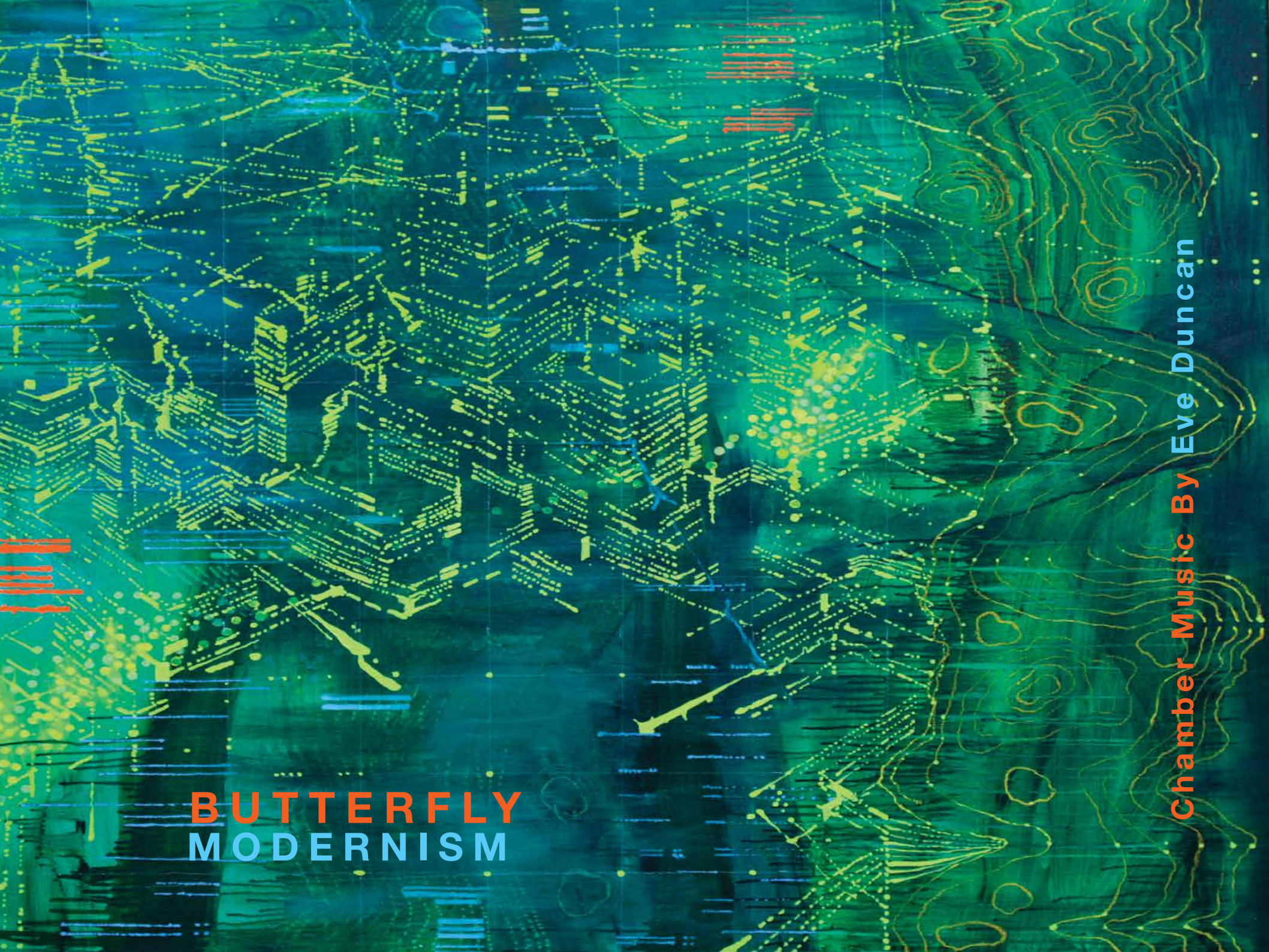

BUTTERFLY MODERNISM

Chamber Music By Eve Duncan

BUTTERFLY MODERNISM CD 1

1. **The Butterfly House** (2011) for piano quintet (7’07)
2. **Butterfly Modernism** (2011) for piano quintet ((10’13)
3. **Madonna and Child with Goldfinch** (2008)
   – for mezzo-soprano & string quartet (6’57)
4. **Below the Star Stretched Sky** (2006)
   – for trombone & string quartet (4’49)
5. **The Titans** (2008) – for flute, viola & kayageum (4’59)
6. **Welcome** (2005) – for violoncello duo (6’55)
7. **Seahorses** (2009) for percussion quartet (4’15)
8. **Time and the Tides** (2009) for percussion quartet (10’16)

