

ENTERTAINMENT

WANT MUSIC ON DEMAND? Herald Sun+ Find out more

Subscribe and get WEEKEND PAPER DELIVERY *Conditions apply Herald Sun+ Find out more

Sound fit for an emperor

SIMON PLANT HERALDSUN AUGUST 14, 2012 12:00AM

SHARE f t in g+ SAVE THIS STORY

Ads By Google

Canadian Money Transfers Unbeatable Rates on International Money Transfers. 1st Transfer Free! www.canadianforex.ca

SEEN from a distance, he could have stepped right out of a gilt-framed painting in the Napoleon: Revolution to Empire exhibition.

The top hat and frock coat, the pantaloons and ruffles ... they all suggest a man at home in the past. But Benjamin Skepper is thoroughly modern: an Australian-born, Japan-based artist-musician whose genre-bending performances open ears - and raise eyebrows - in theatres, museums and fashion shows.

"What I do is a combination of old world and new world," he says. "Instrumentation meeting electronic digital technology ... breaking down barriers between all those things."

This month, Skepper's "unorthodox orchestration and technique" is on show at NGV International for Napoleon at Night. He re-interprets "musical compositions of the Napoleonic era" with a cello, harpsichord and sewing machine (yes, you read that correctly) but he stresses: "I'm not being literal. I'm not playing a Mozart sonata which Napoleon would have heard."

Instead, Skepper uses a loop machine to "intricately layer sampled sounds, building them into an orchestral ensemble".

"I don't consider myself as a pure classical musician. I create fantasies for people to enter, where they can be whisked away into other worlds."

Skepper's original works wend their way into live performance, sound exhibitions, film scores and advertising campaigns but much is anchored in what he calls "fundamental laws of harmony and melody".

"It's about having that foundation and using that as a springboard ... I'm not coming (to NGV) to



Benjamin Skepper will perform at the NGV's Napoleon exhibition. Picture: Chris Scott

ADVERTISEMENT

Most Viewed

- 1. Confessions from inside the Birdcage
2. Massacre was gunman's 'destiny'
3. Who's next in line at your AFL club?
4. Bikie link in violent suburban death
5. Bachelor Blake: 'You made me look stupid'
6. Oh, baby - I wasn't expecting you
7. Doubt over alleged killer's banker claim
8. Lions sweat on Aish, Pickering's next play

Entertainment

What's up with Mark Holden?



HE was booted off Dancing With the Stars, but not before Mark Holden proudly flashed his paunch. And no, it wasn't a stunt gut.



What's happened to Zellweger's face?

present something known. People can expect something they have never heard or seen before."

Home is a studio in Tokyo but Skepper is always on the move, "wanting to move beyond what we're comfortable with" and - when time allows - designing clothes. His Napoleon ensemble includes a frock-coat from Vienna, shoes from Milan and a top hat festooned with peacock feathers by milliner sister Rachel.

"There's definitely a theatrical side to what I do," he laughs, "and if I was living in Napoleonic times, I would certainly have been part of the aristocracy!"

NAPOLEON AT NIGHT

Benjamin Skepper

NGV International, 5-9pm; August 15, 22 and 29. Free



Ads By Google

Hey, Sandra Bullock Lied

Her Fans Are In Shock. Her Huge Secret Is Finally Exposed!




Subscribe and get a HarperCollins eBook*

**Conditions apply*

Herald Sun Find out more

MORE STORIES



BB love rat: 'Sorry for ruining her life'

ENTERTAINMENT



The film Sophie Monk doesn't want you to see

ENTERTAINMENT



Pimps grant prostitutes disturbing 'reward...'

NEWS.COM.AU



What happened to the sixth apartment?

NEWS.COM.AU



Tragic lament of the lucky few

BUSINESS



Bulls stun Tassie after Dunk doubleton

CRICKET

FROM AROUND THE WEB



11 Celebrities Who Say They're Not Black

MADAMENOIRE



The life and fashions of Oscar de la Renta

WASHINGTON POST



Teacher Publicly Shames Girl by Showing Her Bikini Photo at School...

