

Chamber Music: Chamber Ballet

Collusion Music



collusion
collusion music australia ltd



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Photo: Dave Collins

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The Ensemble



Collusion Music. Photos: Chris Osbourne

Collusion Music is Queensland's own original fine art music and dance ensemble. Together for 10 years, this group of award-winning chamber music musicians, in collaboration with composers and a choreographer and dancers, bring together exceptionally strong performances.

Collusion is continually developing new repertoire of very high quality while underpinning its programming with heart, beauty and warmth. Flexible in size and content, collaborating to make large shows, and bespoke intimate experiences as well, Collusion fits its performances to suit its audiences.

Collusion enjoys sharing its concerts and performances with audiences of all ages and cultural persuasions. From the smart end of town, with Queensland Ballet, at the Australasian Clarinet and Saxophone Convention, Crossbows Festival and World Forum on Music to the magical world of imagination and joy at centres for people with disabilities and other community settings and schools.

This year, Collusion has several shows on offer to tour from the core quartet to our largest ensemble work, *Transient Beauty*.

The Ensemble



Benjamin Greaves in *Transient Beauty*. Photo: Dave Collins

Benjamin Greaves

Collusion Director/Violin/Viola

An Australian National Academy Music Scholar and Westpac Scholarship holder at Queensland Conservatorium, Ben studied with the renowned Carmel Kaine. He enjoys a successful career, having performed with Qld Symphony, Camerata of St John's as principal 2nd violin, guest leader and soloist, SXS Bangalow Festival, Queensland Ballet, Circa, Katie Noonan, Elixir, Adelaide Cabaret, Brisbane and Queensland Music Festivals, Crossbows, Restrung and for Susan Hawkins' EP. International studies were taken in the Czech Republic and Belgium. He has toured extensively throughout Australia with Collusion and the Köln Chamber Orchestra. He was a violinist for the QPAC South Pacific Season and other QPAC seasons.

Director/Manager of the ensemble, Ben has been a member of Collusion since it's foundation.

Diana Tolmie

Collusion Clarinets/Saxophones

Diana has led an exciting career instigated by a Churchill Fellowship and Queen Elizabeth Trust Award. 25 years of music employment performing clarinet, saxophone and flute; featured work in national and international touring musicals as well as orchestral work with the Orchestra Victoria, Queensland, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, and the world-class Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. Her work encompasses contemporary and mainstream live, television and recording events.

Diana is Clarinet and Saxophone lecturer at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University. She performed repertoire from her solo CD at the 2013 International Clarinet Conference in Assisi, Italy.



Diana Tolmie. Photo: Chris Osbourne

Danielle Bentley

Collusion Cello/Restrung Festival Director

Dr Danielle Bentley is a cellist, academic, writer, poet and curator. She has performed in countless tours, concerts and recording sessions around Australia with acclaimed classical and popular music ensembles



Danielle Bentley in *Transient Beauty*. Photo: Dave Collins

and artists. These include: the Paris Opera Ballet, Opera Queensland, Opera Australia, Australian Ballet, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Camerata of St John's, Olivia Newton-John, Pete Murray, Harry Connick Jr, Kanye West, Missy Higgins, Xavier Rudd, Kristen Chenoweth – to name a few. Since 2002, she has run Bentley's Agency which provides music for corporate events and weddings. Danielle curates and manages Restrung Festival, which was the topic of her PhD exploring cross-genre string music and festival curation. She was Festival Manager for Queensland Conservatorium's Crossbows festival in 2012, and is Manager of the International Music Council's 5th World Forum on Music, taking place at Queensland Conservatorium November 21-24 2013.

The Ensemble

Phillip Eames

Collusion Piano

Australian composer and pianist Phillip Eames, who's playing has been described as "playful, mischievous, and vivacious" (The Australian Times) is currently based in Sydney, Australia and is an enthusiastic and passionate advocate of new and interesting music.

