



**Myele Manzanza**

Drum Kit

The son of a Congolese master percussionist, born and raised in NZ listening to hip hop, jazz and dance music, as an artist Myele Manzanza brings an eclectic style and diverse skill to his craft to create a genre bending experience rooted in jazz and African rhythm which has earned him a reputation as a composer with vision, a producer and musician who is not afraid to experiment and a powerful drummer.

As a drummer and a sideman he continues to tour internationally and collaborate with a broad range of artists across multiple genres including Theo Parrish, Ria Hall, Mark de Clive-Lowe, Ross McHenry, Sorceress, Amp Fiddler, Miguel Atwood-Ferguson, Marcus Strickland, Reclouse, Jordan Rakei and countless others.

Myele has been hailed by *Modern Drummer Magazine* (USA) as “a musician who clearly sees the big picture” and by the *Sydney Morning Herald* as “an inventive, accomplished and energetic drummer with a vibrant sound”. Whether it’s being selected from over 20,000 applicants to participate in the Red Bull Music Academy in London, solo releases on esteemed international labels BBE and First Word Records, his sophomore album *OnePointOne*’s nomination for the 2017 NZ Jazz Album of the Year, or significant international touring both as a solo artist and with other ensembles, Myele continues to work hard to establish himself on the world stage.



**Adam Page**

Conductor

Adam Page is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, music educator and record producer based in Adelaide. Known widely for his critically acclaimed solo multi-instrumental looping performances, Adam has carved his path internationally as a composer. He has written major works for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Wellington, Zephyr Quartet and has collaborated with John Psathas, NZ composer of the 2004 Athens Olympics ceremony music.

2018 saw Adam performing and recording with The Grigoryan Brothers, establishing boutique record label - Wizard Tone Records, composing and recording the scores for feature films in Australia and New Zealand, extensively performing and running workshops at schools around South Australia, recording and performing with his new 12 piece ensemble - The Adam Page Ensemble, writing and performing with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and launching the annual Wizard Tone Slow Music Festival.

Adam’s musical collaborations stretch far and wide, working with artists and groups such as The Australian String Quartet, Slava Grigoryan, Noel Gallagher, Katie Noonan, Riki Gooch, Jamie MacBen Todd, The Shaolin Afronauts, 1.1 Immermann, Ross McHenry, Thomas Oliver, The Adelaide Sax Pack, Darren Percival, Mal Webb, Zephyr Quartet, Lisa Tomlins and Dr. Chandrakant Sardeshmukh. He has also recorded with artists such as Electric Wire Hustle, Julien Dyne, Julia Deans, Mark de Clive-Lowe, Christoph El’ Truento, Oisima, Spook City, Ben Todd, The Shaolin Afronauts, Nico Suave and Dave Whitehead (recording various sounds for *The Hobbit* films).

## ADELAIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SEASON 2019



# Now Meets Now

**February**

Fri 22

8pm

ASO Grainger Studio



# Program

**Ross McHenry** Electric Bass

**Matthew Sheens** Piano

**Myele Manzanza** Drum Kit

**Adam Page** Conductor

## WORLD PREMIERE

### McHenry

Concerto for Improvising Piano and Orchestra

## WORLD PREMIERE

### Sheens

*The Transient*

## INTERVAL

### McHenry (Orch. Page)

*The Outsiders Part 1*

### McHenry (Arr. Sheens)

*Forest Dance*

### McHenry (Orch. Page)

*Processional*

### McHenry (Orch. Page)

*Adelaide*

## Duration

This concert will run for approximately 2 hours, including a 20 minute interval

## Listen Later

This concert will be recorded for ABC Classic's New Waves podcast. Listen to the podcast on the ABC listen app, or via your favourite podcast app.

## PROGRAM NOTE

# Now Meets Now

## Ross McHenry

It has been one of the great privileges of my life to curate tonight's program for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. In envisaging the concert I was certain of one thing. I did not want this program to be the coming together of two worlds for a temporary union. It was important to me that, at least for the first half of the program, that the new work which has been created for this performance was at its heart new orchestral music, rather than being new jazz compositions orchestrated for symphonic performance. The difference, although perhaps subtle, was an ambition I also know was held deeply by Matthew Sheens, the featured soloist and other composer in tonight's program. Together we are deeply committed to the creation of new orchestral and chamber music works, even though we are coming from a jazz context and background.

Written in a matter of months but forged over many years of friendship between Matt, the conductor for this evening's performance Adam Page, and I, this concert reflects the complementary and yet contrasting styles of all of us. This is a concert that celebrates our unique artistic voices whose respective evolution, although independent, is also intertwined at many waypoints of our own artistic journeys. With the city of Adelaide an important touchstone in each of our lives, I hope that the resulting collaboration represents an exciting and refreshing statement of contemporary Australian culture through music and one I like to think, through the sheer force of will of all of the people who have worked so hard to make this concert come about, could only ever happen here, in our beloved, little old Adelaide.



## Ross McHenry

Curator/Electric Bass

Ross McHenry is a multi-award winning composer, bass player and producer whose work forms a part of the ongoing international discourse on creative contemporary music.

Since 2007, Ross has been actively engaged as a composer and bass player across a wide range of contemporary music projects. Ross's original compositions encompass a broad range of styles including jazz, afrobeat, contemporary electronic and chamber music.

Known for his work in Australia as solo artist, composer and the leader of afro-jazz ensemble *Shaolin Afronauts*, Ross has performed extensively around Australia and the world collaborating with many artists including Mark de Clive Lowe, Myele Manzanza, Marcus Strickland, Corey King, Duane Eubanks and Tivon Pennicott. Ross has performed at many of the world's leading arts festivals including Glastonbury, Sydney Festival, Adelaide Festival, Womadelaide, Falls Festival, Splendour in the Grass, Wellington International Jazz Festival, and Melbourne International Jazz Festival.

Ross was a 2017 APRA Art Music Award for Excellence in Jazz finalist and in May 2017 Ross was one of 12 artists across Australia to be awarded a Marten Bequest Scholarship.

Ross's third solo release *The Outsiders* was released to wide acclaim in November 2017.



## Matthew Sheens

Piano

Listed as one of Fred Hersch's "pianists you should know", and described as "an outstanding pianist, stoked full of creative ideas and limitless technique...totally innovative and luminous" by *The Australian*.

Matthew graduated from the Elder Conservatorium in 2008 having been awarded the prize for top Undergraduate for piano, most outstanding honours student, and awarded the Adelaide University Medal for excellence in the humanities. In 2009 he became the first Australian to win a coveted *Downbeat Magazine* Student Award, and was offered a scholarship to complete a Masters Degree in Music Performance at Boston's New England Conservatory, studying with 10-time Grammy nominated pianist Fred Hersch, and Macarthur Fellow, Jason Moran. Upon graduating in 2011, Matthew relocated to NYC where has been engaged as composer, bandleader and performer since.

In 2012 Matthew released his debut album, *Every Eight Seconds*, to wide acclaim and won the 2013 APRA/AMCOS Professional Development Award. In 2014, Matthew was a Freedman Fellowship finalist, performing a set of original music at the Sydney Opera House.

Matthew released his second album *Untranslatable* (ABC Music) in 2014, and *Cloud Appreciation Day* (QFTF) September 2016, which won the 'Jazz Couleurs Hit Award' in France. His first extended-composition album *American Counterpoint* was released in 2018, and has earned him an APRA Art Award for Australian Jazz Work of the Year.