



Ensemble Offspring: Songbirds

Media Kit (about, biographies, reviews, videos & recordings)

Please direct all enquiries to admin@ensembleoffspring.com

About

Songbirds Short Copy (75 words)

Songbirds celebrates the breathtaking virtuosity of Australian birdsong with an array of original Australian chamber works commissioned by Ensemble Offspring. Be transported into the Australian bush by the familiar sounds of nature's own musicians, with a little help from Australia's leading composers. Performed by Lamorna Nightingale (flutes), Jason Noble (clarinets) and Claire Edwardes (percussion), *Songbirds* captures the magical bird calls of the red centre, virtuosic avian displays and Indigenous musical perspectives on these beguiling creatures of the sky.

Songbirds Long Copy (200 words)

NB may need to change depending on agreed repertoire

Songbirds celebrates the breathtaking virtuosity of Australian birdsong with an array of original Australian chamber works commissioned by Ensemble Offspring. Be transported into the Australian bush by the familiar sounds of nature's own musicians, with a little help from Australia's leading composers.

After devoting her life to documenting pied butcherbird song in Central Australia, Hollis Taylor composed her trio *Bitter Springs Creek 2014*, pairing live instrumentalists with ancient bird sounds. Fiona Loader's *Lorikeet Corroboree* follows an upbeat journey which interweaves the chatter of rainbow lorikeets with the sounds of ground-dwelling composers – including fragments from Papageno's *Magic Flute* and Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*. Gerard Brophy makes flamingos dance and hummingbirds buzz in his three-movement tour-de-force *Beautiful Birds*.

First Nations composers Nardi Simpson and Brenda Gifford share Indigenous perspectives on the sky and its many inhabitants. Brenda Gifford's *Mungala (Clouds)* evokes clouds building across the sea, while Nardi Simpson's *Of Stars and Birds* interprets a significant Yuwaalaraay story about the creation of the southern cross.

Performed by Lamorna Nightingale (flutes), Jason Noble (clarinets) and Claire Edwardes (percussion), *Songbirds* captures the magical bird calls of the red centre, virtuosic avian displays and Indigenous musical perspectives on these beguiling creatures of the sky.



Ensemble Offspring Biography

Established in 1995, Ensemble Offspring is Australia's leading new music group. Uniting the country's most fearless instrumentalists under the direction of internationally acclaimed percussionist Claire Edwardes, they subvert classical music traditions and deliver concerts that pop and burst on stage. Long term core members Lamorna Nightingale (flute), Jason Noble (clarinet), Véronique Serret (violin), Blair Harris (cello) and our newest member Ronan Aparcar (piano) are all soloists in their own right coming together as Ensemble Offspring to create "visceral, joyous music" (Sydney Morning Herald).

As the foremost champions of contemporary music in Australia for over 30 years, Ensemble Offspring have commissioned and premiered almost 400 works and have toured new Australian music around the world. Their dedication to excellence and amplifying marginalised voices including First Nations, female identifying and emerging artists, has earned multiple APRA Art Music Awards and ARIA Award nominations. Through their pioneering spirit and relentless commitment to equality, Ensemble Offspring continue to shape a vibrant and diverse artistic future for Australian music.

www.ensembleoffspring.com

Performers

Claire Edwardes (Artistic Director, percussion)

Lamorna Nightingale (flutes)

Jason Noble (clarinet, bass clarinet)

Performer Biographies & Images

IMAGES

[Songbirds Trio](#)

[Ensemble Offspring](#)

Claire Edwardes

[IMAGE](#)

A founding member of Ensemble Offspring, Claire Edwardes OAM is the Artistic Director and percussionist. She was recently described as a "unique treasure of Australia's musical community" by Limelight and as "an invigorating musical life force" by The Age. She is the only Australian to win the 'APRA Art Music Luminary Award' four times and in 2023 she was the recipient of the Creative Leadership Award and 2025 was a Finalist in Classical Music at the Australian Women in Music Awards. Claire leaps between her roles as leader, mentor, curator, advocate, recording artist, concerto and recital soloist, at all times tirelessly championing new



work that she has commissioned predominantly by Australian composers including concertos by Iain Grandage, Anne Cawrse, Elena Kats-Chernin and Kate Moore.

