

An abstract drawing of a human torso, rendered in blue and red lines. The drawing is composed of numerous overlapping, scribbled lines that create a sense of movement and complexity. The blue lines form the primary outline and internal structure, while the red lines add depth and contrast. The overall style is gestural and expressive, reminiscent of a sketch or a digital drawing. The background is a light, warm yellowish-tan color.

CURIOSITIES

chamber music by
Eve Duncan

move

CURIOSITIES A

1. **the sun behind it, burning it...** for solo harp (2'02)
Performed by Marshall McGuire
2. **Kyriotetes** for solo cello (7'51)
Performed by Alister Barker
3. **Dragonfly** for percussion ensemble (2'06)
Performed by Speak Percussion conducted by Eugene Ughetti
4. **Runner of Light** for string ensemble and didjeridu (5'39)
Performed by the Australian National Academy of Music String Ensemble and Amos Roach (didjeridu), conducted by Mark Knoop
5. **Butterfly** for percussion ensemble (4'07)
Performed by Speak Percussion conducted by Eugene Ughetti
6. **The Bee Dance** for solo vibraphone (6'18)
Performed by Peter Neville
7. **Mosquito** for percussion ensemble (3'18)
Performed by Speak Percussion conducted by Eugene Ughetti
8. **Buddha Fantasy** for solo guitar (4'04)
Performed by Stefan Feingold
9. **Clarice Beckett Mornings I** for oboe, viola and harp (1'51)
Performed by Daffyd Camp (oboe), Merewyn Bramble (viola), Megan Reeve (harp)
10. **Clarice Beckett Mornings II** for oboe, viola and harp (2'42)
Performed by Daffyd Camp (oboe), Merewyn Bramble (viola), Megan Reeve (harp)
11. **Tiger Snake** for soprano and chamber ensemble (14'48)
Poem by Lisa Bellea, performed by Deborah Kayser (soprano), Mardi McSullea (flute), James Wilkinson (trombone), Julia Ryder (cello), Nick Tsiavos (contrabass), Peter Neville (percussion), the Australian National Academy of Music String Ensemble and conducted by Mark Knoop

CURIOSITIES B

1. **Wave to the Depths I** - for solo piano (5'59)
Performed by Michael Kieran Harvey
2. **Wave to the Depths II** - for solo piano (7'40)
Performed by Michael Kieran Harvey
3. **The Crab Feast** for piano and percussion (10'03)
Performed by Danae Killian (piano), Steven Fitzgerald (percussion)
4. **Exusiai** for solo organ (11'29)
Performed by Wolfram Graf
5. **Salamanders** for solo piano (1'49)
Performed by Danae Killian
6. **Gnomes** for solo piano (4'25)
Performed by Danae Killian
7. **Undines** for solo piano (3'52)
Performed by Danae Killian
8. **Sylphs** for solo piano (4'09)
Performed by Danae Killian
9. **Ariel** for piano and percussion (6'21)
Performed by Danae Killian (piano), Peter Neville (timpani)

CURIOSITIES A

the sun behind it, burning it...

*Summer's life ends
and the blood-coloured poppy,
the sun behind it, burning it
to transcendence,
is a substance close to flame,
and all life hovers
on the edge of vision.
Light and matter woven together
rise as sap in fast-growing plants,
like burnt sugar streaming towards the sun*

The above extract from *The Simplest of Things*, by Australian poet Esther Theiler inspired a work for harpist Marshall McGuire

Kyriotetes

In esoteric cosmology the Kyriotetes are Spirits of Wisdom. They are connected with the earth's astral body, evident in the changing seasons and weather. Sensitive amphibians such as frogs and toads echo these changes. The Kyriotetes played an important role in the creation of the cosmos, by their gift of virtue that led to the arising of light. Composed for Australian cellist Alister Barker.

Dragonfly

Composed for Speak Percussion. Dragonflies are attracted to the light upon the surface of the water as they journey along it. Hovering

with intensity, then moving large distances, the dragonfly is closely accompanied by an enthusiastic fire spirit.

Runner of Light

Composed at the request of Tom E. Lewis for his F# didjeridu, the work is a rhapsodic exploration of the battle between the creative spiritual forces of Australia, exemplified in the Rainbow Serpent of the Australian Aborigines, with the forces of materialism in modern Australia.

Butterfly

The butterfly is composed almost entirely of light, and as it flutters it continually sends spiritualized earthly matter into the cosmos, creating a butterfly corona around the earth. Its coloured wings are created by interplay of the forces of Saturn with those of the sun. Upon its death, the butterfly sends a fine and flaming spiritualized substance out into eternity.

