

TEA BREAK

a musical journey about
Thé, 茶, Chai, Tae, चाय

January 23 & 30,
2 & 3.30pm



**FRINGE
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FESTIVAL 2022

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www.tenthmuseinitiative.com.au



A Letter from the Composer:

I just personally wanted to say a big thank you coming to Tea Break. Although I can't be there in person to greet you all today, please know that it has been a huge dream of mine to put on a series of concerts to pair tea with music inspired by the tea.

Tea is perhaps the most popular drink in the world next to water, and is a drink that people share as a way to bond and bring people together.

Writing this set of pieces has been a way to connect with not only my own culture but to ethically conduct research and delve research into other forms of music outside of the western art music aesthetics. By meticulously interviewing people, reading academic papers and workshopping with performers one-on-one, I hope to take you all on a musical journey around the world, without having to leave this beautiful vintage venue of Moana Hall. I hope for this experience to be a way for you to not only be a way to connect with the people here such as the with the performers on stage, with the people sitting next to you but with your roots, the past, the present, all those that came before us and all those that will come after us, and celebrate the multitude of cultures and traditions that we have on this earth.

I also hope for more multi-sensory experiences like Tea Break to be popularised in the arts industry. Together, wouldn't it be amazing if we could continue to explore ways on how we can push the traditional bounds of classical and arts concerts by making more fun, educational, and engaging for everyone? Let's continue to test the limits of how music can be enjoyed!

Once again, thank you so much for coming.

Your self-proclaimed tea-fanatic,
Christine



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Music composed by Christine Pan (she/her)

Your MC is Jess Taylor (She/They)

Jasmine

paired with Flute & Harp Duet:

Rachel Fish - Harp (she/her) and Saskia Willinge - Flute (she/her)

French Earl Grey

paired with Bass Clairnet Solo:

Alex Wallace - Bass Clarinet (he/him)

Masala Chai

paired with Saxophone Duet

Mia Vuković - Soprano Sax (she/her) and Naoko Uemoto - Tenor Sax (she/her)

Irish Breakfast

paired with Violin Solo:

Helena O'Sullivan - Violin (she/her)



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Jasmine

paired with Flute & Harp Duet

Performed by Rachel Fish (Harp) and Saskia Willinge (Flute)

delicate green tea infused with jasmine blossom fragrance, inspired by Chinese traditional music

Jasmine was heavily inspired by Nanyin music, traditional music from Fujian province, which is world-renowned for producing the highest quality Jasmine Tea. The flute part represents Jasmine flowers in this piece, which only open at night and are placed in alternating layers with the tea leaves, represented by the harp, to create Jasmine Tea. This process happens over a period of several days to create Jasmine Tea. The flute and harp parts begin quite separate, but infuse together throughout the work, with the harp part also incorporating adapted Nanyin and pipa gestures.



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French Earl Grey

paired with Bass Clairnet Solo:

performed by Alex Wallace (Bass Clarinet)

aromatic black tea infused with bergamot orange oil and rose petals, inspired by Italian and Chinese traditional music

French Earl Grey is inspired by the ingredients of the tea. This tea is composed of bergamot orange oil, rose petals and of course black tea leaves, so each ingredient is represented by a musical motif. The tea leaves are of Chinese origin so are inspired by Nanyin music, bergamot orange originated in Calabria, Italy so is represented by traditional Calabrian dance styles, and extended techniques are used to represent rose petals floating about in the mix. This music explores how the fragrant undertones of French earl grey tea actually represent many different cultures, and where these traditions and tastes intersect.



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Masala Chai

paired with Saxophone Duet

Performed by Mia Vuković (Soprano Sax) and Naoko Uemoto (Tenor Sax)

Strong black tea infused with sharp cloves, cardamom, cinnamon and nutmeg, inspired by Hindustani classical music.

Masala Chai has a base of richly flavoured black tea leaves originally imported from Assam, India and mixed with various spices. Due to the isolated nature of the Assam community, taking inspiration from Hindustani classical music was more appropriate. The music incorporates two different types of ragas, Raga Bihag and Raga Bhimpalasi. Raga Bhimpalasi represents sweet desire and longing while Raga Bihag is bright in nature, often used at celebrations and weddings. The piece follows a condensed improvisational structure of the Alaap, Jod, Jhala and Taah where a free section slowly transforms into a highly syncopated section. An added section of Ganth (translates to tied knot) requires the two saxophonists to play a game; aim is to accurately play a passage of music scattered with nested repeats. Soprano saxophone acts as the Hindustani classical singer while the tenor saxophone performed tabla-like gestures.



