

BENJAMIN SKEPPER ARTIST BIO

Benjamin Skepper, a Melbourne-born multi-instrumentalist, combines classical aesthetics with contemporary art, science, technology, and the avant-garde. Celebrated for his ability to weave through musical boundaries and artistic expressions, Skepper has received international acclaim for his comprehensive body of work.

Starting his musical journey as a piano prodigy at age two, Skepper embraced numerous art forms from an early age, including ballet, singing, harpsichord, and further studies in the violoncello. From his first international tour at 10, Skepper's passion for travel and cross-cultural exchange has landed him all over the world. His practice embraces experimental approaches to classical composition, sound design, and multi art form practice. His passion and truly diverse skill-set allow him to find new connections between distinct practices.

While pursuing a successful music career, Skepper also obtained an Arts/Law degree from the University of Melbourne. A dedicated human rights advocate and solicitor, he voluntarily supports NGOs, community arts organisations and charities, reaffirming his strong belief in the transformative power of art for social change, inclusion and healing.

As both a cultural producer and director, Skepper founded *contrapuntal*, an art studio and creative enterprise. Through this vehicle, he delivers unique, multi-artform installations, collaborating with a variety of clients, from museums and luxury brands to government agencies. Under the umbrella of *contrapuntal*, he has also launched his independent music label, which, to date, boasts six self-produced solo releases.

Benjamin is an innovative thinker, seeking to integrate scientific breakthroughs within his creative practice. He's particularly interested in how music and sound influence human experiences, and has ventured into the world of genetics and neuroscience, particularly in the context of music and healing. His projects have received substantial commissions and recognition, representing a unique cross-disciplinary approach to art, tech and science.

Additionally, as an author, Benjamin communicates his vivid ideas on art, innovation, and sustainable futures, most recently through his book 'Artist Thinking.' A compelling writer and performer, he is frequently featured across a range of media outlets, and embraces every opportunity to influence positive social transformation through his art.

“Embodying classical aesthetic, music and culture, Benjamin Skepper is a musician with an extraordinary sense of the contemporary” (Rolling Stone Italy)

<https://benjaminskepper.com/>

ARTIST CHRONOLOGY (SELECTED WORKS)

MUSIC COMPOSITION, LIVE PERFORMANCES + FESTIVALS

- 2023 Phoenix Central Park (Sydney, June 2023)
"Praeludium y Fuga" at the Melbourne Recital Centre (Melbourne)
- 2022 "The GABAN" by Brook Andrew, for Art Gallery of NSW, Opening of Sydney Modern (Sydney)
- 2021 "For Our Freedom" Music and Documentary Project (Iwate, Japan)
- 2020 Signal Festival Asia (Bali)
Festival No.23 (Melbourne)
- 2019 "Praeludium y Fuga" at Moscow State Conservatory (Moscow)
Fields Festival (Moscow)
Cosmoscow Art Fair (Moscow)
- 2018 Astana Art Show (Astana)
Signal Festival at Nikola-Lenivets (Russia)
VIVID Ideas at Royal Botanical Gardens (Sydney)
Noise and Fury Festival (17th edition), DOM (Moscow)
- 2017 Science Gallery Melbourne Commission "Pump up your Blood"
Progressive Ginza Festival (Tokyo)
Acoustic Village Festival (Tokyo)
- 2016 MARS Center for Media Art with 404.zero (Центр МАРС) (Moscow)
Experimental Music & Art Expo at Vadima Sidur Museum (Moscow)
Future Ambient Experimental Music Event Launch, Wall&Wall (Tokyo)
Noor Bar with Andrei OID (Moscow)
Klanghaus Festival (Vienna)
Symmetry Festival (Vienna)
TECTONIC Event launch, St Stephens Anglican Church (Melbourne)
Bennetts Lane Jazz Club (Melbourne)
- 2015 Beyond the Bright Black Edge of Nowhere, Fed Square (Melbourne)
Ormond Hall (Melbourne)
Super Deluxe (Tokyo)
- 2014 The Hermitage Foundation - Manifesta 10 EU Biennial of Contemporary Art (Saint Petersburg, Russia)
The Kelvin Club (Melbourne)
- 2013 MONA FOMA Festival Headline (Tasmania)
Midsummer Nights Dream Festival (Moscow)
Bennetts Lane Jazz Club (Melbourne)
The Corner Hotel (Melbourne)
Theatre Royal (Victoria)
- 2012 National Gallery of Victoria "Napoleon: Revolution to Empire" Featured Artist, Art After Dark (Melbourne)
Palazzo Serbelloni x AMICA Magazine 50th Anniversary (Milan)
Venice Carnivale – "The Forbidden Pleasures of Cassnova" (Venice)