BUTTERFLY MODERNISM CD 2

1. **Wave to the Depths II** (2003) – for piano (12’17)
2. **The Submerging City** (2007) – for violoncello & piano (4’23)
3. **Europa** (2010) for contrabass & piano (4’28)
4. **Dissolving Atoms: Freedom and Love** (2007) for piano quintet (3’06)
5. **Wisdom, Will, Love** (2007) for piano quintet (4’01)
6. **The Arc of the Day** (2007) for piano quintet (4’13)
7. **Why People Love the Rose** (2007) for piano quintet (2’44)
8. **Dynamis I. Maestoso con Vaghezza** (1998) for violin & piano (5’49)
9. **Dynamis II. Slancia Vivace** (1998) for violin & piano (3’09)
10. Dynamis III. Scherzando (1998) for violin & piano (3’29)
11. Iceland (1996) – for violoncello & CD (12’49)

PERFORMERS

Michael Kieran Harvey
Speak Percussion
Silo String Quartet
Deborah Kayser
Barrie Webb
Aeri Ji
Danae Killian
Alister Barker
Chien-Hsui Ong
Amit Dolberg
Ben Robertson
Tim Veldman
Rachel Atkinson
Sanna Tavares
Young Jung Kim
So-Yun Kim

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BUTTERFLY MODERNISM
BY EVE DUNCAN

The Butterfly House

The Butterfly House is the nickname for the iconic 1950s modernist beach house designed by architects Chancellor and Patrick, also called the McCraith House. Perched high on the Mornington Peninsular and overlooking Port Phillip Bay, it is a reminder of summer holidays, with adults chatting on the verandah in the evenings and children sleeping in bunk beds after a long day at the beach. Its butterfly shape encapsulates postwar optimism, with angles of a distinctive 'W' shape and triangular sliding glass doors. The linear and angular proportions on the architectural plans are given a direct parallel in the musical elements. It is an architectural gem, and a reminder of the large amount of Australian modernist architecture at the time in Melbourne and its surrounds.

Butterfly Modernism

Flinders House (2010) by WoodMarsh Architects is a graceful and dramatic architectural response to the spectacular Bass Strait coastline. It marks a change in the early twenty first century towards non-linear organic forms in architecture. Stone and concrete walls, and curved walls and ceilings have been incorporated, and the aerial outline of a butterfly shape resulted in undulating walls and a magical atmosphere. The cyclical elements in the design are evoked in the music in a passacaglia. The mathematics in the architectural plans, the compass aspect points to north, south, east and west and the changing tide levels at nearby Flinders are all given parallels in the music.

Madonna and Child with Goldfinch

Australian novelist and poet David Malouf evokes the Renaissance world of the Italian Madonna and Child and an apocalyptic future with liveliness, humour and rich imagery.

Madonna and Child with Goldfinch

Things are warming up, El Nino,
that cross Christ Child, is scowling up at Mother.
The goldfinch in his fist, having caught a hint
of 'changes', grows rebellious; the Child can feel it
wrangling in his grip, the tiny machine
at work behind its beak an angry alarm-clock
ticking. 'How did I get into this?' the Child
demands, 'or who got me
in?' 'You and the rest of us! Tough titty, kid,' his Mother
responds, but under her breath and keeps on smiling.

A curdled sea whelms red, shoals
of dead fish make its waters solid enough
to walk on. The earth is one. Pull
an apple from its bough and the whole garden
is touched. Growing unease like a new colour dis-
establishes the leaves, a change
of season, then each night the Weather News.
Which is not what we expected, what we believed
we'd walk in, hand in hand, when we took our first
gulp of helium blue and went trampolining up and over
the wall, on the broad path towards Gotham City.

By David Malouf

Below the Star Stretched Sky

Gazing at stars and their constellations on a clear night gave rise to this music. A shooting star was a sudden reminder of the vitality of the night sky. Are the stars alive? Does the earth look as engaging to the stars as they do to us? Composed for Barrie Webb, this work is a celebration of the joy of star gazing. Below the Star Stretched Sky gained its U.S. premier at the Weill Auditorium, Carnegie Hall, New York. Below the Star Stretched Sky is a line from a poem by Australian poet Esther Theiler.

