

JULIUS SCHWING BIO

Julius Schwing is a guitarist/composer from Bruny Island, Tasmania. Born in 1987 in Vienna, he started playing guitar at age nine and since the age of thirteen has performed in Australia, Europe, India, New Zealand, Canada and the USA, including at the Nelson Arts Festival (NZ), Adelaide Fringe Festival, Hobart Fringe Festival, MONA FOMA, Faux Mo, MONA Museum Opening, Falls Festival, Festival of Voices, 10 Days on the Island, Devonport Jazz Festival and Clarence Jazz Festival.

Julius has released two albums under his own name. "Potbelly Stove" (2012) and "Edge2:Isthmus" (2016), which was the first release on Julius's newly founded creative music label Isthmus Music. Both albums have received national airplay on ABC Classic FM, PBS, ABC 936, Eastside FM, Radio National "Daily Planet". "Edge2:Isthmus" was composed for the 2016 MONA FOMA multi-discipline exhibition Edge2:Isthmus, the first MONA FOMA event on Bruny Island.

Julius has extensive experience as a theatre musician. In 2000 he performed as actor/musician for 'Circus Boomerang' and 'Justus Neumann erschlägt sich mit dem Bügeleisen' in Vienna and composed, recorded and filmed the score for "Gilgamesh", also performed in Vienna. In 2004 he received a Victorian Green Room Award nomination and Melbourne Fringe Festival commendations for best original music for the play "Last Days of Mankind".

In early 2013 he composed and recorded the score for the play "Alzheimer Symphonie" which toured around Austria and for this score he won the judges special award at the inaugural "Errols", Tasmanian Theatre Awards. In 2014, Julius travelled to Memphis, Tennessee to perform Bijou's Secret with Fiona Stewart at the Memphis International Women's Theatre Festival. Aug – Oct 2016 will see him touring Austria for the play "Hauptling Abendwind".

Julius has spent time getting lessons and living in New York and has twice been invited to Canada (2009 and 2013) to take part in the Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music led by jazz trumpet legends Dave Douglas (2009) and Vijay Iyer (2013). Here he undertook study with many artists including Joshua Redman, Clarence Penn, Ben Street, Matt Penman, Don Byron, Dafnis Prieto, David Gilmore, Tony Malaby, Esperanza Spaulding, Wada Leo Smith, Greg Osby, Tyshawn Sorey and Ben Monder.

He is a member of and has worked with numerous Tasmanian and interstate formations including Paul Capsis, Jeremy Rose, The Southern Gospel Choir band, Peter Knight, Elly Hoyt, Aakash Mittal (USA), Fiona Stewart, Tilly and the Bel Amis, Plantation, Knight/Schwing/Jackson Trio, Nick Haywood, as well as leading his own groups the Julius Schwing Quartet, Trio, Quintet and the heavy duty Schwing Thing. Julius has performed nationally at notable jazz venues such as Benetts Lane Jazz club, Paris Cat Jazz Club, 303 Lebowsky's and Jazzgroove Sydney.

Early 2014 Julius travelled to Calcutta, India, for three weeks of writing, recording and playing with American saxophonist Aakash Mittal, focusing on improvised micro-tonal music and Indian classical rhythmic ideas and in 2015 they performed their work together in New York.

Julius has had orchestration tuition in Amsterdam with composer Konstantin Koukias and recently premiered his first string quartet as part of the queen's birthday celebrations at Government House in Hobart.

He has twice been nominated for the Freedman Jazz Fellowship, one of Australia's most prestigious jazz awards.