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HD DUO

Australian Thais

New Music for Saxophone and Piano

MICHAEL DUKE
DAVID HOWIE

AUSTRALIAN THAIS

NEW MUSIC FOR SAXOPHONES AND PIANO

Hurly Burly	Matthew Orlovich (b. 1970)	
1 I. Snappy		[2.11]
2 II. Reverberant		[6.39]
3 III. Snappier		[1.27]
4 Dervish	Gerard Brophy (b. 1953)	[7.05]
5 Water has no equal	Tim Dargaville (b. 1962)	[10.36]
Three Spirits of ASEAN	Narongrit Dhamabutra (b. 1962)	
6 I. The Chant of Rattanaatri		[3.12]
7 II. Gala		[3.48]
8 III. Kakula		[2.47]
9 Serenity Flux	Saksri Pang Vongtaradon (b. 1974)	[11.21]
10 Isaan	Denny Euprasert (b. 1969)	[9.31]
Total timings:		[58.44]

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MICHAEL DUKE SAXOPHONES
DAVID HOWIE PIANO

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AUSTRALIAN THAIS

The initial impetus of this project came from David Howie's Thai family connections and the shared interest to explore the connections between the music and people of both countries. In 2009 Duke and Howie travelled to Bangkok to perform at the World Saxophone Congress. Since this initial trip they have been looking to return to share more music of Australia in addition to bringing the incredible but seldom heard Thai compositions back home.

For this "Australian Thais" project, HD Duo has collaborated with some of Thailand and Australia's premiere composers to commission, workshop and produce new music for a cross-cultural exchange aimed at enhancing and strengthening links between the two countries, greatly increasing cultural awareness and understanding through music. This project was made possible by a Sydney University, Conservatorium of Music internal research grant.



1 - 3 Hurly Burly

for B♭ soprano saxophone and piano
Matthew Orlovich

This is the only work on this recording that wasn't commissioned especially for this project. It was commissioned in 2015 by Australian saxophonist, Simon Watts who also gave its premiere performance alongside David Howie. This is the premiere recording.

Of the work Orlovich states: "The score comprises three movements. The first and third movements are the more illustrative of the work's title with urgent rhythms and highly chromatic melodic lines creating a highly energised mood. The middle movement, marked 'Reverberant', steals us away to a place of relative tranquility. Here, the saxophone and piano intermingle in an atmosphere of echoes and windchime-like figurations."

Dr Matthew Orlovich (b. 1970) is a freelance composer based in Sydney, Australia. He studied composition at the University of Sydney under the supervision of Associate Professor Eric Gross and Professor Peter Sculthorpe, gaining the degrees of BMus (1st Class Honours & University Medal) and PhD. His catalogue of scores has garnered the interest and admiration of performers and audiences worldwide and includes music

for solo instrumentalists, large and small ensembles, choirs, bands and orchestras.

Highlights of the catalogue include *Lo, there is light!* (commissioned by the Harvard University Choir, USA), *Crazy Logic* for saxophone and piano (performed by Gerard McChrystal and Mary Dullea at Wigmore Hall, London), *Tides of Ocean* (performed by the Asia Pacific Youth Choir at Milan Expo), *Aviation* (performed by BBC Singers, London), *Carnival Capers* (commissioned by soloist Barry Cockcroft for performance with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra at the World Saxophone Congress XVI, Scotland), *Communion of Reparation for Our Lady of Sorrows* (commissioned for performance by the Sydney Conservatorium Chamber Choir upon the occasion of the centenary of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music), *Butterflies Dance* (performed by Latitude 34 at the inaugural Gondwana World Choral Festival, Sydney), *Flying Colours* (a saxophone concerto commissioned for performance by the United States Navy Band, Washington D.C.) and *Escapade* (a concerto for saxophone and band performed by soloist Jérôme Laran with L'orchestre d'harmonie H20, Toulouse, France).