- Theatre Royal (Victoria)
The Toff in Town (Melbourne)
- 2011 Museo del Novecento Sunday sound improvisations (Milan)
Fondazione Alda FENDI –Esperimenti di Quaresima (Rome)
Promotional Video for Fabriano Jazz Festival Umbria (Rome)
“Rooms 22” Japan Fashion + Design Trade Fair Installation (Tokyo)
Chapel Off Chapel “Inimitable” album launch (Melbourne)
- 2010 “Gallery on the Hill” Opening (Tokyo)
“United Nations Museum” Opening with butoh master Kudo (Tokyo)
2nd Tokyo Photographic Art Fair - Opening Night Performance (Tokyo)
ExperIstanbul at 60m2 (Istanbul)
- 2007 amfAR Gala Vienna Life Ball VIP event with Calvin Klein (Vienna)
FINA International Swimming Championships at Fed Square (Melbourne)
National Gallery of Australia 25th Anniversary Performance (Canberra)
- 2006-2007 Meredith Music Festival, Rainbow Serpent Festival, Folk Rhythm and Life
Festival, St. Kilda Festival, Tasmanian Forest Festival (Australia) Revolver
Upstairs (Melbourne), Abercrombie, Beach Hotel (Sydney), Solbar (Brisbane),
Mojos Bar, Civic Hotel (Perth), Northcote Social Club (Melbourne), Corner Hotel
(Melbourne), Esplanade Hotel (Melbourne), Evelyn Hotel (Melbourne), East
Brunswick Club (Melbourne), Sidney Myer Music Bowl (Melbourne) with
Melbourne Trip-Hop band “Miso”
- 2003-2004 Environ Sessions with Uberlingua at Loop Bar curated by Brendan
Palmer (Melbourne)
- 1991 International Music tour as Suzuki Music Ambassador (New Zealand)
- 1987-1995 National tours with Carinya Strings Melbourne, The National Boys Choir, Percy
Grainger Youth Orchestra, Melbourne String Ensemble and as a solo musician

MUSEUM COMMISSIONS + SOUND ART + ART EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 “A Taste of the Senses: Introspection” at Kudan House (Tokyo)
“Hibiki” Exhibition at Tiers Gallery Omotesando (Tokyo)
- 2020 “A Taste of the Senses” Launch at Kudan House (Tokyo)
- 2019 National Gallery of Australia with Nakaya Fujiko (Canberra)
- 2016 Cairotronica Multi Media Festival Installation (Cairo)
Symmetry Festival Exhibition Hungarian Institute (Vienna)
- 2015 World Premiere at Siggraph Asia – 16 ch. multimedia installation with NHK,
Canon 8K Camera, Tokyo Denki University and The Hokusai Art Foundation
(Kobe)
Sound Art Exhibition C’a D’Oro Gallery Chelsea (New York)
- 2011 “Dirty, Dirty! Sex, Sex!” ArtGig Tokyo Group Exhibition with Yoko Ono (Tokyo)
- 2010 Museo del Novecento Art Museum Inauguration (Milan)
“Sight & Sound: Music & Abstraction in Australian Art” at The Victorian Arts
Centre: curator Steven Tonkin (Melbourne)
- 2009-2010 “No Mans Land” at the French Embassy: curator Helene Kelmachter (Tokyo)

