

Merinda Dias-Jayasinha CV

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

SuperSonic — *Manager* June 2018 - PRESENT

[SuperSonic](#) is an independent record label based in Brisbane. Focus on original jazz, improvised, & experimental music. In 2018, the label hosted a monthly gig series at a Brisbane venue. These events were curated in support of album launches from local Brisbane artists, releasing through the label. SuperSonic is part of Green Chimneys Records.

As manager, my role included the curation of monthly gigs, marketing and scheduling for album releases, and photography and video editing for album/artist content. The role involved liaising with venues, artists, audiences/customers, operating sales and merchandising, and managing promotional activity on social media platforms.

The 24 Hour Dance Project - Musical Consultant

This [work](#) by Freya McGrath (performer) was performed as part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival 2018. My role was creating the music for the promotional trailer.

ARTIST BIO

Merinda Dias-Jayasinha is a vocalist, improviser, and composer. As a creative musician, she delights in storytelling and pursues musical excellence through her art and collaborations.

The Brisbane-born, Melbourne-based artist explores her artistry, jazz sensibilities, and impressive vocal ability through a number of diverse ensembles and projects, including Gian Slater's celebrated ensemble *Invenio Singers*. In 2018 she released 'First Cycle', the debut album of her string/voice quartet *Meridians*, and is currently writing a second album for the group. The debut album of her co-lead trio *Strong Cotton Socks*, 'Falling Towards You' was released through ABC Music in March 2020.

Dias-Jayasinha's professional skills also reside in composing and arranging. In 2018, she was commissioned by the Brisbane Girls Grammar School Chamber Singers to compose a work for their gala, titled 'With The Sea'. In 2017, 2018, and 2019, she was a Generations In Jazz Vocal Scholarship Finalist.

Graduating with First Class Honours and the University Medal from the Queensland Conservatorium, Dias-Jayasinha studied with renowned vocal pedagogue Dr. Irene Bartlett and acclaimed Australian jazz vocalist Kristin Berardi. She has performed at the Melbourne International Jazz Festival (2018), Melbourne Women's International Jazz Festival (2018), Brisbane International Jazz Festival (2017), the Magnetic Island Jazz Festival (2014, 2017, 2018), and as well as numerous beloved local venues, at The JazzLab, Brisbane Jazz Club, DooBop Jazz Bar, Foundry616, and Bennetts Lane Jazz Club.

Merinda is cementing her place in Australia's emerging generation of improvising musicians.

SELECTED PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

[Merinda Dias-Jayasinha](#) (Quartet, Quintet...) – LEADER/COMPOSER/ARRANGER, 2015 – present

[Meridians](#) – LEADER/COMPOSER/ARRANGER, 2018 – present – Quartet with Kayleigh Pincott (v), Simon Svoboda (cello), & Helen Svoboda (db), debut album *First Cycle* released August 2018

Strong Cotton Socks – CO-LEADER/COMPOSER, 2019 – present – Trio with Flora Carbo (alto sax/bass clarinet), & James Macaulay (tb)

Dias/Gunnoo Duo – CO-LEADER/COMPOSER, 2019 – present – Duo with Isaac Gunnoo (db)

[Invenio](#) – MEMBER, 2019 – present – led by Gian Slater

Brisbane Conduction Orchestra – MEMBER, 2018 – present – led by Benjamin Shannon, debut album *Volume 1* released October 2018

Noisy Women – MEMBER, 2018 – Collective of musicians performing a range of compositions (including graphic scores) from women composers for International Women’s Day 2018 at the Queensland Conservatorium

84 Pianos – Performer 2018 – Part of the Australian Piano Duo Festival, piece conceived by Vanessa Tomlinson and composed by Erik Griswold.

Harrigans Lane Collective – Performer 2018 – Easter at the Piano Mill

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Princes Hill Secondary College, Melbourne — Voice/Choral Teacher February 2019 - PRESENT

Voice tuition for Grade 7-12 students (individual and group lessons); Conducting junior, intermediate and senior choirs.

Brisbane Girls Grammar School, Brisbane — Workshop Facilitator/ Composers Camp Tutor July 12 2018 & 2019

Provided a contemporary jazz and pop composition workshop at the annual BGGGS Composers Camp.

Self-Employed, Brisbane — Private Music Tutor 2017 - 2019

Brisbane State High School, Brisbane — Private Music Tutor 2016 - 2018

Brisbane Girls Grammar School, Brisbane — Classroom Music Tutor and Administrative Support July - August 2015

EDUCATION

BMus (Hons) Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University

2015 - 2018

Bachelor of Music (Jazz Voice) (First Class Honours and University Medal).

Visualising Composition - Honours Thesis Abstract

This dissertation investigates the effect contemporary painting has on compositional process, through the analysis of the compositional process of three original contemporary jazz pieces entitled “Care, I Don’t” written in response to *Drowning Girl* (1963) by Roy Lichtenstein, “Splatter” written in response to *Number 7, 1950* (1950) by Jackson Pollock, and “Falling around and falling apart” written in response to *MLR* (1992) by Isa Genzken. Whilst there is literature that discusses the connections between visual modes of expression and music, few sources focus specifically on connections between painting and music or on compositional process in cross-artform work. This current research project offers insight into a vocalist and composer’s compositional process conducted through the lens of Artistic Research.

SKILLS & STRENGTHS

Excellent communicator

Works well with people of all ages

Creative Thinker

Reliable; takes initiative

Excellent organisational and time management skills

Responsible; exhibits good judgment

High level of computer literacy

Good leadership and interpersonal skills