Matthew's most recent contributions to the repertoire include a festive choral work for Acappellago (Chicago, USA), a Vivaldi-inspired

setting for the choir and soloists of London College of Music (UK), a setting of poetry by Søren Kierkegaard for soprano saxophone and choir commissioned by Brisbane Chamber Choir (QLD, Australia), a concertino commissioned for premiere performance by the Sydney Conservatorium Saxophone Orchestra with soloist Dr Michael Duke at the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, as well as new works for Nexas Quartet (Sydney, Australia), Duo Imaginaire (Germany) and Ensemble Phantasmagoria (Portugal), plus music for European and US premiere performances at Contrasti Festival (Trento, Italy) and Hot Air Music Festival (San Francisco, USA).

When not composing music, Matthew enjoys getting outdoors to walk, swim, cycle, kayak and sail.

Mattheworlovich.com

4 Dervish

for alto saxophone and piano
Gerard Brophy

In 2015 the great Senegalese master drummer Doudou N'Diaye Rose died in Dakar, Senegal not long after celebrating his 85th birthday. He had been born into the griot, or storyteller,

caste and as a consequence, he chose the path of a percussionist/composer/band leader and in turn he himself sired an entire generation of musicians. Of his over 50 children, I have had the honour and pleasure of working with more than half of them on various exciting projects both in Australia and abroad.

On learning of Doudou's demise, I was moved to compose a tribute to this dynamic, engaging and irresistible human being, somebody who had brought so much joy and inspiration to the world.

Dervish was commissioned by Michael Duke and David Howie and it is a testament to their virtuosity and inspired musicianship.

© Gerard Brophy

After an increasingly musical adolescence, **Gerard Brophy** (b. 1953) began his studies in the classical guitar at the age of 22. In the late 1970s he worked closely with Brazilian guitarist Turibio Santos and the Argentine composer Mauricio Kagel before studying composition at the NSW State Conservatorium of Music.

He has been commissioned and performed by some of the world's leading ensembles, including

the Melbourne, Queensland, Tasmanian, West Australian, Sydney and New Zealand Symphony Orchestras; the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra; the Residentie Orkest; the Sendai Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC Philharmonic and the BBC Symphony Orchestras, to name a few.

Over recent years he has developed a keen interest in collaborating with artists from other disciplines and he is particularly active in the areas of ballet, dance and electronica. He has also been involved in exciting collaborations with musicians from other cultures among them the great Senegalese master drummers, the N'Diaye Rose family, and the timbila virtuoso Venancio Mbande from Mozambique.

Recent performances include the sell-out season of his ballet *Yo Yai Pakebi, Man Mai Yapobi* choreographed by Regina van Berkel and performed by the Residentie Orkest and the Nederlands Dans Theater; the premiere seasons of *Semele* and *Halcyon* as part of the Australian Ballet's highly successful INTERPLAY and EDGE OF NIGHT programmes, and the tour of *Gethsemane*, his contemporary passion play by the Song Company.

Among his recent pieces are *The Cloud of Unknowing* for the Camerata of St John's, *Sentinel*, a major work for large orchestra, *We Two Boys*, a

commission from the Four Winds Festival for the Omega Ensemble and *Before the Throne* for the Leichhardt Espresso Chorus. He is deeply involved in music education and teaches composition at the Queensland Conservatorium and the Sydney Conservatorium. He has been Composer in Residence at Guildford Grammar School since 2014 and at Newington College since 2006.

Currently he divides his time between Berrima and Istanbul.

5 Water has no equal

for soprano saxophone and piano
Tim Dargaville

"Under heaven nothing is more soft and yielding than water, nothing is better, it has no equal"

Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, Book II

Water has no equal is part of a collection of works inspired by the enigmatic writings of the ancient Chinese sage Lao Tzu, author of the *Tao Te Ching*. My father Doug gave me his copy of this mysterious and illuminating text when I was a teenager, and it has given much nourishment and insight over the years.

This work for soprano saxophone and piano was commissioned by Michael Duke and David Howie of HD Duo, and is at heart a contemplation on the influence and power of water, as phenomenon and metaphor, inspired by Lao Tzu's poetic writing. I hesitate to say that this work is intended to be a deliberate depiction of water, as I feel that music can only really be about itself rather than something else. But curiously present are rippling patterns that flow gently outwards into larger wave forms, growing in intensity, which are then later on reflected back as if on water's surface.

