



**Paul Grabowsky**  
Pianist, composer, conductor

Paul Grabowsky, pianist, composer, conductor, born in Papua New Guinea in 1958; raised in Melbourne. He founded the Australian Art Orchestra, tours and records with his ARIA award-winning jazz ensembles and has composed scores for television, including the ABC's *Phoenix* and *Janus*, and feature films directed by Gillian Armstrong, Paul Cox, John Irvin and Fred Schepisi.

His theatre works include *Love in the Age of Therapy* for Opera Australia and the Helpman Award winning Balinese shadow-play *The Theft of Sita* performed at the Melbourne and Adelaide festivals and Expo 2000, Hanover. *The Theft of Sita* also appeared at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in NYC in 2001.

He produced and presented the television series *Access All Areas*, was Commissioning Editor for ABC Television Arts and Entertainment 1996-1998 and is currently Artistic Director of the Queensland Music Festival.

#### Examples of work

- / *If Snakes Could Fly*
- / *Tailfin*
- / *Nopin Kurongk*
- / *Last Orders*

Paul had long wished to compose a music-theatre work based on the Somerset Maugham story *Rain*, from *Tales of the South Pacific*. The story tells of travellers on a voyage from San Francisco to Sydney forced to share lodgings during a Samoan stopover; one, a prostitute, another a fire-&-brimstone missionary who, following a highly charged psycho-sexual conversion scene, is found dead.

His work has involved various cross-cultural collaborations and music of the Pacific has a particular allure for him. *Rain* would combine language and methodology of pre-Western Pacific music with free adaptations of the Methodist Hymnal, a body of music he grew up with as school pianist at Wesley College.

His writing will bring interactive multi-media technology together with live improvisatory performance. He believes strongly in the power of indigenous musical practices, looking always for ways to bring them to the concert stage in meaningful conversation with contemporary performance and new technologies.

#### Acknowledgements

- / *If Snakes Could Fly* from *Before Time Could Change Us*. Lyrics: Dorothy Porter. Music: Paul Grabowsky.
- / *Tailfin* from *Tales of Time and Space*. Paul Grabowsky.
- / *Nopin Kurongk* from *Ruby*. Lyrics and music: Archie Roach. Arranged by Paul Grabowsky. Performed by Mr Roach with the Australian Art Orchestra.
- / *Last Orders* from *Last Orders Soundtrack*. Paul Grabowsky, from film directed by Fred Schepisi.

