse composers DeepBlue dedicate themselves to keeping classical music current.

Follow [DeepBlue on Facebook to keep up with the project news](#).

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 realisations 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>

DeepBlue's YoungBlue program:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6y3c-MCjrs>

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.

WHAIA is a Maori Sonic Weaver, vocalist, multi-instrumentalist and retreat facilitator for Kurawaka Australia Empowering Women Through Culture & The Arts. For the past decade she has been walking with an array of Crystal Singing Bowls and Taonga Puoro/Traditional First Nations Instruments creating her own unique cradle of embedded healing phonics. Celebrating her culture and connection to source, she activates an ancient primordial voice that will no doubt rumble your inner jungle, soothe your bones and shake loose that which can serve your awakening process.

Born in Hawkes Bay a Ngati Kahugnunu woman, her relationship to the Whale runs deep within her cultural bearings. She was raised in the outback desert of Yindjibarndi country in the Pilbara, far North Western Australia. The arid harsh beauty of the land and her Aboriginal grandmother shaped her story from the age of 6. In 2012, Whaia made the pilgrimage to the iconic Hervey Bay 'Sounding Bowl' of K'gari K'gari or as it is also known as Fraser Island with Traditional Aboriginal Elder Bunna Lawrie - Whale Song & Dance Man of the Mirning people. Touring Australia wide for over 4 years with the band 'Bunna Lawrie & The Whaledreamers', she sang the whale song lines across the country from Arnhem Land and the Daintree rainforest in Cairns, to Melbourne Didgeridoo Festival and Woodford Folk Festival.

With a depth of ochre in her skin and mana in her bones, she's a true warrior woman with a soft yet powerful delivery, entwining one's heart, body and spirit. <https://whaiacreation.com/>



Brisbane based DeepBlue with YoungBlue string players and percussionists from the Gold Coast at the premiere of *Song to the Earth* in 2019

Song to the Ocean is an adaptation of *Song to the Earth* which was co-commissioned by City of Gold Coast, Bleach*Festival and the Queensland Government through the Regional Arts Development Fund and the Office of the Commonwealth Games and other funding sources, and premiered at Bleach* at Festival 2018.

Click here to view a [Song to the Earth Highlights video](#).