

THURSDAY: 11 AUGUST

## Sense of Vernacular Subversion: Contemporary Strength within Spiritual Journeying

Professor Martin Bresnick (USA)



**Lecture:** Bresnick discusses his musical composition and its relationship to the American vernacular musical tradition from his performance background and its energizing of a spiritually thoughtful and vision inspired sound.

**Respondent panel:** Sally Macarthur (musicologist), Bruce Crossman (composer), Chloe Hulewicz (composer) and Robert Moss (composer)

**Bresnick:** Besides having received many prizes and commissions, the first Charles Ives Living Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, The Rome Prize, The Berlin Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Koussevitzky Commission, among many others, Martin Bresnick is also recognized as an influential teacher of composition at Yale University. Students from every part of the globe and of virtually every musical inclination have been inspired by his critical encouragement.

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## New York Energies

Concert: Liza Moore (Australia-USA)

"Moore, of Bang on a Can fame, has established herself as a very 21st century virtuoso-the sort of pianist who can be counted on to do absolutely anything"  
(New Haven Advocate)

**Moore:** Described as "brilliant and searching... beautiful and impassioned...lustrous at the keyboard" by The New York Times, Lisa Moore's performances combine music and theatre with expressive and emotional power.

**The Backsliders:** "without a dispute the best blues band in Australia. Their material is impeccable and their musicianship is a wonder to behold" (Sydney Morning Herald)

**Dom Turner:** Slide Guitarist, multi-stringed instrumentalist, songwriter and vocalist, Dom Turner, is the founding member of the group. Dom's influences are many and varied - a blend of delta blues, piedmont blues, rock, dub and sounds of Asia. He has toured Mexico with US blues greats, Del Ray and Steve James.

**Rob Hirst:** Drum and percussion virtuoso and songwriter Rob Hirst (Midnight Oil), an acclaimed name synonymous with the best of Australian music. He stands as one of the world's great drummers - now drawing on his early jazz and swamp-rock influences to produce a sound that is integral to the Backsliders 21st century blues grooves.

**Martin Bresnick:** "Martin Bresnick has been thriving as a teacher at the Yale School of Music, inspiring the students who work with him and writing a large, diverse roster of works that are admired by performers across America...music that seems at once ancient, elegiac and awesomely new...Listen and you will hear."  
(New York Times)

**Lisa Moore:** "Lisa Moore played a beautiful, impassioned set. Martin Bresnick's rowdy, sensual "Willie's Way" (2006) asked the pianist to slap herself in the face, snap her fingers and beat her lap while playing a dazzling bluesy fantasy on Cream's cover of Willie Dixon's 'Spoonful'."  
(New York Times)



WESTERN SYDNEY  
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PRESENTS  
**ART OF SOUND**  
COMPOSER-PERFORMER FORUMS 2016

# Sonic Rebels & Tradition

Two blues musicians and one American art music composer discuss rebellious sound and its interaction with tradition within their Australian-located blues fusion and New York-born composition

# *Two blues musicians and one American art music composer discuss rebellious sound and its interaction with tradition within their Australian-located blues fusion and New York-born composition*

## FRIDAY 22 APRIL

Dom Turner (Australian guitarist/singer) and Rob Hirst (Australian drummer)

## 11 AUGUST

Martin Bresnick (New York, Yale Professor of Composition) and Lisa Moore (New York, Bang on a Can pianist)

## PENRITH CAMPUS (KINGSWOOD SITE)

### 1. Performance-Workshop Forum: 1-2pm

22 April Friday: The Playhouse (DG.19)

### 2. Performance: 1-2pm

11 August Thursday: The Playhouse (DG.19)

### 3. Workshop Forum: 11am-12pm

11 August Thursday: The Performance Space (O.162A)

## ART OF SOUND COMPOSER-PERFORMER FORUMS

### Sonic Rebels and Tradition

Organisers: Bruce Crossman and Sally Macarthur

These forums draw on the idea of music as both a physicality of sound—wrought with rebellious energy in the moment—and drawn from the people's gutsy and thoughtful reinvention of tradition, especially related to early American blues and Southeast Asia as an Australian sound and American popular music viscerality as subversion of classical music paradigms. Blues artists Dom Turner and Rob Hirst explore the Piedmont blues tradition roots and visceral interaction with Mid Night Oil energy. Whilst contemporary American art music composer Martin Bresnick, discusses his subversion of classical music conformity with vernacular American music energy within a spiritual sensitivity expressed musically.

**On The Backsliders:** "The Backsliders, Dom Turner's over-driven steel guitar and Rob Hirst's hyper-bombastic drumming wield a blues that is much louder, much more raucous, than blues-inspired rock acts like The White Stripes and The Black Keys" (FasterLouder.com.au)

**On Bresnick:** "Unexpected synergies, a fragile beauty and sensibility that takes it out of our time and places it somewhere in an unknown exotic locale at a time unknown." (Classical-Modern Music Review)

**On Moore:** "Lisa Moore premiered Stainless Staining (2007) (by Donnacha Dennehy) a post-minimalist study in which a dense, rhythmically steady electronic score surrounded a piano line that began as a straightforward pulse and eventually drew on rollicking figures that evoked Jerry Lee Lewis and other 1950s rockers." (New York Times)

## FRIDAY, 22 APRIL

### Australian Blues Masters: Out of the Jail House Now: Soul of the Asia-Pacific

Dom Turner (Australia) and Rob Hirst (Australia)

"An ocean of beats and blues" – Pacific Longboarder

**Workshop-Performance:** Dom Turner (vocals/resonator, acoustic and electric guitars) and Rob Hirst (vocals/drums)

Features living blues sounds from their recent album *Dark Side* (Rocket Distribution)

**Respondent panel:** Bruce Crossman (composer/improviser), Joseph Tabua (improviser/composer) and Jess Graham (singer-songwriter)

Backsliders: Iconic Australian blues group The Backsliders, are leaders and virtual pioneers in their own genre – 'delta-blues wall of sound'. As a two piece, they can lift the roof off any venue – moving from straight ahead, in your face, 'amped up' original blues – 'Blues 'not 'Roots' that is – to 'all-acoustic' unplugged 'way down south' delta blues. These guys have been writing, recording and performing acoustic-based blues for nearly 25 years – even before 'roots and blues' became a catch-phase with bands across the country. Multi-media celebrity, Doug Mulray describes them as 'the best acoustic blues band in the country'.

'Hanoi' was voted 'Rhythms' Magazine Readers Poll Blues Album of the Year for 2002 and was a 2002 finalist at the prestigious Australian Record Industry Awards (ARIA). 'Hanoi' is a studio album of mostly original songs by Dom Turner and Rob Hirst. The band's previous album, 'Poverty Deluxe' (1999), was a 1999 ARIA Finalist. See [backsliders.com.au](http://backsliders.com.au)

