

# Angus Davison

Australian composer and music educator

## Regular bio (250 words)

Angus Davison composes music with 'bright energy' (Limelight), 'considerable poignancy' (The Mercury), and 'a respect for sound in itself' (Cut Common). His music is often inspired by human relationships with nature, inviting listeners to deepen their fascination for the world around them. Recent works have explored topics such as the religious life of worms, the mysterious anti-gravity known as dark energy, and the history of Western Classical Music itself.

Angus completed a Master of Music at the Sydney Conservatorium where he also attained First Class Honours following a Bachelor of Music at the Tasmanian Conservatorium. His awards include the Don Kay Scholarship, an Honours Scholarship, a Research Training Program Stipend, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Student Composition Prize, Audience Choice Award at the 5th International Tampa Bay Symphony Orchestra Prize, and second place in the Jean Bogan and Willoughby Symphony young composer awards.

He has been selected for development programs including the Layton Fellowship, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Australian Composers' School, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Cybec Program, the Ensemble Offspring Hatched Academy, the Omega Ensemble CoLAB Program, and Composing in the Wilderness.

Angus' music has been performed in Australia, Europe, and the US. Performers and commissioners of his work include the Melbourne and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, Ensemble Offspring, Corvus, the Ady Ensemble, Omega Ensemble, Barega Saxophone Quartet, and Michael Kieran Harvey among many others.

Angus is also a music educator, arts administrator, conductor, and pianist. Based in Sydney, he teaches classes at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music alongside a busy composing schedule.

## Short bio (100 words)

Angus Davison composes music with 'bright energy' (Limelight), 'considerable poignancy' (The Mercury), and 'a respect for sound in itself' (Cut Common). His music often explores human relationships with nature, inviting listeners to deepen their fascination for the world around them.

Angus's music has been performed in Australia, Europe, and the US. He has worked with leading performers and ensembles including the Melbourne and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, Ensemble Offspring, Omega Ensemble, and Michael Kieran Harvey. Originally from Tasmania, Angus is currently based in Sydney where he teaches at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

## **Long bio (500 words)**

Australian composer Angus Davison (b.1993) composes music with ‘bright energy’ (Limelight), ‘considerable poignancy’ (The Mercury), and ‘a respect for sound in itself’ (Cut Common). His music is often inspired by human relationships with nature, inviting listeners to deepen their fascination for the world around them. Recent works have explored topics such as the religious life of worms, the mysterious anti-gravity known as dark energy, and the history of Western Classical Music itself. His music is direct, thoughtful, and often imbued with a sense of play.

Angus grew up in a musical family, the son of a professional cellist. He commenced piano lessons aged nine and soon began composing. He received his first formal composition lessons during high school and went on to pursue tertiary studies. Angus studied with Maria Grenfell, Russell Gilmour, and Don Kay at the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music, attaining a Bachelor of Music in 2015. He then studied with Michael Smetanin at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, graduating in 2016 with First Class Honours. In 2021, Angus completed a Masters degree at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music under the supervision of Matthew Hindson.

Angus’s awards include the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Student Composition Prize (2011), the Don Kay Scholarship for Music Composition (2012), second place in the Jean Bogan Youth Prize for Piano Composition (2016), a University of Sydney Honours Scholarship (2016), a Research Training Program Stipend (2019), second place in the Willoughby Symphony Young Composer Award (2020), and the Audience Choice Award at the 5th International Tampa Bay Symphony Orchestra Prize. He has been selected for composer development programs including Composing in the Wilderness (2019), the Ensemble Offspring Hatched Academy (2019), the Ku-Ring-Gai Philharmonic Orchestra Composer Program (2020), the Australian Youth Orchestra Composer Program (2021 – could not participate), the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Cybec 21<sup>st</sup> Century Composer Program (2021), the Omega Ensemble CoLAB Composer Accelerator program (2021), the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Australian Composers’ School (2022-23), and the Layton Emerging Composer Fellowship (2022-23).

Angus’s music has been performed in Australia, Europe, and the US. Performers and commissioners of his music include the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music Orchestra, the Ady Ensemble, Hobart City Band, Ensemble Offspring, Corvus, the Huon String Quartet, Barega Saxophone Quartet, Spiral, the Tasmanian Clarinet Quartet, Note-Aurius, Derwent Strings, the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra, Backstage Music, Musica North, the Tasmanian Composers Festival, Michael Lampard, Michael Kieran Harvey, Jeremy Boulton, Rohana O’Malley, Emily Sheppard, Sonia Lifshitz, Henry Justo, and Jack Barnes. He has composed incidental music for theatre and scored short films.

Alongside his work as a composer, Angus is an enthusiastic music educator. He has taught piano, music theory, and composition at primary schools, high schools, independent music schools, and privately. In 2013, he was resident with Hobart’s Combined Primary Schools String Ensemble through the Department of Education’s Artists in Schools Program. Based in Sydney, he teaches classes at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music alongside a busy composing schedule.

*Bios current to January 2023*