STIRRING DAILY



Most Embarrassing Celebrity Wardrobe Malfunctions

AMERICAN LIVE WIRE



Obama to backers: Get 'Cousin Pookie' to vote

USA TODAY



The Judges Made Him Stop Singing...Then He Blew Them ALL Away!!

LITTLETHINGS.COM

GOODBYE Bridget Jones! Renée Zellweger has stepped out in Hollywood looking completely unrecognisable – but is tight-lipped on what's behind the change.



Confessions from inside the Birdcage

PARIS Hilton's sex tape, diva demands and hot new couples. The Spring Racing Carnival at Flemington's Birdcage is a heady time full of gossip, innuendo and style ...



Fans DONE with The Bachelor

WE HEAR you Australia, after tonight's latest tell-all you are officially done, finished, over The Bachelor and his harem of women - and so are the hosts of *The Project*.



Why Sofia Vergara loves being Gloria



MODERN Family star Sofia Vergara is the highest paid TV actress in Hollywood yet can she break away from the role of Gloria?



TOP VIDEOS



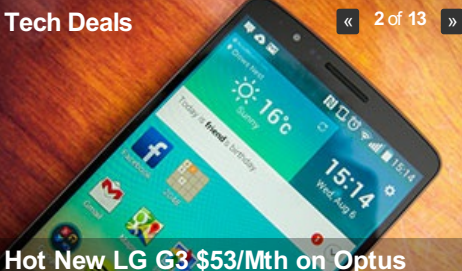
Total CEO Dies in Plane Crash



Sheens names young Kangaroos squad

Recommended by

Tech Deals 2 of 13



Hot New LG G3 \$53/Mth on Optus

Stunning new LG G3 starting at \$53/Month Mn. Total Cost \$1,272 over 24 months

Deals powered by WhistleOut



From around the site

Why Sofia Vergara loves being Gloria



ENTERTAINMENT

- What's up with Mark Holden?
- What's happened to Zellweger's face?
- Confessions from inside the Birdcage
- Fans DONE with The Bachelor
- Why Sofia Vergara loves being Gloria

CONFIDENTIAL

PHOTOS

MOVIES

LEIGH PAATSCH

TELEVISION

MODERN Family star Sofia Vergara is the highest paid TV actress in Hollywood yet can she break away from the role of Gloria?

   1

Designer Oscar de la Renta dies

ONE of Oscar de la Renta's last acts was to design Amal Alamuddin's wedding dress. Today the fashion elite are mourning the death of a legend.

Mark Holden's downing moment

CONTROVERSIAL reality show dancer Mark Holden has put the clown make-up back on – and this time he's a cigar-chomping circus performer with a grudge.

BB love rat: 'Sorry for ruining her life'



BIG Brother's cheating housemate Lawson will issue a blubbering apology to his girlfriend of five years tonight. "She's a good person," he sobs. "I am not."

   11

Sam says Blake is 'a douche'



JILTED Sam Frost has labelled her ex fiance *The Bachelor* Blake Garvey's version of events as "false" and "painful" after he revealed he is in a relationship with Louise.

   9

LIFESTYLE

Snack Attack

Taste

10 delicious ideas for when you're feeling peckish.

16 of the most outrag..
The top 20 slow cook..

Home Makeover

Homelife

The 10 most common home styling mistakes.

10 style tips to steal f..
The top 10 living room



ADVERTISEMENT

SPONSORED LINKS

[Breaking news video!](#)

Watch the latest Local and National breaking news

[Celebrity news and video!](#)

Up to the minute celebrity gossip, photos & celebrity videos

News

 **Beams to face Pies in blockbuster Round 1**
AFL

Qantas worker sues over crucifix ban

Wife quizzed over Bali execution

Sport

 **Full house sign to go up for derby**
A-LEAGUE

Roar fans deprived of Villa visit

Who made the grade? The Greatest Cox Plate

AFL

 **Beams to face Pies in blockbuster Round 1**
AFL

ASADA may call on Charter, Alavi at tribunal

Pelchen gone, what now for Saints rebuild?

