

# Anthony Garcia

Composer / Performer



From the experimental music scene in New York to early music with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra guitarist and composer Anthony Garcia is a unique presence in the Australian guitar scene. With a passion for improvisation and a masterful classical technique Garcia fuses together a wide range of styles from the ancient to the contemporary from Latin folk to exploratory jazz, pulsating world rhythms and experimental soundscapes. Performing throughout Australia, Mexico, Japan and the United States both as a soloist and in collaboration with virtuoso artists from across many musical traditions Anthony's engaging presence transports his audiences through an ever evolving musical landscape.

In February of this year Garcia and renowned didgeridoo virtuoso William Barton formed the BG Sound Project and released their first collaborative CD ***Desert Stars Dancing***. *The duo's Meridional* is currently number seven on Amrap's Airtl, most order tacks list. This year will also see Garcia tour Thailand for the first time In celebration of His Majesty the King's 84th birthday, perform with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in the Brisbane Festival and see the release the short film and CD ***Breathing Under Water***.

Amongst a busy performing schedule 2010 saw diverse collaborations including performances with William Barton, *Cyprus Trilogy* with composer Leah Barclay and the premier of *Songs from the Divine Wilderness* for guitar and violin premiered with virtuoso violinist Niki Vasilakis at the Adelaide International Guitar Festival. In 2009 Anthony performed sell out solo concerts in Japan, premiered new music with renowned Shakuhachi Master Mr Kifu Mitsuhashi in Kyoto and Osaka and was one of 12 composers from around the world invited to attend the Art Omi International Composers Residency in New York culminating in collaborative performances at New York's famous experimental music venue The Roulette. Performances in Townsville and Darwin saw the premier of Garcia's *Ulysses Blue* for Guitar and Orchestra and *City Scapes* for Guitar, Piano, Soprano Saxophone and Cello was premiered at the opening concert of the Queensland Ballet's Soiree Classique series. In December 2009 Anthony performed as guest instrumentalist in the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra's sell out Noel Noel concert series. In addition to this, a support gig for internationally acclaimed rock group Powderfinger found his music heard on the rock stage for the first time.

Acclaimed CD releases include *Moliendo Café* (2008) a collaboration with Colombian Latin Harp virtuoso Sandra Real which received a five star rating from the ABC's Limelight magazine, *Malili Dreaming* (2007) his second CD of original compositions for solo guitar included innovative techniques and sound effects reflecting time spent in Indonesian and Arnhem Land, and *Skyflyer* (2004) his first release of original work which marked the beginning of Anthony's journey as a performer of original music.

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Born in Houston, Texas, Anthony spent some years traveling with his family throughout South East Asia before moving to Brisbane, Australia where he began to study the classical guitar. During his teenage years Anthony developed a love for rock and jazz that saw him play in a number of Brisbane rock groups and jazz ensembles. Jazz offered Anthony the perfect outlet to further his innate desire to improvise. Being exposed to these different styles of music have helped shape Anthony's unique ability to compose and perform on the classical guitar.

In 1999, after 10 years of formal study, culminating in a Masters Degree in Music Performance Anthony returned to Mexico, basing himself in Merida, Yucatan. During his four years as artist / teacher at La Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan he established and directed a university guitar orchestra, a yearly guitar festival and a monthly recital series. The vibrancy of the Mexican people and their intrinsic love for music in day to day life further ignited his love for improvisation and composition and in 2003 Anthony returned to Australia dedicated to forging his own creative path.

A dedicated educator Anthony continues to offer a broad range of workshops and lectures at universities, secondary schools and for the general public. His current workshop series One World One Music incorporates an open philosophy of music making utilising techniques and approaches from various traditions to inspire freedom and creativity in his students. In 2011 Anthony received an elite scholarship from the Conservatorium of Music, UTAS to undertake his PHD in composition.

Anthony is based in Brisbane Australia where he lives with his wife Jennifer and two sons Gabriel and Ruben.