The Bee Dance

Rudolf Steiner's lectures on bees give vibrant pictures of the fantastic activities of these insects:

... The eyes of bees are disturbed by the birth of a new queen, which gradually forces the frenzied bees to fly away to form a new hive . . . The drones desire to mate with the queen bee and follow her flight towards the sun, falling to their death after consummation. The worker bees make honey in their

symmetrical six-sided combs...

Mosquito

The planets influence the development of the mosquito, with the Moon, Venus and Mercury raying forces into the larvae, and those of Jupiter penetrate into the developing chrysalis. The mosquito is compelled towards humans, whose blood it desires – at the risk of death by swatting!

Buddha Fantasy

The chanting of Buddhist monks one autumn day in a monastery high in the Himalayas in Ladakh inspired this fantasy for Swiss guitarist Stefan Feingold.

Clarice Beckett Mornings

Two trio movements arose at the request of Catherine Skipper for music for her screenplay on the life of early twentieth century Australian artist, Clarice Beckett. Her paintings are suffused with sun, time, water and colour.

Movement I – Central Australia is the site of a vanished inland sea. In winter the sun shines gently over a landscape wherein geographical permanence has led to rocks remaining virtually unchanged for sixty thousand years, as the continent slowly ambles towards the equator.

Movement II – Composed when Venus was transiting the Sun, an event that historically sent Captain Cook to the Southern

Hemisphere, this work is inspired by another excerpt from Esther Theiler's poem *The Simplest of Things*.

*and all life hovers
on the edge of vision.
Light and matter woven together
rise as sap in fast-growing plants,
like burning sugar streaming towards the sun
as if like Icarus it would burst into the sky
staining it with the juice of its veins.
In this field of light, form loses contour,
distance is lost...*

Tiger Snake

Aboriginal poet Lisa Bellear (1961–2006) offered this poem to be set to music for *Tiger Snake*.

A Found Poem

*Aboriginal hearts
Aboriginal songs
Afraid to open our mouths
Afraid, too
Alcohol
Ambition, hatred, division
Ancestors*

*Uncle
Ulupna tribe
Unkindness*

*Nerve wracked
Never forget
Natural instincts*

*Terrified
Terrible disturbance
Tiger Snake
Tribal Days
Influenza
Intermarrying
Inwardly timid
Empty
Earthen floors
Expectantly
Strange blackfellows
Spirit men
Snake, huge
Sneaking suspicion*
by Lisa Bellear

The work was commissioned by Anna Monea for *Rhapsody of Motion*, an artistic exploration of issues surrounding the advent of Australian Federation, for the Centenary of Federation celebrations in 2001

CURIOSITIES B

Wave to the Depths

Composed for Michael Kieran Harvey, this work explores myths about water.

Movement I - The Spirit on the Water

A Spirit moves on the face of the water as the earth is created. Millions of years later the Spirit is united with the earth, and once again moves into the earth's waterways - the mists, vapours, rivers and oceans.

Movement II - The Birth of Water

In this myth about the creation of water, mighty Spirits of Will are enraptured by beautiful Spirits of Light, and offer up their courage and will as a gift. Some of this is accepted, but some is rejected so that the Spirits of Light might gain Eternity. The rejected gift of courage builds up, like sacrificial incense, and as it compounds it gradually densifies and becomes water.

The Crab Feast

*There is no getting close
than this. My tongue slips into
the furthestmost, sweetest corner
of you. I know all.*

now all your secrets.

*When the shell
cracked there was nothing
between us. I taste moonlight*

(from *The Crab Feast* by David Malouf)

David Malouf's courageous and incisive poem personifies two lovers as crabs, and then explores frightening, tender and illuminating aspects of sexuality and love.

Exusiai

Exusiai was composed at the request of Michael Kurtz for the organ in the Goethaenum, Switzerland. This is a fantasy upon the Exusiai, or the Spirits of Form in esoteric cosmology; in the very distant future they will guide humans through the chaotic passing away of the earth and the arising of new worlds.

Salamanders

Salamanders, Gnomes, Undines and Sylphs were composed as a sonata for Danae Killian and were recorded at the Goethaenum, Switzerland. Salamanders are spirits of fire, that enthusiastically follow flying insects.

Gnomes

Gnomes are scathing towards humans, whom they observe to be lacking in the ability to sniff in the wisdom of the cosmos. They can move quickly through stone, metal and sheets of rock. The growing of the full moon alarms them. They hold up shields to protect themselves from its disturbing light.