Phillip has performed both as soloist and chamber musician internationally, and is the recipient of many notable prizes and scholarships including an entrance award and the Patricia Cunliffe Prize for Keyboard Studies from the Royal Northern College of Music, 1st Places in the South-East Queensland Concerto competition, the Queensland Piano Competition, the Chamber Music and Concerto sections of the Australian Concerto and Aria Competition and the Keys Festival of Australian Music. In terms of further scholarships he was awarded the inaugural 2011 Redland City Youth Development Fund Scholarship, an Ars Musica Australis Fellowship, and grants from the Tait Memorial Trust, Redland City Council, PPCA Performers Trust Association. He was also presented with the 2010 Owen Fletcher Postgraduate Award and the 2008 Fred Ellaway Prize for the highest achieving piano student at the Queensland Conservatorium.

Phillip is currently a PhD candidate at the Sydney Conservatorium and holds two Master of Music degrees from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, also having been awarded the Bachelor of Music in Advanced Performance with First Class Honours in 2008 from the latter institution. He has studied piano under Dr Max Olding, AM and Dr Stephen Savage.



Phillip Eames. Photo: Chris Osbourne

Gareth Belling

Resident Choreographer



Gareth Belling. Photo: David Kelly

Australian choreographer Gareth Belling danced with Queensland Ballet between 2002 and 2012. He made his choreographic debut with Collusion Music in *Evocations* 2005. Since then he has created works for Queensland Ballet, Collusion Music, Expressions Dance Company and Queensland University of Technology.

In 2011 Gareth was mentored by internationally renowned choreographer Nils Christie and his participation in the Swiss International Coaching Project for Choreographers and an Impulstanz Research Project was co-funded by a JUMP Mentorship and Arts Queensland Career Development Grant.

Gareth created *bittersweet* for Queensland Ballet's 2012 International Gala and *Scorched Earth* for Brisbane Festival's Dance Energy in 2012.

He premiered his first full-length work, *Transient Beauty* with Collusion

Music in *Restrung* Festival at Brisbane Powerhouse.

Now pursuing a freelance career, he is undertaking a Master of Fine Arts (Dance) at QUT. *Intimate Distance* premiered in Ausdance Queensland's Dance. Indie Dance showcase alongside Collusion Music's Benjamin Greaves and excerpts of *Something Said* were performed by QUT Dance at the 2013 Beijing Dance Festival. *Sweet Beginnings* was commissioned by Queensland Ballet and premiered in the company's *Elegance* season at The Playhouse, QPAC.

Gareth was the recipient of an Australia China Council grant to research Chinese cultural impacts on classical ballet in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

The Productions

Concert 1:

SOLOs *twogether* - Dance, Physical Theatre and Electric Violin.

Our most economical concert for purchase involves a solo dancer (Gareth Belling - ex Queensland Ballet Dancer and Choreographer) and solo violinist (Benjamin Greaves - Director of Collusion Music), featuring a memorable performance of the spectacular baroque *Pasacaglia* for solo violin by Heinrich Biber with solo dance.

Audiences will be enthralled by the virtuosic spectacle of an electric violin tribute to Jimi Hendrix (music by Paul Stanhope) and be intrigued by a dance work for violin, physical theatre and 15 music stands, *Intimate Distances* with music by J.S. Bach and Tartini.

A collection of individual works for solo violin and dancer created over a number of years and premiered at Tyalgum Festival (*Pasacaglia* - Tyalgum Town Hall), *Dance. Indie Dance (Intimate Distances* - Judith Wright Centre) and Bangalow Festival (*Jimi Hendrix*).

A performance that highlights the essence of Collusion Music's work to fuse live music and other artforms. Music from the Baroque to the 21st Century create catalyst for a spellbinding performance like no other. Music and movement steamroll towards an ode to the guitar master Jimi Hendrix.

Acknowledgements

Concept/Violinist Benjamin Greaves

Choreography/Design Gareth Belling

Logo acknowledgement Collusion Music

Performance Specifics

One Act 45 Mins - no interval

Suitable Venues

Adaptable for all indoor performance and cultural spaces with sprung wooden floor. Dance floor (Tarkett) not required.

Maximum number of performances per week

8 performances

Minimum break between performances

90 minutes

APRA obligations

Standard APRA fees apply to this performance.

TOURING PERSONNEL The touring party consists of 3 people.

Name	Role
Benjamin Greaves	Violinist
Gareth Belling	Dancer
TBC	Lighting/Sound Operator

The Productions

Concert 2:

TRIOs in Folk Style - Clarinet, Violin, Cello and Electronic Wizardry.

