

Angus Davison

Australian composer and music educator

Regular bio (<250 words)

Angus Davison composes music with 'bright energy' (Limelight), 'considerable poignancy' (The Mercury), and 'a respect for sound in itself' (Cut Common). His music is often inspired by human relationships with nature, inviting listeners to deepen their fascination for the world around them. Recent works have explored topics such as the religious life of worms, the absence of majestic views, thermonuclear fusion, and Newton's laws of motion.

Angus holds a Bachelor of Music from the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music and First Class Honours from the Sydney Conservatorium where he is studying for a Masters degree. His awards include the Don Kay Scholarship, an Honours Scholarship, a Research Training Program Stipend, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Student Composition Prize, second place in the Jean Bogan and Willoughby Symphony young composer awards, and finalist in the international Tampa Bay Symphony Orchestra Prize. He has been selected for development programs including the Ensemble Offspring Hatched Academy, the Australian Youth Orchestra Composer Program, Composing in the Wilderness, and the Ku-Ring-Gai Philharmonic Composer Program.

Angus' music has been performed in Australia, Europe, and the US. Performers and commissioners of his work include the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Offspring, Corvus, Hobart City Band, the Ady Ensemble, the Huon String Quartet, Barega Saxophone Quartet, Backstage Music, Musica North, Michael Lampard, Sonia Lifshitz, and Henry Justo.

Angus is also a music educator, conductor, and pianist. Based in Sydney, he tutors at the Sydney Conservatorium, conducts the Macquarie University Symphony Orchestra, and plays piano with improvisation collective Ensemble Onsobl.

Short bio (<100 words)

Angus Davison composes music with 'bright energy' (Limelight), 'considerable poignancy' (The Mercury), and 'a respect for sound in itself' (Cut Common). His music often explores human relationships with nature, inviting listeners to deepen their fascination for the world around them.

Angus holds First Class Honours from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music where he is currently studying for his Masters on a full scholarship. His music has been performed in Australia, Europe, and the US. Performers and commissioners of his work include the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Ensemble Offspring.

Long bio (<500 words)

Australian composer Angus Davison (b.1993) composes music with 'bright energy' (Limelight), 'considerable poignancy' (The Mercury), and 'a respect for sound in itself' (Cut Common). His music is often inspired by human relationships with nature, inviting listeners to deepen their fascination for the world around them. Recent works have explored topics such as the religious life of worms, the absence of majestic views, thermonuclear fusion, and Newton's laws of motion. His music is direct, thoughtful, and has a refreshing sense of play.

Angus grew up in a musical family, the son of a professional cellist. He commenced piano lessons at age nine and immediately began to compose. He received his first formal composition lessons during high school and went on to pursue tertiary studies. Angus studied with Maria Grenfell, Russell Gilmour, and Don Kay at the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music, attaining a Bachelor of Music in 2015. He then studied with Michael Smetanin at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, graduating in 2016 with First Class Honours. Currently, Angus is studying for a Masters degree at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music under the supervision of Matthew Hindson.

Angus's scholarships and awards include the Don Kay Scholarship for Music Composition, a University of Sydney Honours Scholarship, a Research Training Program Stipend, First Place in the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Student Composition Prize, Second Place in the Jean Bogan Prize for Piano Composition (Youth), Second Place in the Willoughby Symphony Young Composer Award, and finalist in the international Tampa Bay Symphony Orchestra Prize. He has been selected for competitive composer development programs including the Ensemble Offspring Hatched Academy, the Australian Youth Orchestra Composer Program, Composing in the Wilderness, and the Ku-Ring-Gai Philharmonic Composer Program.

Angus's music has been performed in Australia, Europe, and the US. Performers and commissioners of his music include: the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music Orchestra, the Ady Ensemble, Hobart City Band, Ensemble Offspring, Corvus, the Huon String Quartet, Barega Saxophone Quartet, Spiral, the Tasmanian Clarinet Quartet, Note-Aurius, Derwent Strings, the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra, Backstage Music, Musica North, the Tasmanian Composers Festival, Michael Lampard, Jeremy Boulton, Rohana OMalley, Emily Sheppard, Sonia Lifshitz, Henry Justo, and Jack Barnes. He has composed incidental music for theatre and scored short films.

Alongside his work as a composer, Angus is an enthusiastic music educator. He has taught piano, music theory, and composition at primary schools, high schools, independent music schools, and privately. In 2013, he was resident with Hobart's Combined Primary Schools String Ensemble through the Department of Education's Artists in Schools Program. From 2017-18, he was Operations Coordinator of the String Orchestra Program at Sydney Youth Orchestras. Since 2019, Angus has tutored classes in music theory and history at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He conducts the Macquarie University Symphony Orchestra and plays piano with improvisation collective Ensemble Onsobl.

Bios current to February 2021