Business

Walter White deals wisecrack to mums
RETAIL

Are you being bullied at work?

Young workers want to hit and quit

Entertainment

 **What's up with Mark Holden?**
REALITY

What's happened to Zellweger's face?

Confessions from inside the Birdcage

Lifestyle

219 schoolgirls the world forgot
REAL LIFE

'What price do you pay for a human life?'

Designer Oscar de la Renta dies

From Around The Network

We drive a V8 Supercar
Paul Gover gets behind the wheel of a V8 Supercar ahead of Bathurst.

Luna Park Sydney invites you to spend this New Years Eve at the ultimate harbour-side location to witness Sydney's world famous NYE Fireworks!

Indulge at one of eight exquisite Lindt Chocolate Cafés with this decadent offer! HALF PRICE!

You and a friend could be discovering the Amalfi Coast with \$20,000 to spend!

Get the insights from Eureka Report, an expert team with a proven track record

Time to upgrade your TV? Shop from a range of brands for cheaper prices on Getprice!

 CarsGuide.com.au

 moshtix

 OurDeal

 careerone

 eureka report

 GETPRICE

money saver DAILY DEALS



10,000 Qantas Points

Bankwest Transaction Account Offer. Conditions apply



iPhone 6 Plans

iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus are now available on plans



iPhone 6 Plans

Compare Optus, Telstra, Vodafone and Virgin Mobile



0% For 14 Months

Get 0% p.a. on balance transfers with St. George Vertigo



Super Home Loan Deal

Australia's lowest variable rate home loan. No monthly fees



Need a trip this wee...

View Expedia's last minute travel deals

A NOTE ABOUT RELEVANT ADVERTISING: We collect information about the content (including ads) you use across this site and use it to make both advertising and content more relevant to you on our network and other sites. This is also known as Online Behavioural Advertising. You can [find out more about our policy and your choices, including how to opt-out here](#).

Follow Us



- Privacy Policy
- Relevant Ads Opt-out
- Cookie Policy
- About Us
- Digital Print Edition
- Contact Us
- Letter to the Editor
- For The Record
- Place an Ad
- Advertise with us
- Photo Sales
- Archives
- Tributes
- Shop
- Careers
- Work Experience
- Help
- Accessibility
- Site Map

News

- Breaking News
- Local
- Victoria
- National
- World
- Opinion
- Photos
- Law & Order
- Technology
- News in Education
- Weird
- Weather
- The Australian news.com.au
- Herald Sun
- The Daily Telegraph
- The Courier-Mail
- The Advertiser
- Perth Now
- NT News
- The Mercury

Sport

- AFL
- NRL
- Rugby Union
- Horse Racing
- Cricket
- Football
- Motor Sport
- Golf
- Tennis
- Boxing/MMA
- Basketball
- Netball
- Other Sports
- Odds Scanner
- Fox Sports
- Fox Sports Pulse

Business

- Business Breaking News
- Markets
- Economy
- Work
- Small Business
- Companies
- Terry McCrann
- In The Black
- Your Hip Pocket
- Business Spectator
- Eureka Report

Entertainment

- Confidential
- Celebrity
- Photos
- Movies
- Television
- Arts
- Music
- Books
- Competitions
- Moshtix
- Foxtix
- Foxtel

Lifestyle

- Melbourne
- Real Estate
- Travel
- Money
- Health
- Food
- Fashion
- Parenting
- Relationships
- Horoscopes
- Sudoku
- Crossword
- Home
- Vogue
- Taste
- Kidspot
- Body + Soul
- Homelife
- Learning Seat
- GetPrice

- Code of Conduct
- Terms of Use
- Subscription Terms
- Group Subscription Terms
- News Ltd 2014 Copyright