- 2009 “requiem d’une marionette” at PLSMIS Art Gallery (Tokyo)
“requiem d’une marionette” at Frank Lloyd Wright’s “Jiyu Gakuen” (Tokyo)
- 2007 National Gallery of Australia “Culture Warriors” Indigenous Art Triennial (Canberra)
“Bright Fires” performance artwork at Gertrudes Contemporary Art Spaces with Christian Thompson (Melbourne)

ARTIST RESIDENCIES, FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 Astana Art Show Residency (Kazakhstan)
- 2017 Science Gallery Melbourne inaugural artist residency (Melbourne)
- 2016 Klanghaus (Vienna)
Moscow State Conservatory Research Fellowship (ongoing) (Russia)
- 2015 St Petersburg State Conservatory of Music (by invitation) (Russia)
- 2009-2010 “No Mans Land” artist residency at the French Embassy (Tokyo)

FASHION | LUXURY COMMISSIONS + EVENT ACTIVATIONS + ART DIRECTION by CONTRAPUNTAL

- 2021 H&M x Simone Rocha – Immersive Media Art Installation + Bespoke Fashion x Art Retail Experience (Tokyo)
- 2018 FENDI private event (Rome)
COEDO Beer Brewery Installation (Japan)
- 2016 VOGUE Fashion’s Night Out x Tsvetnoy Central Market Kinetic Media Installation (Moscow)
Gazprom Corporate Event (Moscow)
- 2015 Spring Fashion Week Music Direction and Performance (Melbourne)
DULUX Color Awards Sound Design and Performance (Melbourne)
Crown Casino Melbourne VIP Fashion Night Sound Design and Performance (Melbourne)
SENSIS Corporate Event (Melbourne)
- 2014 Milan Fashion Week Sound Installation for Rachel Skepper Millinery at White Trade Show (Milan)
Milan Fashion Week for KRIZIA at Palazzo Litta (Milan)
- 2013 Opening for The Four Seasons Hotel Lions Palace with Blancpain and Tourbillon (St. Petersburg)
- 2011 Phillip Treacy Private VIP Fashion Show, Christines (Melbourne)
FIAT 500 by GUCCI “Chicnic” Car Launch, Italian Embassy (Tokyo)
- 2010 Rooms 22 Fashion + Design Trade Fair 3 day sound installation and performance, Harajuku National Sports Stadium (Tokyo)
Paris Fashion Week for The Viridi-Anne, Tour Jean sans Peur (Paris)
- 2009 Tokyo Fashion Week for Yohji Yamamoto, Olympic Stadium (Tokyo)
- 2008 Claska Hotel Opening (Tokyo)
- 2007 Australian Greens Party Federal Campaign Launch (Melbourne)

Victoria Department of Environment Conference (Melbourne)

SOLO ALBUM RELEASES – RELEASED by *contrapuntal* RECORDS JAPAN

2015 “Apodictic” at Ormond Hall (Melbourne)
2013/14 “In The Field” at Konno Hachiman Shrine (Tokyo)
at The Kelvin Club (Melbourne)
2012 “Inimitable” at Konno Hachiman Shrine (Tokyo)
at The Toff in Town (Melbourne)
2010 “Parnassus” at Konno Hachiman Shrine (Tokyo)
2009 “Eika 詠歌” at “Jiyugakuen” Frank Lloyd Wright/T. Ando (Tokyo)

COMPOSITION COMMISSIONS, ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS and FILMWORKS

2012 Dom Pérignon composition commission, live media installation and digital campaign (Tokyo)
“Fairytale in Tokyo” – short film co-producer and Director of Music
2010 Electrolux “UltraSilencer” vacuum cleaner live performance + YouTube Advertising Campaign for Press Launch event (Japan)
2009-2010 “No Mans Land” Exhibition Documentary Film, French Embassy (Tokyo)
2007 “Boodjarri Business” Documentary Film Music Director for the Western Australian Government Department of Health (Perth)
Qantas Airways “Inflight Entertainment” BGM (Australia)
ABC TV “First Tuesday Book Club” program BGM (Australia)