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Irish Breakfast

paired with Violin Solo

Performed by Helena O'Sullivan (Violin)

rich blend of robust and malty Assam black tea, inspired by traditional Irish and Hindustani classical music

Irish Breakfast tea is made from strong black leaves grown in and named after Assam, a state in north eastern India which is known for tea production. The piece moves between Irish jig like melodies and sections based on Hindustani music, specifically Raga Bihag, as although Irish Breakfast tea is quite a strong flavour, the undertones of the tea are Assam leaves. Extended technique gestures are used by the composer to shift between the two cultural blends and tonalities and to explore this delicious tea.



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The musicians

Saskia Willinge (she/her)



Saskia is a flautist currently completing her honours degree at the UWA Conservatorium of Music. She has played in various ensembles around Perth. She also co-founded TMI. Saskia is passionate about new music and improvisation, with her honours research focusing on extended techniques for flute involving quartertones. Recent performances include improvising at a tea ceremony in a tipi, with a loop pedal at Outcome Unknown and a UWA MSS meditation event, and at Tone List's 3 Songs held at WAAPA's Spectrum Art Space. When she's not rehearsing with Cryptids, you can find her sipping a cup of chai.

Rachel Fish will be completing her Bachelor of Music: Classical Harp Performance (Honours) this year at WAAPA, with her research exploring how three pieces by Australian women evoke Australian landscapes through the harp. Rachel started playing harp when she began high school at John Curtin College of the Arts, learning from Ariel Lyons. Her love and passion for the instrument led her to continue her studies at WAAPA under the tutelage of Bronwyn Wallis. Rachel has performed in solo settings and a variety of ensembles, including the WAYO, Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, Fremantle Symphony Orchestra, Southside Symphony Orchestra and with the Perth Orchestra Project. Whether she's playing with circuses, choirs, pit orchestras, she enjoys creating and sharing music in unique settings, and drinking licorice and cinnamon tea in her spare time!

Rachel Fish (she/her)



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The musicians

Helena O'Sullivan (she/her)



Helena O'Sullivan started violin lessons at the age of 4, and has been moving onwards and upwards ever since! Helena has participated in everything from the West Australian Youth Orchestra, the Australian Youth Orchestra's National Music Camp, the UWA Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra Collective, Banksia Ensemble, St George's College Orchestra, to the recently-debuted Apeirogon Ensemble. She has also been awarded the Peter Moore OAM Scholarship for 2022. This year, Helena is excited to be the concertmaster of the West Australian Youth Orchestra and continue her studies with violin virtuoso and current teacher Shaun Lee-Chen at UWA. And when she's not practising, you can find her sipping loose leaf French earl grey tea, with no milk!

Alex is a clarinettist currently studying at the UWA Conservatorium of Music, having just completed his third year under the tutelage of Allan Meyer. He is an involved member of Perth's music, regularly performing both standard and bass clarinet with a number of orchestras and chamber music ensembles, such as the Orchestra Collective, the Perth Orchestra Project, and the WA Youth Orchestra. Alex has a particular fondness for the bass clarinet and the abundance of timbral colours it offers beyond the traditional clarinet, hence he enjoys showcasing the instrument's uniqueness in both solo and ensemble capacities with audiences. He's an avid tea-drinker, and can often be spotted with a cup of either Earl Grey, Jasmine or Peppermint tea in hand!

Alex Wallace (he/him)



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The musicians

Naoko Uemoto (she/her)



Naoko Uemoto is a saxophonist completing her Bachelor of Music (Honours) degree at the University of Western Australia. She loves collaborating with other musicians,, performing in local ensembles ranging from a funk band to the WA Wind Symphony, and everything in between. After using electronics and improvisation within the classical saxophone repertoire, she has a growing interest in exploring new works, particularly contemporary classical and third stream works. Naoko is grateful for the vibrant music community in Perth for constantly keeping her inspired, as well as the support of awards and scholarships including the Janet Anderson Prize, Zenith Music Award and a Wesley Scholarship. In her spare time, you can generally find her with a cup of Jasmine tea in hand!

Mia Vuković is a saxophonist who is currently completing a Masters of Teaching. Mia has a passion for performing and chamber music, winning the Flora Bunning Chamber Music Prize and performing at the 2018 World Saxophone Congress in Zagreb with the Meraki Saxophone Quartet. Mia has also performed with multiple ensembles in the Perth Music Scene. Mia enjoys teaching students around the Perth area and believes passing on knowledge to others is vital in creating and inspiring the next generation of musicians in Perth and beyond. She thrives on being involved in a range of different musical and artistic projects, and is also performing with the Perth Sax Rockers at Fringe. Mia also enjoys a big range of tea, but her current fave is French Earl Grey with a splash of milk.

