

MEDIA RELEASE
28 July 2009



**SYDNEY
CONSERVATORIUM
OF MUSIC**

NO RADIO SILENCE FOR COLIN'S SOUNDSCAPES

Doctorate candidate at The Con, **Colin Black**, continues to impress the listening public around the globe with his evocative soundscapes – the latest being in Austria.

His *Soundprints: The Prague Pressings*, a 20 minute composition inspired by the history, spirit and magic of the Czech capital, has been featured on the influential Kunstradio program, gaining a broad European audience.

The broadcast last week adds to performances and airings of his portfolio of “patchwork sonic quilts” in recent years in Spain, France, Brazil, Germany, the UK, Sweden, South Africa and New Zealand, and across Australia.

The Kunstradio website said the *Soundprints* work “uses all conceivable means of expression that are presently available in the world of acoustic arts. He lets people’s authentic utterances to be heard only to dissolve them in a sound bath and to let them resonate in special repercussions and atmospheres.”

Czech music critic, Dr Michal Rata had this to say: “I feel this is a deep emotion what I’ve been listening to – which has been structured by impressions, but it’s not kind of narration...for me it goes far deeper toward a complex set of emotional polyphony, multilingual story which goes across traditional radio expressions.”

Internationally acclaimed as a composer and sound artist, Black won the Prix Italia Award in 2003 for Best Music Radio-Composed Work for *The Ears Outside My Listening Room*. He holds a Degree in Contemporary Music from the University of New England and an Honorary Graduate Diploma from the Australian Film, Television and Radio School.

The ABC commissioned him to produce two audio/musical works in support of its coverage of the Athens Olympics and his *Butter Churn* sound sculpture installation is part of the Experience Walk in Lismore’s Heritage Park.

Black’s new *Alien in the Landscape* was a feature performance of The Con’s inaugural Open Day in March, following its world premiere on German radio.

The soundscape draws from the text from the “Journal of Dr Ludwig Leichhardt’s Overland Expedition to Port Essington in the Years 1844-45” to tap into the “psychological, physical and spiritual osmosis of the exchange between the enigmatic explorer and the ancient Australian landscape that he ventured into and eventually became a part of.”

Black produced the work using a self-created Extended Enviro Guitar – a conventional guitar which has additional strings up to 15 metres long attached and is played by the environment and processed by various effects.

“Leichhardt’s mysterious disappearance plagued the minds of the other early Australian explorers and over time his legend grew to iconic, almost mythological status within Australian culture, having towns, highways, rivers, fauna and flora named after him,” says Black.

“This piece works with Indigenous Australian language, location recordings of remote sites once visited by Leichhardt and his own words.

“Leichhardt is still out there somewhere and his atoms, being the first white man’s to have ever journeyed to these regions, have changed the composition of the Australian landscape forever.”

**Media inquiries to
Scott Saunders 02 9351 1298**

