

Evan J Lawson



Evan J Lawson (b.1989) is one of Australia's leading emerging queer artists, working at the forefront of contemporary culture as composer, curator, and conductor, chiefly as artistic director of Forest Collective. Hailed by Bridget Davies in *The Age* that *Lawson's innovative musical imaginations...are striking...* Evan is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts and the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. He has studied with Benjamin Northey, Johanna Selleck, David Aronson (at the Wiener Staatsoper), Alim Shakh and Matthias Pintscher (at Grafenegg Festival) who has said that his music is *serene, deep, it's even breathing the heritage of Mahler*.

Evan was composer-in-residence at Billilla Mansion in 2015 and has completed developing artist programs with the Malthouse Theatre, Grafenegg Festival and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Alexander O'Sullivan of Partial Durations has said *Lawson's music is, bar to bar beautiful*. Performances and commissions of his music have included Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Forest Collective (Melbourne Recital Centre, Metropolis New Music Festival, Midsumma Festival), Ensemble Lux (Cite Internationale Universitaire de Paris, France), by harpist Jessica Fotinos at Jinji Lake Concert Hall (Suzhou, China), Tonkünstler Orchestra (Grafenegg Festival, Austria), Cochlea Duo (SoundSCAPE New Music Festival, Italy), Edges Duo (University of Oregon, USA), Victorian Youth Symphony Orchestra, Australian Children's Choir and Syzygy Ensemble, among others.

Evan made his European conducting debut in 2015 with the Tonkünstler Orchestra, as a part of Grafenegg Festival. As guest conductor Evan has worked with the Moravska Filharmonie, Argonaut Ensemble (BIFEM), Australian Youth Orchestra, Australian National Academy of Music Orchestra, Melbourne University Symphony Orchestra, at the New Music Studio Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and for Melbourne International Arts Festival, Bendigo International Festival of Exploratory Music and SoundSCAPE New Music Festival.

As conductor Evan's practice goes beyond the standard concert hall to encompass collaborative projects. Projects include *Nico*, featuring the music of Christ Pääffgen (Melbourne Fringe, Forest Collective and Cabaret sensation Danielle Asciak), the world premieres of his opera *Calypso* and dance-opera *Orpheus* (Forest Collective, Ashley Dougan Choreographer), *fluttering hearts // thinking machines* by pop music doyen Addison, community music making with the RMIT Symphony Orchestra, Australian premiere of Holcombe Waller's *Requiem Mass: LGBTI* (Performance Space and Carriageworks) and for various theatre productions including *Come Away with Me to the End of the World* (by Adriano and Raymondo Cortese for Ranters Theatre, Malthouse Theatre and Dublin Theatre Festival), Benjamin Britten's *Curlew River* (Gertrude Opera), *Carmen* (In Good Company) and *Die Zauberflöte* (Gertrude Opera).

Evan has worked with some of the world's finest artists including Sir Andrew Davis, Brett Dean, Gale Edwards, Fabian Russell, Christopher Hogwood, Jan Willem de Vriend, Tan Dun, Marshall McGuire, Tony Arnold and Warwick Stengards.