© Tim Dargaville

Tim Dargaville (b. 1962) is an award winning composer whose music is a distinctive voice in recent Australian contemporary music. His compositions include work for the concert platform, as well as music and sound design for theatre productions, and have received international recognition with performances at the Warsaw Autumn Festival (Poland), the Unerhorte Musik series (Berlin), the East-West Music and Dance Encounter (India), the Wigmore Hall Masters Series (London, UK), and the Rotterdam Bach Festival (Netherlands). In Australia, his music has been broadcast on ABC radio and national television, featured

in the Melbourne and Sydney International Festivals, awarded the prestigious Albert Maggs award, the Jean Bogan prize and an Ian Potter Music Commission. Compositions have also been nominated for both Sounds Australian and Green Room Awards for best new work.

In 2017 Tim Dargaville was the subject of a composer portrait concert *Speaking in Tongues*, held at the Salon at the Melbourne Recital Centre, and broadcast nationally on ABC FM. He has also been the recipient of two Asialink Artists Residencies, researching the South Indian vocal percussion art form Konnakol, and its creative potential for generating new music. His PhD practice based research in this area has been recently published internationally in the 2017 *Perspectives on Artistic Research* (ed. Burke and Onsman, Rowman and Little). Recordings have been released on ABC Classics, Move Records and The Divine Art (UK).

Three Spirits of ASEAN *for alto saxophone and piano* Narongrit Dhamabuttra

6 I The Chant of Rattanatri

Inspired by the temple sounds of small and large bells, vibrating through the air, merging with the peaceful Rattanatri chanting (the Buddhist chant of The Three Jewels, encompassing Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha).

7 II Gala

The movement is constructed in a ternary form, in which the first section depicts the face of Gala, one of the Hindu Gods. The middle section is a modification of the Khamen Kruan melody played by the saxophone while the piano provides dissonant chords scattered in several registers to depict gong sounds. The return of the first section, this time enhanced with retrograde technique to represent that Gala finally has to devour himself.

8 III Kakula

This movement is inspired by the Kakula, a folk instrument circulated in the group of islands in the southern region of the Philippines and the

Sulawesi Island of Indonesia. Kakula comprised of 5-9 gongs laid in a wooden frame and played with 2 wooden mallets. The movement is constructed in a mosaic form, a form comprised of several melodic fragments similar to a picture created by several mosaic tiles. At the conclusion of the movement the tempo is accelerated with a rapid force, bringing the ending to an astonishing moment.

One of the most respected Thai composers, **Professor Dr. Narongrit Dhamabuttra** (b. 1962) received a doctoral degree in Music Composition from Michigan State University, USA. His compositions have been performed regularly by leading orchestras and ensembles in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia, such as The Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Japan Shinsei Symphony Orchestra, Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Verdehr Trio (USA), IRCAM Ensemble (Paris), Ensemble Stella Nova, Ensemble Kochi, New York New Music Ensemble, The Ensemble Intercontemporain (Paris), and Brass Ensemble of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. In Thailand, a number of his compositions were performed by the Royal Bangkok Symphony Orchestra, Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra, and the National Symphony Orchestra of Thailand.

In 2008, the Ministry of Culture awarded Professor Dr. Narongrit Dhamabuttra as the prestigious Silpathorn Artist for his outstanding artistic career. Currently, he is a full professor of Music Composition at the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University (www.narongrit.com).

9 **Serenity Flux** *for tenor saxophone and piano* Saksri Pang Vongtaradon

The world moves
faster than ever
people walk and walk
filling the street with emptiness
among them I stand
by myself
look into my eyes
Serenity Flux

Saksri Pang Vongtaradon (b. 1974) is one of the most prominent Thai composers and jazz pianists of his generation, who blends classical, jazz and Thai musical traditions, transcending musical and cultural boundaries. He received a Doctoral degree in music composition from Chulalongkorn University, and a Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies from the University of

North Texas. He studied jazz piano with Dan Haerle and Stefan Karlsson and studied classical piano with Adam Wodnicki and Dr. Steven Harlos. As a jazz pianist, he has performed with Eric Marienthal, Javon Jackson and the University of North Texas Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared at concerts and festivals including the Bangkok Jazz Festival, Huahin Jazz Festival, Sawasdee Jazz Festival, Kathmandu Jazz festival, Thailand International Jazz Conference and Thailand Jazz Competition. His debut album *Seagull* was nominated for the Kom Chad Luek award for the best instrumental album of 2010.