Undines

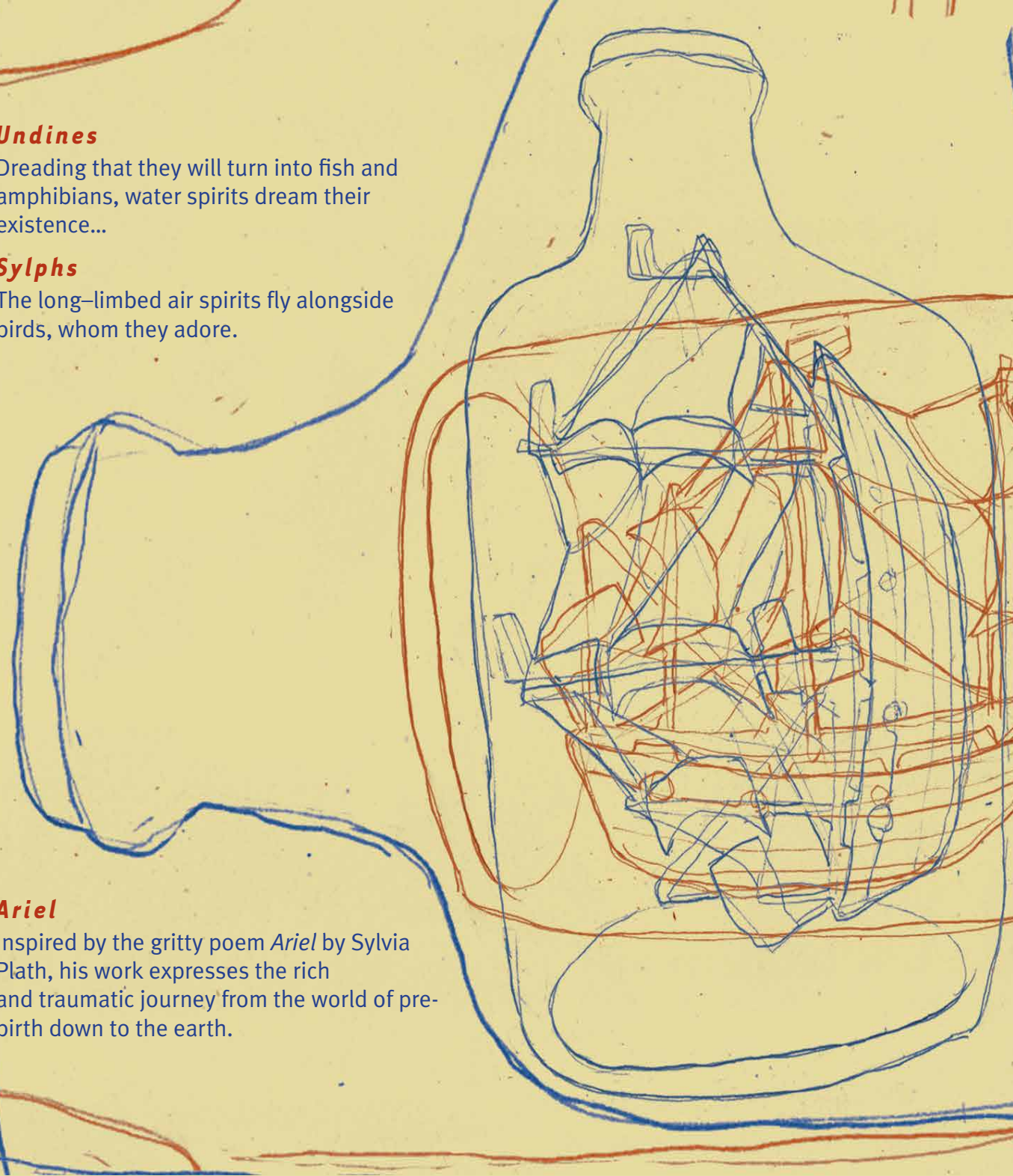
Dreading that they will turn into fish and amphibians, water spirits dream their existence...

Sylphs

The long-limbed air spirits fly alongside birds, whom they adore.

Ariel

Inspired by the gritty poem *Ariel* by Sylvia Plath, his work expresses the rich and traumatic journey from the world of pre-birth down to the earth.





Recording by Michael Hewes, Vaughan McAlley, David Collins, Les Craythorn,
Duncan Yardley, Richard Garvin, KMD Gunther Michael Götsche.
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To my family – John, Siri, Mem, Paul, Dave and Oliver.
Thanks to Sid Cairns

Thanks to The University of Queensland Press for permission to reproduce
the extract from David Malouf's *The Crab Feast*.

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recordings reproduced under license from ABC-FM.

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permission of the Music Faculty of the University of Melbourne.

Exusiai was recorded at St Michaels Church, Schlüchtern. The organ was
built by Schuke, Germany.

Kyriotetes, Undines, The Bee Dance and Wave to the Depths were
recorded at Move Records studio.

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www.move.com.au

