



## **BIOGRAPHIES ANDREA KELLER QUARTET (Melbourne, Australia)**

**English**

**Deutsch**

### **AKQ**

Andrea Keller - Piano, Composition

Ian Whitehurst - Tenor Saxophone

Eugene Ball (2014 Tour - Scott Tinkler) - Trumpet

Joe Talia - Drums/Percussion

### **ANDREA KELLER**

Since the release of her first album in 2000, jazz pianist and composer Andrea Keller has established herself as an important contributor to Australian jazz and contemporary music. Described as having “one of Australia’s most consistently interesting musical minds” (Doug Spencer 2007), she has released nine albums as leader or co-leader, and her compositions and performances can be heard on many others.

Her originality and distinctive style has led to invitations to compose music for the *Australian Art Orchestra*, Mike Nock’s *BigSmallBand*, the *Bennetts Lane Big Band*, *Ten Part Invention*, *Seraphim Trio*, Four Winds Festival, ABC Radio National’s *Poetica*, *Zephyr Quartet*, Genevieve Lacey, Claire Edwardes, and the Children’s Hospital’s *Hush Collection*. As a performer she has toured nationally and internationally, and is best known for her award winning ensemble the *Andrea Keller Quartet* and her re-workings of the music of Bela Bartok and Wayne Shorter.

Among Keller’s list of achievements are three ARIA Awards, three Australian Jazz Bell Awards, an Art Music Award, and fellowships from the MCA/Freedman Foundation and the Australia Council. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Improvisation (Honours) from the Victorian College of the Arts and a Master of Arts (Research) from Queensland University

of Technology. **“Her work is always lit brightly by the spark of originality.”** Roger Mitchell, 2012.

## **ANDREA KELLER QUARTET**

Winners of the Australian Jazz Bell Award for Jazz Ensemble of the Year (2012), the **Andrea Keller Quartet** is: Eugene Ball (trumpet), Ian Whitehurst (tenor saxophone), Joe Talia (drums and electronics) and Andrea Keller (piano).

Having emerged in 2003 from what was ‘The Andrea Keller Quintet’ (formed in 1999), long time collaborators Ball, Whitehurst, Talia and Keller have been said to create music that is “a marker of just how good Australian jazz is” (Bev Stapleton 2006).

Performing the distinctive compositions of pianist/composer Andrea Keller, the AKQ have released five albums:

### ***Wave Rider***

Andrea Keller Quartet with Strings (2013)

### ***Galumphing ‘Round the Nation: the Collaborations Project***

Andrea Keller Quartet with guests (2009)

Includes works from their 2009 national tour featuring renowned musicians Bernie McGann, Phil Slater, Stephen Magnusson, Miroslav Bukovsky, John Rodgers and Jamie Oehlers.

### ***Little Claps***

Andrea Keller Quartet (2007)

Winner of the 2003 Bell Award for Best Australian Contemporary Jazz Album and nominated for Best Jazz Album at the 2007 ARIA Awards.

### ***Angels and Rascals***

Andrea Keller Quartet (2004)

Nominated for Best Jazz Album at the 2005 ARIA Awards.

### ***Thirteen Sketches***

Andrea Keller Quintet (2001)

Winner of the 2002 ARIA Award for Best Jazz Album.

Some performance highlights include:

- Moers Festival (Germany) (2007)
- Copenhagen Jazz House (Denmark) (2007)
- Sydney Opera House with Bernie McGann (2009)
- National Australian Tour (2009)
- Four Winds Festival NSW - Commission and premier of *Place*. (2010)
- ANU Canberra – Commission of new works and performance of *Place* (2010)
- Opening for Charles Lloyd at the Melbourne International Jazz Festival (2010).
- Opening the Melbourne Jazz Fringe Festival at the MRC Salon with *Place*. (2011)
- *Place* nominated for Jazz Song of the Year, Australian Jazz Bell Awards. (2011)
- Performed works from across their 12-year history at the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival (2011).
- Performances at Wangaratta Jazz Festival, including the premier of the collaboration Cologne Meets Melbourne with Christina Fuchs' 'No Tango' (Germany) and Keller's new work *Meditations on Light* (2012) initiated by Artpipes e.V.
- *Meditations on Light* named finalist at the ART Music Awards for 'Work of the Year: Jazz' 2013.
- Launched *Wave Rider* with string quartet at the Melbourne Recital Centre Salon (2013).