A trio performance featuring the virtuosic skills of Clarinettist Diana Tolmie (lecturer at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music), with associate artists Benjamin Greaves (violin) and Dr Danielle Bentley (cello) will charm audiences with a spectacular flash of virtuosic skills in French composer Nicolas Bacri's folk music tribute, *IM VOLKSTON* (in folk style). Diana Tolmie will also enrapture audiences with Brisbane composer of Video Game music Thomas Green's *Chalemeau Orbits* for Bass Clarinet and Electronic Backing track.

Acknowledgements

Composers	Nicolas Bacri, Thomas Green, Jacques Ibert
Violin	Benjamin Greaves
Clarinet	Diana Tolmie
Cello	Danielle Bentley
Logo acknowledgement	Collusion Music

Performance Specifics

One Act 60 Mins - no interval

Suitable Venues

Adaptable for all indoor performance and cultural spaces.

Maximum number of performances per week

8 performances

Minimum break between performances

90 minutes

APRA obligations

Standard APRA fees apply to this performance.

TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 3 people.

Name	Role
Benjamin Greaves	Violin/Tour Manager
Diana Tolmie	Clarinets
Danielle Bentley	Cello

The Productions

Show 3:

Four musicians read the old dream slowly - Bespoke chamber music

For presenters and venues able to offer a piano (good quality upright or grand piano) Collusion Music is able to perform in Quartet format (violin/viola, clarinet/saxophone, cello and piano), offering the music from their latest 2 CDs *I Read The Old Dream Slowly* and *I Saw A Peacock With A Fiery Tail*. This concert exposes to the Queensland community the quality of our own home-grown composers. The music is easy listening, charming and of the finest quality. CDs featuring the music from this concert have proved very popular, and continue on high rotation on ABC Classic FM. The CDs will be available for sale at performances, allowing presenters to make a 20% cut on all CD sales.

"There was a strong unity in the ensemble, the playing was technically secure and the innovative programming was performed with both delicacy and gusto." - Christina Leonard, Australasian Saxophone and Clarinet Convention, Sydney Conservatorium.

The music:

A fine example of Australian instrumental sounds for strings, clarinet, saxophone and piano. This IS music that is easy listening, thought evoking and most importantly entertaining. This music has already captured the hearts of people in regional communities and those less accustomed to concerts given by classical musicians.

In 2012 Collusion Music enchanted the people of Landsborough in regional Victoria with this concert of beautiful Australian art music, by gifted Australian composers.

"Collusion performed throughout with intense engagement and finesse. Their precise ensemble playing detailed the repetitions of the minimalist works on the programme. Ostinatos were confident and crisp but dramatic opportunities (and there were many) never went to waste." - Alan Lawrence (Saturday 8 September 2012)

Acknowledgements

Composers	Susan Hawkins, Thomas Green, Nigel Sabin, Gerard Brophy
Violin	Benjamin Greaves
Clarinet	Diana Tolmie
Cello	Danielle Bentley
Piano	Phillip Eames
Logo acknowledgement	Collusion Music

The Productions

Performance Specifics

One Act 60 Mins - no interval

Suitable Venues

Adaptable for all indoor performance and cultural spaces with good quality upright or grand piano to be tuned on the day of concert. Standard lighting rig with colour wash.

Maximum number of performances per week

8 performances

Minimum break between performances

90 minutes

APRA obligations

Standard APRA fees apply to this performance.

TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 4 people.

Name	Role
Benjamin Greaves	Violin/Tour Manager
Diana Tolmie	Clarinets
Danielle Bentley	Cello
Phillip Eames	Piano

Audience Engagement

Overview

Collusion Music has a fine reputation as a provider of In-School and production specific community workshops. Having toured Queensland and Tasmania for five years as a leading ensemble with the Musica Viva In-Schools program, Collusion's experience at delivering engaging, educative programs that are curriculum driven is industry leading. Workshops can be delivered at the performance venue, or in schools. They will focus on Australian composers and art music, to build community engagement and awareness of the ensemble, and to increase the skills and knowledge of regional and urban students and audience members.

Details

Community/school age workshops available in:

Instrumental Woodwind Music with Queensland Conservatorium Woodwind lecturer Diana Tolmie. From basic techniques to advance performance practices, this age appropriate workshop encourages the joy of woodwind instruments to participants, and supports teacher's efforts to encourage correct technical development.