He studied composition with Paris Rutherford, Neil Slater, Narongrit Dhamabuttra, and Weerachat Premananda. In 2014, he was awarded a research grant from the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program to study music composition with Chinary Ung, Grawemeyer Award winning composer, at the University of California, San Diego and in 2018, he was awarded a grant to study composition with Yann Robin and Raphael Cendo at L'Université D'Altitude, France.

He has received awards and commissions from the Fulbright Thailand, French Embassy, Japan Foundation, National Research Council of Thailand, Thailand Research Fund and Silpakorn

University. His music has been performed at concerts and festivals worldwide by ensembles including l'Ensemble Multilatérale, Tana String Quartet, HD Duo, Illuminart Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Maestro Tomomi Nishimoto, Calliope Duo, Tacet(i), and Ensemble Fove.

Currently, he is a faculty member of the Faculty of Music, Silpakorn University and has published two textbooks on jazz theory. He has been invited as a guest lecturer and adjudicator at national and international music conferences and festivals including Nirnitta Composers Workshop, Thailand Jazz Competition, and Silpakorn Jazz Camp.

10 **Isaan**
for alto saxophone and piano
Denny Euprasert

Isaan is an original composition commissioned by the HD Duo. Isaan (or Isan) is the Northeastern region of Thailand where the composer's grandparents lived. The work is inspired by the childhood memories of places and the music of the region. The impression of Khaen, a Northeastern free-reed instrument, can be heard in a few sections, though the composer did not use any specific quotations

from the Northeast. The pentatonic scale, however, is used throughout the piece.

Denny Euprasert (b. 1969) earned a Doctor of Arts degree in Music Theory and Composition with a secondary emphasis in Jazz Pedagogy from the University of Northern Colorado. He is the recipient of the Silpathorn Contemporary Artist Award from the Ministry of Culture of Thailand, one of the country's most prestigious honors in the arts, for his notable contributions to fine arts and culture. He has served as a jury member and/or guest faculty at numerous national and international music festivals and competitions such as Thailand Jazz Competition, Lebanon Jazz Workshop, Cyprus Jazz Workshop, Thailand Jazz Workshop, Shanghai Jazz Summer Camp, University of South Africa International Piano Competition, Greeley Jazz Festival, and West Virginia International Piano Competition. Dr. Denny Euprasert was a visiting assistant professor of music at Washington and Lee University. Currently, he is the Dean of Rangsit University Conservatory of Music and the Director of RSU Jazz Orchestra.





B I O G R A P H I E S

HD Duo

First performing together in 2008, Michael Duke and David Howie have made the impetus for their duo the presentation of exciting and innovative chamber music. Of particular interest and drive for the duo has been their close collaboration with some of Australia's most prominent and respected composers – commissioning, recording and performing these new works written specifically for them. Leading composers that have written for HD Duo include Anne Boyd, Michael Smetanin, Matthew Hindson, Mark Zadro, Gerard Brophy,

Tim Dargaville, Andrew Batterham, Brenton Broadstock, Miriama Young and Paul Sarcich.

Meeting as colleagues at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, the Duo is frequently featured on the conservatorium's concert series. As well as performing regularly across the major cities of Australia, HD Duo has also appeared in concert throughout the world in countries such as Thailand, USA, Singapore, UK, France, Malta, Cyprus, Sri Lanka, Canada, Croatia, Mexico and

French Polynesian New Caledonia. Highlights include frequent performances at the World Saxophone Congress (2009, 2012, 2015, 2018), being featured artists at the North American Saxophone Alliance conference Indianola, Iowa (2011), their UK debut in concert at Australia House, London (2012), the Australasian Saxophone and Clarinet Conference (2013) and recital concerts at the Festival de Mexico in Mexico City (2014).