Review quotes on *Wave Rider*

**“... The mind and sound-world of Andrea Keller, a place that is one of the most original – if not the most original – in Australian jazz.”**

**“It is only when one hears music this brave and fantastically new that one is hit – yes: an intake of breath, a stab of joy and a little shiver of fear – with the realisation that there are still new languages to be heard, new seas to cross. And it just reaffirms one’s faith in jazz, art and human courage that little sweet bit more.”**

**“Stunning – Wave Rider is as monumental as nature yet as fleetingly lovely as nature. It takes the art of jazz to its very edge, not in an anarchic or revolutionary way, but in an organic and evolutionary – and thus more ultimately real and grounded – way.”**

John Hardaker, [australianjazz.net](http://australianjazz.net), November 27, 2013.

**“The arrangements are imaginative, original and orchestral in concept, while occasionally leaving solo spaces, giving the overall collection a fascinating symphonic aura.”**

John McBeath, *The Australian*, January 18, 2014.

**“An absolutely gorgeous and thrilling album.”**

**“A state of sonic musing, letting sounds disperse with a freedom that is positively arresting.”**

Bird Is the Worm, [birdistheworm.com](http://birdistheworm.com), January 23, 2014.

**“[Keller] flaunts minimalist influences, quirky yet catchy melodies, and a flair for string arrangements. As opposed to jazz artists who flesh out their sound with strings, Keller has a deep understanding of their potential, seamlessly incorporating them within her musical ethos.”**

Tom Greenland, *The New York City Jazz Record*, February 2014.

## **AKQ**

Andrea Keller - Klavier, Komposition

Ian Whitehurst - Tenor Saxophon

Eugene Ball (2014 Tour - Scott Tinkler) - Trompete

Joe Talia - Schlagzeug/Percussion

## **ANDREA KELLER**

Andrea Keller, Jazzpianistin und Komponistin hat sich seit der Veröffentlichung ihres ersten Albums im Jahr 2000 zu einer der wichtigsten Figuren im australischen Jazz und zeitgenössischer Musik entwickelt. Dabei wurde sie als “einer der interessantesten musikalischen Köpfe Australiens” bezeichnet (Doug Spencer 2007). Sie hat neun Alben unter ihrem Namen veröffentlicht und war an vielen weiteren beteiligt.

Ihre Originalität und eigenwilliger Stil führte zu Auftragskompositionen für das *Australian Art Orchestra*, Mike Nock's *BigSmallBand*, die *Bennetts Lane Big Band*, *Ten Part Invention*, *Seraphim Trio*, Four Winds Festival, ABC Radio National's *Poetica*, *Zephyr Quartet*, Genevieve Lacey, Claire Edwardes, und the Children's Hospital's *Hush Collection*.

Sie wurde vor allem bekannt mit ihrem preisgekrönten “Andrea Keller Quartet” und ihre Neuinterpretationen von Wayne Shorter und Béla Bartok.

Keller hat dreimal den australischen ARIA Award gewonnen, ebenso erhielt sie dreimal den Jazz Bell Award, den Art Music Award und Stipendien der MCA/Freedman Foundation und von Australia Council. Andrea Keller hat am Victorian College den

Bachelor of Music für Improvisation mit Auszeichnung abgeschlossen sowie einen Master of Arts (Research) an der Queensland University of Technology.

## **Das Andrea Keller Quartet**

Der Gewinner des 'Australian Jazz Bell Award für Jazz Ensemble of the Year' (2012), war das **Andrea Keller Quartet** : Eugene Ball (Trompete), Ian Whitehurst (Tenor Saxophon), Joe Talia (Schlagzeug und Elektronik) und Andrea Keller (Klavier).

Entstanden 2003 aus dem früheren Andrea Keller Quintett (gegründet 1999), wird den seit vielen Jahren zusammen arbeitenden Ball, Whitehurst, Talia und Keller nachgesagt, eine Musik zu kreieren, die ein Marker dafür ist, wie gut Australischer Jazz tatsächlich ist (Bev Stapleton 2006). Ihre ohne Bass funktionierende Instrumentenaufstellung war eine treibende Kraft bei der Entwicklung eines intimen, kammermusikähnlichen Zugangs zu den Kompositionen und Improvisationen, die die Gruppe vorträgt. Obwohl das Repertoire des Ensembles und seine Mitglieder sehr stark vom Jazz beeinflusst sind bzw. aus der Jazztradition stammen, bringt jedes einzelne Mitglied eine große Bandbreite an Erfahrungen aus anderen Genres von zeitgenössischer westlicher Kunstmusik zu Electronica mit, die alle eingebracht werden, um einen stark wiedererkennbaren und einzigartigen Sound zu erschaffen.

Das AKQ, das die charakteristischen Kompositionen der Pianistin/Komponistin Andrea Keller aufführt, hat vier Alben herausgebracht, einen ARIA Award und einen Bell Award erhalten und war zweimal für den ARIA Award nominiert. 2011 waren sie für Jazzensemble des Jahres bei den nationalen „Jazz Bell Awards“ nominiert und das Stück „Place“ bekam eine Nominierung als „Jazz Song of the Year“.