Stringed Instrument Workshops with Benjamin Greaves and/or Danielle Bentley. From basic techniques to advanced performance practices, this age appropriate workshop encourages the joy of stringed instruments and chamber music to participants, and supports teacher's efforts to encourage correct technical development.

Foundation to Advanced Classical Ballet. An age appropriate workshop for the continued development of freedom of movement and sound technique with former Queensland Ballet dancer Gareth Belling given in conjunction with *SOLOs twogether*.

Dance Composition workshops with Gareth Belling. This workshop focusses on the fundamentals of dance composition, development of movement material and choreographic devices in relation to the Queensland Secondary Schools Dance Curriculum given in conjunction with *SOLOs twogether*.

Educational resources

Collusion Music offers an existing In-Schools music workshop package focussing on the music from their CD *I read the old dream slowly*. This package closely relates to Queensland Curriculum objectives for Primary and Secondary schools and can be presented in the performance venue, or on-site at participating schools.

Cost

All workshops are \$20 per student with a minimum of 8 students per group. For dance workshops, a large space free of obstacles must be available.

Production Details

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

All three shows are designed for flexible presentation modes, working within the venue's capabilities and a standard four hour call. The shows are designed to minimise bump-in/out times, require no changes to a venue's standard lighting rig, no AV content and minimal equipment set-up.

A good quality Sound system with foldback and the ability to play electronic backing tracks will be required for all three shows.

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

Time	Action
Before arrival	Piano tune - Show 3 only
4:30	Arrive at Venue and Bump - in
5:00 - 6:30	Crew Call starts. Lighting Plot Stage Placement/Spacing and Sound check
6:30 - 6:45	Crew break
6:45 - 7:10	Tech tidy
7:10	Doors open
7:30 - 8:30	Concert (7:30 - 8:15 for SOLOs <i>twogether</i>)
8:30 - 9	Bump-out. Crew finishes at 9pm

CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

SOLOs twogether - One duty technician from venue.
TRIOs in Folk Style - One Venue Tech with good sound and basic lighting knowledge
Four musicians Read... - One Venue Tech with good sound and basic lighting knowledge

STAGE

All shows are adaptable to varying stage widths and depths.

For *SOLOs twogether*, a sprung wooden floor is essential. Dance floor (Tarkett) is not required. The ability to achieve a complete black out is not essential.

There are no staging elements touring with these shows.

Collusion Music to supply

All props, costumes and any sconces (music stand lights) required for concert.

Music stands.

Additional lighting gel stocks where required.

Venue to supply (when required)

Good quality grand or upright grand piano, tuned on the day of the concert for *Four Musicians read the old Dream Slowly* only

Production Details

LIGHTING

All lighting for each show is designed to be performed with the Venue's standard rig.

Collusion Music to supply

Up to four sconces for music stands.
Additional gel stocks where required.

Venue to supply

Standard rig with three colour wash. Operating console.
Piano lamp, where required.

SOUND

All performances require a Sound System with fold-back and the ability to play electronic backing tracks for specific pieces.

Collusion Music to supply

Electronic backing tracks for required pieces on USB and CD

Venue to supply

Venue's standard Sound System and fold-back speakers with suitable playback facilities.
Handheld microphone and stand connected to PA system.

AV

Where possible, the *TRIOs* and *Four musicians read...* can be performed with accompanying projections. This will be negotiated on an individual basis depending on each Venue's capabilities and preferences.

WARDROBE

Wardrobe is minimal for all three concerts. Some costume is used in *SOLOs twogether*, including body paint which must be applied on the day of the show.

Collusion to supply

All costumes and body make-up.

Venue to supply

Two dressing rooms for artists - one to act as Production Office for *SOLOs twogether*.
Bathroom with shower is required for *SOLOs* show.

FREIGHT NOTES

There is no freight associated with these three shows. Touring parties fit into a station wagon or van, and flights can be taken with only minimal excess luggage and one additional 'cello seat' for in-cabin transport of Danielle Bentley's Cello.

Production Details

CRITICAL ISSUES

Collusion Music has devised three innately flexible, audience focussed programs which are adaptable to most venues. The above details act as a guide, and can be negotiable in all circumstances. Please contact us to discuss your situation.

CONTACTS

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Gareth Belling

Resident Choreographer

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