As seasoned educators HD Duo has relished the opportunity to work with students, presenting master classes and workshops at institutions such as the University of Minnesota, California State University Long Beach, Indiana University Bloomington, University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh and the University of Queensland. In 2014 their second recording *Incandescence: Music for saxophone and piano by female composers* was released on the Saxophone Classics Label (UK).

In 2015 they were recipients of a COALAR (Council on Australia Latin America Relations) grant that enabled them to commission new works by Mexican and Australian composers for their third CD. They travelled to Mexico City, where they workshopped the new Mexican pieces with the composers, performing the works along with the new Australian compositions in concerts and a live broadcast at

Opus FM. They also gave masterclasses at NICO and the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico. Throughout the remainder of 2015 they toured the new works throughout the major cities in Australia.

Other recent projects include *Music of the Commonwealth*, funded by a generous grant from The Elizabethan Theatre Trust which aims to commission, record and tour new works from each of the 53 Commonwealth Countries. The first CD will contain compositions from Australia, Canada, UK, Malta, Cyprus and Sri Lanka. They will then produce one CD every following year containing 6 new countries until the list is exhausted.

The *Australian Thais* project is a collaboration of new music commissioned by Australian and Thai composers, which has been enabled by an internal grant from the University of Sydney. They have commissioned new works from 3 Australian and 3 Thai composers, which were subsequently toured in both countries.

Dr. Michael Duke

Born in Melbourne Australia, Michael Duke completed his Doctorate degree in Music Performance from Indiana University studying under the tutelage of renowned classical saxophonists Eugene Rousseau, Jean-Yves Fourmeau and

Arno Bornkamp. He has performed with many of Australia's premiere orchestras including the Sydney Symphony, Melbourne Symphony, Orchestra Victoria, the Australian Philharmonic and Pops Orchestra, and the Australian Chamber Orchestra. On the national and world stages he has been invited to perform at numerous international conferences, music institutions and festivals as both lecturer and performer in such countries as USA, UK, Denmark, Hong Kong and China.

In 2010 Duke was a featured artist at the prestigious *International Society for Contemporary Music World New Music Days* conference in Sydney, Australia where he presented two concerts of new music for saxophone. In the USA Duke has taught on the faculty of Simpson College in Iowa (2002-2005) and Eastern Nazarene College in Massachusetts (2007-2008). Beginning in July 2008, Duke commenced his appointment as the first ever full-time classical saxophone lecturer in Australia at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Sydney University. He is a Yamaha Australia performing artist.

www.michael-duke.com

David Howie

David studied piano under Sonya Hanke and Gordon Watson as an undergraduate, and then specialized in accompaniment, studying with David Miller in Sydney at the Conservatorium of Music and Paul Hamburger in London, at the Royal Academy of Music. He was Head of Keyboard Studies at Kings College in Somerset, England for four years before returning to Australia where he has lectured in accompaniment as a member of the Ensemble Unit since 1992 at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He has performed throughout the UK, Europe, America and Australia, has given numerous live broadcasts and studio recordings for the BBC, Radio Luxembourg, ABC television and radio and 2MBS FM. Some of the many wonderful artists from Australia and internationally that he has had the pleasure to perform with over the years include Claude Delangle, Stanley Drucker, Kyle Horsch, Gordon Hunt, Peter Jenkins, Annalisa Kerrigan, Nick Parnell, Kamahl, Dominica Matthews, Otis Murphy, Richard Sherman, David Wakeham, Mark Walton and Asmira Woodward-Page. He is President of the Accompanists' Guild of NSW.

All works are self-published by the composers, except:

Hurly Burly: Waratah music

Water has no equal: Australian Music Centre

All works recorded in Verbrugghen Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Sydney University, Australia

Dervish & Hurly Burly recorded 28th February 2018

Isaan recorded 6th June 2018

Three Spirits of ASEAN & Serenity Flux recorded 14th February 2019

Water has no equal recorded 19th September 2019

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Cala Signum, Suite 14, 21 Wadsworth Road, Perivale, Middlesex, UB6 7LQ, UK.

+44 (0) 20 8997 4000 E-mail: info@signumrecords.com

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