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Projects in Cross-Cultural Music Composition

by

Anton Killin

A thesis and portfolio

Master of Music in Composition

in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

submitted to the New Zealand School of Music

2012

New Zealand School of Music
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 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. 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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