

# Extended Play: The Milk Carton Confessions

## Artists

Thea Rossen **Percussion**

Michael Sollis **Composer/Multi-media**

## Program

Michael Sollis **The Milk Carton Confessions**

## Program Notes

A world premiere of an original Australian work, *The Milk Carton Confessions* is a live solo performance created by percussionist Thea Rossen and composer Michael Sollis, which asks the question 'how does our relationship to the world (and its cycle of birth, death, and rebirth) reflect our individual motives for recycling?'

*The Milk Carton Confessions* seamlessly integrates live music with a range of different sources including interviews from everyday people, archival footage, and the operations of recycling plants. Thea transforms a variety of recycled material into sound making devices to explore the sounds of the ocean, disposable culture, guilt and confession, and the cyclic nature of the world. *The Milk Carton Confessions* is an ongoing project, and its premiere promises to question your understanding of recycling, and invite you to contribute your own recycling confessions.

## About the Artist

### Thea Rossen - Percussionist

Thea Rossen is an exciting and dynamic percussionist. She is celebrated for her solo and chamber recitals and has attracted worldwide attention for her *Music for our Changing Climate*, a powerful performance exploring issues surrounding climate change developed with her ensemble the Ad Lib Collective throughout a residency at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Canada.

As a soloist and chamber musician, Thea was a fellow at the Bang on a Can Summer Festival and a finalist for the Freedman Classical Music Fellowship in 2018. She has performed with a range of international artists including Vicky Chow, David Cossin and Lisa Moore and is a casual member of the percussion sections of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria. Thea has presented works at the Melbourne Recital Centre's Metropolis Festival, Peninsula Summer Music Festival and was presented by Play On as a featured artist in their sixth series.

### Michael Sollis - Composer

Michael creates captivating artistic journeys by sharing diverse worldviews with curious people, inviting audiences to discover and question the world around them. As a composer, artistic director, and mandolinist, Michael has had a unique impact on the Australian music scene. This has included his position as founder, composer, and artistic director for the acclaimed Griffyn Ensemble, and Artistic Director, Education for Musica Viva Australia – working with Australia's finest musicians to develop programs to give over 280,000 Australian school students the best opportunity to discover music.

Michael is keenly sought after as a freelance composer, with works performed by groups such as the Australian String Quartet, the Australian Voices, and internationally by exhAust, the the pearls before swine experience, and Red Note Ensemble. Recent projects include *One Sky, Many Stories*, with iconic indigenous songwriter Warren H. Williams, and *The Milk Carton Confessions* - exploring our motives for recycling - with percussionist Thea Rossen.

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