

## Adrian Sherriff Biography

Adrian Sherriff is a performer, composer, teacher and multi-instrumentalist [brass, winds, percussion and electronics]. His life as a child in West Papua required him to frequently adapt between a West Papuan tribal environment, an evangelical North American boarding school and secular Australian society. The flexibility of cultural perspective that these experiences required continues to inform his development as an artist.

Since 1995, Adrian has been a frequent performer at the Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane arts festivals as well as performing regionally throughout Australasia. Adrian has regularly toured internationally to Southeast Asia, Europe and/or North America since 1996. In Melbourne, he has been an ongoing member of the Australian Art Orchestra and the Bennett's Lane Big Band since their inception.

Since 2006, Adrian has been the musical director of a collaborative project between the Australian Art Orchestra with the Sruthi Laya ensemble. He has led this ensemble on two highly successful tours of India in 2007 and 2008. In 2009 this ensemble will tour across Australia and release a studio album of material from the 2008 tour.

Adrian's other current projects are a duo with Roger Pell (shakuhachi and guitar), Tripetaka (a hip hop-gamelan fusion group), Yarra Edge Trio (piano, saxophone and trombone) and Panchabhuta (an improv-electroacoustic-South Indian classical dance project) featuring Sandy Evans and Rajeswari Sainath (India).

Adrian's previous projects include leading Oynsemble Melbourne (14-20 piece post Coltrane improvising ensemble), Bone Clan (10 piece trombone choir), Pprim (multicultural trio with Satsuki Odamura and Tunji Beier) and Byar (Balinese gamelan quartet). Other previous projects include the ARIA winning Andrea Keller Bartok Project, Musikki Oy, Blow, Peter Knight's 5+2, Grand Union Orchestra and many others. More recently Adrian has worked regularly with the Black Jesus Experience (Ethiopian hip hop), Wide Alley (Chinese music project) and Valanga Khoza (South African songwriter).

Adrian's musical foundations have been in the study and practice of Western European, Afro-American, South Indian, Japanese and Balinese musical traditions. In each of these traditions, Adrian has studied and performed with master musicians of international calibre. Adrian also has studied and performed with musicians from Sumatra, Latin America, North India and Central and West Africa.

Adrian has a Bachelors degree (Improvisation) in trombone and flute from the Victorian College of the Arts (1992) with Honours from Monash University (1996) in South Indian classical percussion. His Masters Degree from the Victorian College of the Arts is in Intercultural Music Performance (2005). He has also been awarded a Graduate Diploma in Education (Music). Since 2007 Adrian has been employed as a full time Lecturer in Music at NMIT teaching music performance, music technology and world music.