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Projects in Cross-Cultural Music Composition

by

Anton Killin

A thesis and portfolio

submitted to the New Zealand School of Music
in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Music in Composition

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ABSTRACT

The creation of music cross-culturally is a rich, cutting-edge field in contemporary music studies. This thesis examines the practice of cross-cultural music composition through the lens of the tradition of Western art music and my own perspective as a composer representing that tradition. This portfolio comprises original compositions for various musical instrumentations including Indonesian gamelan and Chinese *yangqin*, and which utilise a range of technical and contextual approaches that are described in the thesis. Reference is made to historic precedents (mainly twentieth-century) including a case study of one composer (Lou Harrison), in order to give a context to my own work and musical thinking.

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