



Invitation to participate
Song to the Earth

Redland Performing Arts Centre 2022

Presented by Corrina Bonshek & Collaborators and DeepBlue

*In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the Quandamooka Peoples,
traditional custodians of these lands.*

Dr Corrina Bonshek composer and artistic director, DeepBlue contemporary string ensemble and master percussionist Dr Michael Askill invite you to perform with them at the Redlands Performing Arts Centre on 21 and 22 May

We invite violin, viola, cello and percussion students aged 13-17 years at 3rd grade AMEB level (or equivalent) to register to participate in the production. You will be part of YoungBlue, a group of 30 string players mentored in small groups by DeepBlue musicians, or one of 4 percussion students mentored by Dr Michael Askill. Your teachers will help you learn your part and we'll send you a recording of the music to help you practice at home.

The cost of participation is free but participants are required to attend every call. All activities are located at Redlands Performing Arts Centre 2/16 Middle St, Cleveland.

In March we'll send you sheet music and an audio recording of your part. On Sunday 1 and 15 May you'll participate in the *Song to the Earth* string workshops to develop your playing ability and expressive performance techniques facilitated by DeepBlue. If you're a percussionist you will attend the gong workshop facilitated by Dr Askill on Thursday 19 May. On Friday 20 May you will have a dress rehearsal, and on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 May you'll perform alongside DeepBlue and Michael Askill as part of this professional production.

[Register to participate](#)

Key dates for *Song to the Earth*

Date/times	Activity	Location
Sun 1 May 10am-2:30pm	String Workshop 1	Redland Performing Arts Centre 2/16 Middle St, Cleveland
Sun 15 May 10am-2:30pm	String Workshop 2	
Thurs 19 May 3:30-5pm	Gong Workshop	
Fri 20 May String players' arrival time: 3:00-7:00pm Percussionists' arrival time: 3:30-7:30pm	String rehearsal + Dress Rehearsal Gong players arrive + Dress Rehearsal	
Sat 21 May 1:30-7:00pm 3:00-7:30pm	Strings players tech run + Performance Gong players arrive + Performance	
Sun 22 May 3:30-7:00pm 5:30-7:30pm	Strings Players arrive + Performance Gong players arrive + Performance	

What you will gain:

- Music expression and movement skills
- Hands on experience alongside professional musicians
- Experience with in-ear monitoring and costuming
- Performance confidence
- Industry contacts
- Certificate of participation

To be involved:

1. [Register to participate](#)
2. Put the dates and times in your calendar
3. Invite your family and friends to the free performances of *Song to the Earth*
4. Learn the music (ask your teacher for help and listen to the audio recordings as you practice)
5. Attend the two string workshops (1 & 15 May), or attend one gong workshop (19 May)
6. Attend the rehearsal / dress run (20 May)
7. Perform in the show (21 & 22 May)

About the project

Join acclaimed Australian string ensemble DeepBlue, master percussionist Michael Askill and Greta Kelly on Persian violin for a euphoric musical experience under the night sky. Illuminated by an awe-inspiring light installations and featuring an original score by contemporary classical composer Dr Corrina

Bonshek, *Song to the Earth* is an intimate music performance inspired by patterns and cycles from nature.

Song to the Earth invites audiences on a magical journey into an otherworldly space illuminated by large-scale light sculptures, that glow in colour and intensity in response to the music. The performers all wear wonderful small-scale light installations by visual artist Tiffany Beckwith-Skinner, that evoke natural forms like fern fronds or lyrebird feathers.

DeepBlue have a physically expressive performance style that is a perfect marriage of music and movement. They use choreography to communicate the flow of music in patterns and spirals. At times, the music evokes the swirling of a flock of birds and you can see the notes being passed between the musicians around the performance space. This work is compelling in its intimacy, as audiences can experience the music up-close, right next to the players. 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 Taiwan International Festival of Arts, Singapore Art in Your Neighbourhood Festival and 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. For more info see <https://deepblue.net.au/>

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

DeepBlue reviews

"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'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.

Participant testimonials from past performances

Lindy Kleinschmidt, participating string teacher:

My students gained so much from this experience. They were challenged to play music that was very different to what they usually play and had to learn to listen and work with other musicians on a much higher level than any other experience they have had to date in their musical learning. For a regional area such as Hervey Bay, where such experiences are so limited, this was a golden opportunity for my students. I am sure they have been inspired to continue with instrumental learning, and I have seen a significant increase in motivation to practice and musicality in the students who participated in the workshops and performance.

The value to the music students from this wonderful cultural event will be long lasting.

Ian Slater, Teacher Fraser Coast Anglican College

Thank you so very much for including Fraser Coast Anglican College in such an amazing experience. The students are still buzzing about it, and it meets my ideals perfectly - great music, immersive and combining the Arts so beautifully. Thank you again.

YoungBlue violinist

I had so much fun trying something new and different. The interactive performance was so cool and the light sculptures looked amazing. I love trying new things. This helped me think of my playing differently and I liked the connection to our environment.

Participating string teacher:

The students had a fantastic time. I think it was great to play in something that was a little less traditional for them. It is something that they would not normally have a chance to do in school or within our regional community. Thanks so much for the opportunity!

YoungBlue parent and audience member

Walking amongst the musicians at night, with the mixture of lights, sounds, and music was just magical. It was really effective to be amongst the musicians as they passed the notes along the circle around me, and gave a real sense of immersion in the whole experience.



DeepBlue and YoungBlue string players and percussionists from the Gold Coast at the premiere of *Song to the Earth*, 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](#).