The Titans

The Titans of the ancient Greeks live in the earth's depths. A story tells that when Christ was buried in the earth he was able to meet these fabled spirits, and could pass on knowledge about the Titans to the gods of the upper heavens. The Titans was composed for kayageum virtuoso Ji-Young Li, and the warm and earthy tone of the traditional Korean instrument. It was premiered at the National Centre for Korean Traditional Performing Arts in Seoul by kayageum virtuoso Aeri Ji.

Welcome

Australian nature can have a sense of time and space suspended. Rocks lie on the ground unchanged for sixty thousand years. The low nutrients in soil and seas and oceans surrounding Australia are counterbalanced by a vibrant atmosphere. Welcome celebrates these aspects of Australia, and it was composed for cellist Chien-Hsui Ong's first visit to Australia to perform with Alister Barker.

Dredge

Dredge was a collaboration of Eve Duncan and photographer Siri Hayes which explored issues arising from the dredging of

the bays near Melbourne in 2008. Dredging was viewed as an environmental issue as well as a metaphor for the uncovering of layers. The various sections were exhibited in Linden Gallery in St Kilda, Grantpirrie in Sydney, the Latrobe Regional Gallery in Morwell and at Gallerysmith in North Melbourne.

Seahorses

Seahorses are the indigenous sea creatures that live around Port Phillip Bay, making their habitat near piers and sea grass beds. Because they are territorial, seahorses were at risk from the dredging in the bays near Melbourne to create shipping channels. Seahorses was composed as a part of Dredge and it accompanied a super 8 film made by Siri Hayes.

Time and the Tides

The music constructs parallels in the percussion rhythm, duration, register, tonal quality and articulations with the mathematical proportions of tide changes in Westernport Bay around the winter solstice of 2008. It accompanies a film made by photographer Siri Hayes in which Aboriginal Bunnerong elder Caroline Briggs tells a story of the ancestral eagle Bunjil in the Port Phillip region. The story resonates as a warning of the dire consequences of environment neglect. The instruments include fishing sinkers, stainless steel shipping drums, shells, bottles and discarded take away containers found on the beaches. It was composed as a part of Dredge, which examined issues arising from the dredging in the bays near Melbourne.

Wave to the Depths II

The music explores a myth about the origin of water. Before the world was formed, enchanting Cherubin captivated the heart of spirits called Thrones. To show their love, the Thrones gave them their only possession, which was living courage. Some Cherubin accepted the gift, and in their acceptance Time came into the world as living spirits. Other Cherubin rejected the gift, and in doing so were granted eternity. The rejected courage built up like dense incense. It eventually condensed and turned into water. Amit Dolberg gave the European premiere of Wave to the Depths at Beth Gabriel by the Sea of Galilee. Wave to the Depths was composed for Michael Kieran Harvey.'

The Submerging City

Jon Cattapan's paintings of drowning cities evoke a sense of wonder and the surreal. They inspired this fantasy of a gradually drowning city. Large raindrops herald a deluge, which produces waves that submerge an entire city. The inhabitants don't notice, and their bustling lives continue underwater. The Submerging City was awarded first prize in the 2010 International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition (Greece).

Europa

The music celebrates the anniversary of Galileo's discovery of the four moons of Jupiter in 1610, and a little of the man himself. Europa is a smaller moon, and is completely covered in ice. Galileo was a flamboyant man who once arrived at a masked ball wearing a head dress on which Jupiter and the newly discovered moons were mounted. Europa was awarded second prize in the 2010 Recital Music Double Bass Composition Competition (Great Britain).

Four Blackboard Drawings

Four Blackboard Drawings for piano quintet was commissioned by the Rudolf Steiner Archive and Estate as part of the exhibition Imagination, Inspiration and Intuition: the Blackboard Drawings of Joseph Beuys and Rudolf Steiner held at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne in 2007. The music responds to two blackboard drawings made during lectures by Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner.

I - Dissolving Atoms: Freedom and Love

The music responds to a section of the blackboard drawing in which chalk lines connect words 'appearance', 'freedom', 'life of thinking' and 'will', all written in German. It describes a process by which the continual dissolving of atoms gives rise to the possibility of human love and freedom. The lecture, Die Bruckezwischen der Weitgeistigkeit und dem Physischen des Menschen, was given on December 19th 1920 in Dornach, Switzerland.

II - Wisdom, Will, Love,

The music responds to another part of the drawing in which the lower section is filled with descending white lines which gently curve and are arrowed. They are intersected by perpendicular curves and connect the words 'wisdom' , 'love', 'will', 'thoughts' and 'power'; also written in German. They further elaborate how human freedom and love arise through

an intersection of physical and spiritual processes.

