

## Peter Mcilwain

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### The School of Music – Conservatorium

The School is currently offering courses and subjects in composition at undergraduate and post-graduate levels. These courses, run by Dr Thomas Reiner and Peter Mcilwain, include tuition in electro-acoustic and computer music. The period from 2000 to 2001, has seen the development of several activities and initiatives that advance these areas of music at Monash.

In the undergraduate course, students have taken part in a collaborative project with students from the Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies (also at Monash). This project involved the creation of musique concrète works for the dance production *Pretty Bourgeois*. Students also staged a concert which featured several electro-acoustic works. The undergraduate course is currently being re-evaluated with a view to expanding subject offerings with a greater emphasis on computer based technology.

Postgraduate courses have been greatly expanded with the introduction of a Masters by research in composition and a PhD in composition. Many of the post-graduate students have been active in electro-acoustic and computer music. In computer music, one post-graduate has been researching and designing software that analyses and sorts music using pattern recognition techniques. Several concerts and sound installations have also been staged by postgraduate students both at Monash and at venues around Melbourne. Some of the students have also been involved with film productions including the composer Anthony Pateras who wrote the score for the a film which recently featured at the Cannes Film Festival.

Peter Mcilwain, who is Lecturer for Composition and Music Technology was award a Teaching Innovations Grant. This grant has enabled him to commence work on the *Working With Sound* project which is an innovative educational resource for learning about sound and sound related technology. The project is being developed in conjunction with CEMA (the Centre for Electronic Media Arts). For more information about the *Working With Sound* project see:  
<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/music/resources/WWSound.html>

This year has also seen the establishment of the *Sonic Art Group* which is an ensemble based in the recording and electronic music studios in the School. The ensemble focuses on experimental electro-acoustic music and

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computer music under the supervision of Peter Mcilwain. The *Sonic Art Group* is currently working on pieces for an up coming concert with students from the Queensland University of Technology to be held at Monash. For more information on the *Sonic Art Group* see:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/music/sonicart/>

Another initiative is the *Electronic Antiphony* concert which is scheduled for August 5 this year. This concert will feature an 8 channel sound system supplied by System Sound (who provided the excellent sound system for the Sonic Residues concert series that was held in Melbourne last year. This concert will feature multi-channel works by composers from around Australia as well as some works by composers at Monash. *Electronic Antiphony* is being presented in collaboration with the Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies (students will be creating a stage and lighting environment for the event) and CEMA. For information about this event see:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/music/ElectronicAntiphony.html>

For general information about the composition program at Monash see:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/music/research.html>

The Centre for Electronic Media Arts – CEMA  
Alan Dorin  
Jon McCormack