

Case study

Katherine Philp

Details

What:

In February 2015, Katherine participated in the Impuls Academy in Graz, Austria, with members of her contemporary music ensemble *Kupka's Piano*.

Founded by composer Beat Furrer, the Academy provided a unique opportunity to learn from the world's leading composers, soloists and ensembles specialising in the performance of contemporary music.

Katherine undertook study of Berio's *Sequenza XIV* with Rohan de Saram (for whom the work was written), improvisation sessions with Frank Gratkowsky and Manon Lui-Winter, studied *Gelöschte Lieder* by Enno Poppe and performed in the academy finale concert.

Katherine was also able to attend numerous concerts, which featured works by both established and emerging composers at the academy.

When:

13-25 February 2015

Where:

Graz, Austria



Image courtesy Katherine Philip.

Arts Queensland contribution:

\$2000 – Individuals Fund

Contact for further information:

Email: katherine.philip@gmail.com

Links:

Website: Kupka's Piano

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/kupkaspiano>

Outcomes

- Katherine explored and developed skills in new ways of approaching and interpreting contemporary music

The academy represents my first attempt at specialising in contemporary music, and the experience has shaped me as a cellist and interpreter.

- Katherine met and performed with a network of young musicians and composers from across Europe who specialize in new music. Networks made with other emerging composers have laid the foundations for future commissions for Kupka's Piano.
- Katherine has been invited to give performances of Berio's Sequenza XIV at the Judith Wright Centre for Contemporary Arts and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra Current Festival.



Rehearsal. Image courtesy Katherine Philip.

Learnings and reflections

Katherine had the following reflections on her experience at the academy:

A result of studying with Rohan de Saram, a performer who has been working closely with composers for nearly 50 years, was insight into an inquiring and analytical way of approaching new work. Becoming familiar with the various types of notation used in modern music is central to interpretation, but I found that Rohan would often look beyond the notation to find a particular sound and aesthetic central to the composer's work. Before attempting to play a piece he studies the rhythmic and harmonic structures as well as overall architecture of a piece, much as a musicologist would go about analysis. Rohan is therefore able to very clearly convey the composer's intention. Observing this analytical approach has provided me with further skills in interpreting musical styles previously unfamiliar to me.

Lessons with Rohan also involved working in a lot of detail on the Sequenza XIV by Luciano Berio. The work was written for de Saram, and interpretation of the score, as well as Rohan's insights into performance practice of the Sequenza XIV, is now the subject of a Research Masters I am undertaking at the Queensland Conservatorium.