III - The Arc of the Day

The music responds to a yellow chalk section that describes the sun's progress from east to west, and the lengthening and shortening of days in different seasons. The drawing was made during a Mystery Knowledge and Mystery Centres lecture given in London on 25 November 1923.

Why People Love the Rose

This section of the drawing shows swirls of red, pink, mauve and yellow chalk. They elaborate Steiner's explanation of how during sleep the ego and astral bodies of humans leave the physical body and move into rose plants, which allows us to relive our childhood memories.

Dynamis

Dynamis was composed for violinist Tim Veldman. It explores myths about the spirits who brought motion into the universe.

I - maestoso con vaghezza

The universe was lying in an unbearable stasis, not yet fully formed. The Dynamis were left desolate as the other spirits ignored them. They solved their dilemma by bringing change into the universe, by forming changing pictures.

II - slancio, vivace

The Dynamis gave spiritual life to humans out of the energy and vitality of the stars.

III - scherzando

The Dynamis help humans to move out of the present and to travel in time during their meditations.

Iceland

Text by Sanna Tavares

In the early nineties Swedish teenager Sanna Tavares went walking in the stark and beautiful countryside of Iceland. She climbed up a rocky waterfall, and then she slipped and fell ten metres. She lay with a broken spine at the bottom of the waterfall for two hours while a friend went for help. She tells her story to her friend Siri in a cassette letter. Iceland was composed for cellist Penny Veldman.

EVE DUNCAN

This is Eve Duncan's third CD and it heralds new approaches in her music. Architectural plans of beach houses near Melbourne have been used to create distinctive sound qualities. Cross-media collaboration with photography addresses environmental issues concerning the dredging of the bays near Melbourne. Since the premiere of *Buddha on Mars* by the National Symphony of Thailand in 2005, Eve's ongoing engagement with Asian-Pacific music has now extended to the distinctive Korean kayageum.

Eve's composition awards include the *International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition* (Greece), *Recital Music Double Bass Composition Competition* (England) and the *International Modern Music Award for Composition* (Vienna). She has served on the Executive Committee of the Asian Composers League and is a past Chairman of the Melbourne Composers League. She completed a Master of Music Composition at the University of Melbourne, Honours in Composition at Latrobe University and is currently a Doctoral candidate at the University of Western Sydney.

See: www.melbournecomposersleague.com, www.australianmusiccentre.com

BUTTERFLY MODERNSIM

Recording by Michael Hewes, Vaughan McAlley and Eyal Zaliouk
Editing by Martin Wright and Michael Hewes
Mastered by Martin Wright
Design by Melanie Hayes

Cover image Untitled Topography, 2011, Jon Cattapan, courtesy Milani Gallery, Brisbane

To my family – John, Siri, Mem, Paul, Dave, Oliver, Luella and Archie
With thanks to Stefan Mager, Gemma Cooke, and Jane Alexander

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Seahorses and Time and the Tides were recorded at the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School by Michael Hewes
The Butterfly House and Butterfly Modernism were recorded live by Michael Hewes at the Mornington Peninsular Regional Art Gallery
Four Blackboard Pieces, Europa and Dynamis were recorded at Move Studios
Wave to the Depths II was recorded at the Classical Studio, Tel Aviv, Israel

Production of the CD is supported by the Ileen Macpherson Trust.

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Poem by David Malouf, performed by Deborah Kayser and the Silo String Quartet

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Performed by Barrie Webb and the Silo String Quartet

5. **The Titans** (2008)
For flute, viola and kayageum (4'59)
Performed by So-Yun Kim (flute), Young Jung Kim (viola), Aeri Ji (kayageum)

6. **Welcome** (2005)
For violoncell0 duo (6'55)
Performed by Alister Barker (violoncello) and Chien-Hsui Wung (violoncello)

Dredge (2009)
For percussion quartet, performed by Speak Percussion
7. **Seahorses** for bells, gongs, cymbals, temple blocks, vibraphone, marimba (4'15)
8. **Time and the Tides** for fishing sinkers, shells, bottles, prayer bowls, Chinese and Japanese gongs, wind gongs, Tibetan hand chimes and stainless steel drums (10'16)

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For piano (12'17)
Performed by Amit Dolberg (piano)

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10. **III. Scherzando** (3'29)

11. **Iceland** (1996) – text by Sanna Tavares
For violoncello and CD (12'49)
Performed by Rachel Atkinson (violoncello) and Sanna Tavares (speech)