Mia Vuković (she/her)



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Your MC

Jess Taylor
(she/they)

Jess Taylor is an emerging Australian soprano whose performances have been described as “truly thrilling... [displaying] excellent acting ability” (Noted), “a luminous presence and musical voice” (Seesaw Magazine), and an “engaging portrayal revealing raw emotion and authenticity...keeping the audience engrossed” (CutCommon).



They have completed a Graduate Diploma in Music at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts, a Graduate Certificate in Music Performance at Queensland Conservatorium of Music and a dual Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Arts (English Lit/Writing) at The University of Queensland.

Jess most recently performed the role of Georgette in Puccini's *Il Tabarro* for the double-bill *Cloak and Dagger* for Perth Fringe World, a show which she also produced. Other recent performance highlights include the title role in *Cendrillon* for WAAPA, Female Chorus in *The Rape of Lucretia* for ICW Productions, and singing the title role in *Suor Angelica* for the Sound Thinking Summer School.

Jessica has been working in Arts administration and as an independent producer for several years, with a particular interest in improving accessibility and diversity in opera and classical vocal music. They are currently Communications Manager for The Giovanni Consort.

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The Composer

Christine Pan
(she/her)

Christine is a Sydney-based composer commended for her versatility in style, who has composed for everyone from physics professors and engineers to dancers and orchestras. Her works are often developed from social-cultural and philosophical frameworks, that she takes great pride in meticulously researching.



Her music has been played by the Goldner Quartet, Ensemble Offspring, Ensemble Terra, the Judgement of Paris and other renowned ensembles. Christine has an array of exciting projects in store for 2022. She will be premiering a new audio-visual work at Konzertprojekt Sound Stories Concert supported by the City of Sydney with animation by Bea Brabante, and continuing her composer residency for Filipinx play, Salt Baby produced by Asian-Australian led theatre company, kollective. Her work for solo harp will be premiered and recorded by acclaimed harpist Kate Moloney by ABC Classic. Orchestra Victoria will be premiering Christine's new score of Introducing Teddy, Jessica Walton's charming picture book, to life at Library Vic as part of Midsumma Festival.

She is also looking forward to participating in the Composing in the Wilderness Program in Alaska, USA this year, with a new chamber work premiered by Corvus at the Fairbanks Summer Festival in Alaska. In the meantime, she hopes to continue her residency with Groundswell AU at Liverpool and Camden hospital writing music for palliative care patients and staff.



TENTH MUSE INITIATIVE

Founder & Artistic Director

Hannah Lee Tungate
(she/her)

Hannah is an early career Arts administrator, a classically trained soprano, and the founder of Tenth Muse Initiative. She has done extensive research on and advocacy for women and non-binary composers, through founding the Women's Composers Project and pushing for and successfully creating space for more diverse programming at the UWA Conservatorium of Music.



She presented on this subject at the 2019 Gender Diversity in Music and Art Conference, leading a discussion about the lack of gender parity in classical voice repertoire performed at the tertiary level and premiering a work by local non-binary composer, Margaret Dylan Jones.

In 2019, Hannah graduated from UWA Conservatorium of Music with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Music. Her thesis title was 'In Her Own Idion: Text Setting and Soprano Vocal Writing in Barbara Strozzi's Sino Alla Morte'.

In 2020, Hannah was appointed to the Art Song Advisory Council for The Institute of Composer Diversity, as the only Australian representative, and spent some time as a research volunteer for the London based Donne UK.

She works full-time at Musica Viva Australia as the WA Administration Coordinator.

Hannah is available for consultation about diversifying repertoire and relevant resources for ensembles and individuals.

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A massive thank you to our Tea Partner:

Founded in Australia by Hilary White in 1979, Elmstock specialises in the sale of premium quality teas, sourced from all the world's major tea growing countries and regions. Fruit and herbal infusions which are a growing part of our business are imported from leading producers in Europe. Elmstock Tea Company has a rich tradition of continuous involvement in the tea trade spanning five generations.



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Thank you to our volunteers,
this concert couldn't have
happened without them!

Tom Allan

Charlotte Kirke

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Ruth Lee

Jenny Bylund

Sara Mau

Bella Cisse

Imogen Morgan

Josephine Evans

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