Lamorna Nightingale

[IMAGE](#)

Lamorna Nightingale is a freelance flautist, concert presenter, educator and publisher who is passionate about the future of art music in Australia. She has extensive experience working in the orchestral sector and has been a core member of Ensemble Offspring since 2007. Lamorna is the Artistic Director of 'BackStage Music', a concert series established in 2016 in Sydney, utilising unusual venues and fostering a diverse culture for living music. These roles have seen her work directly with hundreds of Australian composers at all stages of their careers and developing programs which create a space for under-represented voices to be heard. Through her publishing company *Fluteworthy*, she has created several pedagogical volumes of repertoire for young flute players.

Jason Noble

[IMAGE](#)

Jason Noble is one of Australia's most adaptable clarinetists, spanning the classical to experimental and improvisatory genres. A core member of Ensemble Offspring for 25 years, Jason has performed with the group at contemporary music festivals from Warsaw to London and throughout Australia. His album releases THRUM (2020) and Chi's Cakewalk (2017) feature new Australian clarinet work reflecting his collaborations with established and emerging composers. He has made guest appearances on albums for Gurrumul, Gondwana Voices, Paul Mac and the Tiwi women's choir Ngarukuruwala. As an in-demand music educator and examiner he has been invited to teach two winter academies at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music in Kabul. Jason joined Ensemble Offspring in 1999 and became the Hatched Academy Director in 2024.

Critical Acclaim

Songbirds Repertoire

"In a music industry that can often feel impenetrable – most of all for marginalised voices – its mission is not just honourable, but essential. In other words, it is not just doing the right thing, it is doing what's necessary for the survival of new music in Australia." – Cut Common

★★★★ 4 stars – [The Sydney Morning Herald](#)

"...the musicians joined the contrapuntal web, matching the avian virtuosity with their own" – The Sydney Morning Herald

"Yet the charm of the song of birds...mingled with music in seven recent Australian pieces, did not fail. Most magical was Hollis Taylor and Jon Rose's Bitter Springs Creek 2014" – The Sydney Morning Herald



"Ensemble Offspring played Gerard Brophy's rhythmically demanding Beautiful Birds with precision and élan." – The Sydney Morning Herald

"A highly successful interspecies collaboration!" – ClassikON

Songbirds Album

"Stunning...Songbirds is an album of splendid, thought-provoking and evocative new music." – Helen Musa, [City News](#)

"These avian studies are fascinating and immersive." – Jessie Cunniffe, [The Sydney Morning Herald](#)

"A beautifully conceived and richly rewarding album" – Lisa MacKinney, [Limelight](#)

"... an injection of warmth and colour with new and recent pieces influenced by, and depicting, birdsong and nature all expertly played with energy and commitment." – Roger Heaton, [Tempo Magazine](#)

"It gives us a good view of what is happening in this genre on the other side of our planet." – Ben Taffijn, [Nieuwe Noten](#)

General EO Press Quotes

"It would be impossible to imagine an ensemble better able to play and relate to this music than Ensemble Offspring, that crack band of Sydney musicians led by the extraordinary percussionist Claire Edwardes. Their performance never faltered, it was startling, energised and energising, delivered with extraordinary panache and almost clinical precision." – Vincent Plush, [Limelight](#)

"Replete with ideas, feelings, and sensory experiences – and most importantly, it was fun." – CutCommon

"The concert [left] the listener with a sense of the beauty of the world and its fragility." – The Sydney Morning Herald

"Ensemble Offspring enthralled its audience." – Keith Gallasch, Real Time

"Led by the all-amazing percussionist Claire Edwardes, the concert kept its audience entertained from beginning to end." – Germaine Ping, X-Press Mag

"Ensemble Offspring just oozes personality. A lot of groups can play at a high level. What makes Offspring really special is that after a concert, you feel like you know each and every one of them personally. They are a real band." – David Dramm, composer



“Rarely do you hear an ensemble that knows how to create a piece so pure, so tight and with such an incredible sense of timing.” – NMZ Online, Berlin

“I could continue listing milestones...but when it comes to championing new music, Ensemble Offspring walks the walk.” – Mark Bosch, CutCommon

Recordings

Songbirds MRC Live Concert Video (2022)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=of79Xy556JU
Songbirds YouTube Playlist	https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-WChqAH0lrZ_fcT6QQWF0XQtfLq1lsqK
Songbirds Album Showreel	https://youtu.be/ThhQFudGDmM
Songbirds Album (2020) on Spotify	https://open.spotify.com/album/4oL9GSjw520va3GtGzQSQL?si=bKYxSpw5SuGVw0WvRmZJjA
Songbirds Album	https://www.ensembleoffspring.com/shop/p/songbirds-cd