MAJOR PRESS EDITORIALS

2023 Limelight Magazine, June Edition
2021 Forbes Japan, March edition
2018 L’Officiel Hommes (Kazakhstan), November Edition
2017 Good Weekend Editorial Artist Feature (Australia)
2015 VICE | THUMP AU Interview and Music Video Launch March Edition
2013 Time Out Magazine Russia, July Edition
2012 GQ Japan, December Edition
AMICA Italy, May Edition
2011 Rolling Stone Magazine Italy, Edition #91
Rolling Stone Magazine Russia, Edition #84

TELEVISION

2021 NHK Japan Sendai Piano
2010 MTV Italy Interview (Milan)

- 2009 Tokyo Television Morning News (3 December, Tokyo)
iTunes Japan “Versus” TBS Television Network (Tokyo)
- 1990 “New Faces” Channel 9 Television Network (Melbourne)
- 1989-1991 “Carols By Candlelight” with The National Boys Choir (Melbourne)

SELECTED CHARITY WORK

- 2013 Police Look Beyond – Featured in Photographic Book by Giovanni Gastel et al. to raise money for Médecins Sans Frontières in response to the Sahel emergency in Africa (Italy)
- 2010 “Black Wave: Help Haiti” Charity Event for Japan Red Cross (Tokyo)
“Mode for Charity” for the White Ribbon Alliance and W.H.O (Tokyo)
- 2004-2006 Youth Affairs Council Victoria Policy Advisory Group Board Member (Melbourne)
- 2002 Non-Timber Forest Products NGO Human Rights Advocate (Cambodia)
- 2006 Fundraising event for the Gyuto Monks of Tibet (Melbourne)
- 1996 Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria Performance (Melbourne)

PRIVATE PERFORMANCES AND PATRONS

- 2010 Friends of Le Centre du Pompidou (Tokyo)
- 2009 Archduchess of Austria TB-A 21 Founder, Francesca von Hapsburg (Tokyo)
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Nakamatsu (Tokyo)
- 2007 The Gyuto Monks of Tibet (Melbourne)
- 1995 Welcome Ceremony for His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet (Melbourne)
- 1990 Sir Sidney Ballieu Myer (Melbourne)

MUSIC CONFERENCES AND MASTERCLASSES

- 1994-1996 Melbourne String Ensemble directed by Dr. Fintan Murphy (Melbourne)
- 1994-1995 Melbourne Youth Music (Melbourne)
- 1990-1991 “Studio Appia” directed by Richard Owen (Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney)
- 1991 Suzuki Music at Cambridge University (New Zealand)
Adelaide University with “Carinya Strings” directed by Andrew Schellhorn and patronised by Sir Sidney Ballieu Myer (Adelaide)
- 1989-1991 “The National Boys Choir Australia” directed by Mr. Peter Casey (Melbourne)

GOVERNMENT GRANTS + SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2023 Creative Partnerships Australia
- 2022 Creative Partnerships Australia
- 2019 Creative Partnerships Australia
- 2019 Australia Japan Foundation
- 2018 Creative Partnerships Australia MatchLab Recipient

2016 Creative Victoria Quick Start Grant
2002 Melbourne University Exchange Scholarship
2002 Association of International Education Japan Scholarship

QUALIFICATIONS

2008 JLPT Certificate Level 1 Japanese Language Proficiency
2007 Certificate IV in Small Business Management RMIT University Melbourne
2006 Admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria as solicitor/barrister
2006 L.L.M University of Melbourne (presently deferred)
2005 B.A / L.L.B (hons) University of Melbourne

BRAND AMBASSDORSHIPS | ENDORSEMENTS

Yamaha Music | Ableton | Oyaide

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

“Artist Thinking” (2021), President Publisher (Japan), October 1 (Japanese language)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Quhenberger R, Skepper, B, Stepanian I. (2020) [C G A T] *Epita Matrix Genetics*: Toward a Visualization of Genetic Codes via “Genetic Music”, MIT Leonardo Journal, Volume 53, Issue 1, February 2020, p.88-89.

Skepper, B., Stepanian I. (2017). *Bioinformatics: Towards a New Culture of Science and Art*, Journal of Biomedical Radioelectronics, Radiotekhnika, Moscow, Russia.

ARTS PUBLICATIONS

Limelight Magazine, Cutting Edge Column, June 2023