

# Graeme Leak

full career history 2026

## Performance | Events | Installations | Workshops

2025 Performed as drummer in <b>GHOST TRAIN-THE ARRIVAL</b> event, music by Sarah Llewellan	Stockton UK
2025 <b>Commissioned by Avanti Display</b> to create performance/sound installation for <b>GHOST TRAIN</b> major event	Darlington UK
2025 <b>SAVED</b> solo show tours to Eastgate Theatre, Lyth Arts Centre and Orkney International Festival	Scotland
2025 Lead artist <b>Swan Hill Harmony Day</b> , 3 weeks of drumming workshops culminating in public parade and performance	Australia
2024 <b>Artist-in-Residence, Girgarre</b> for encore season of Junkestra	
2023 June to 2024 January: sabbatical leave and research period	Scotland
2023 Vibraphone and percussion player for <b>Ruthless Jabiru</b> session recordings of <b>Girl</b> by <b>Soosan Lolavar</b> ,	London
2022 <b>SAVED</b> season at <b>ZOO Southside</b> for <b>Edinburgh Festival Fringe</b> , 24 show full-run to 4 and 5 star reviews	Edinburgh
2022 Simultaneously recorded international episodes of <b>Eco Opera</b> produced with joint funding from Creative Scotland and Australia Council for the Arts. Partners include Edinburgh and Victorian Botanic Gardens, rural towns of Balfron Scotland and Girgarre Australia, with long time collaborators Patrick Cronin and Hazel Palmer	Australia and Scotland
2021 <b>SAVED</b> presented at <b>Edinburgh Festival Fringe</b> on <b>ZOOTV</b> digital platform to 4 and 5 star reviews	Edinburgh
2021 Filmed <b>SAVED</b> with DoP Hazel Palmer for <b>Made in Scotland</b> Showcase, <b>Edinburgh Fringe Festival</b>	Edinburgh
2020 <b>Eco Opera Live Streams</b> on <b>ZOOTV</b> - six four-hour durational broadcasts on ZOO's digital platform	Edinburgh, streamed
2020 devised and built <b>Eco Opera</b> instruments - Bird feeder, Sonic Tube and Amplified Fence	Scotland
2020 <b>SAVED</b> included in <b>Made in Scotland</b> program for Edinburgh Festival Fringe (cancelled due to Pandemic)	
2020 Lead artist <b>East Neuk Festival Big Project</b> . Rubbish collected from Fife beaches to be transformed into a 'Fantastic Plastic Parade Band'. Planned workshops June 2020, performance-parade 4 July (sadly cancelled due to pandemic)	
2020 <b>SAVED</b> featured at <b>Glasgow Science Centre</b> for 'Science Lates' including a 'show and tell' presentation.	Glasgow
2020 <b>Artist-in-Residence, Girgarre</b> : pre-rehearsed <b>Junkestra</b> for ABC TV recording and planned <b>Sound Trail</b> installations.	Australia
2019 Premiered <b>SAVED</b> at the <b>Scottish Music Centre</b>	Glasgow
2019 Build, write, rehearse and develop new solo performance <b>SAVED</b> built around rescued 70s Yamaha organs	Scotland
2019 Tutor, <b>Music for People</b> Summer School. Led <b>Make and Play</b> and <b>Rhythm Orchestra</b> workshop programs	Giggleswick, UK
2019 Toured the <b>Girgarre Junkestra</b> to Melbourne to appear as guests at the Arts Learning Festival	Australia
2019 Led <b>Make and Play</b> workshops for Arts Learning Festival, Melbourne	Australia
2018 Composed <b>The Exquisite Now</b> for massed handbells (premiered May 2019), Museum Victoria Commission	Australia
2018 Sound design for Holly and Ted's <b>Polaris</b> , Edinburgh Festival Fringe	Edinburgh
2018 Ten-week <b>Artist-in-Residence, Girgarre's Small Town Transformation</b> : built orchestra of upcycled instruments, led over 50 rehearsals, composed 40minute work for gala show	Australia
2017 Conducted <b>Noise Orchestra</b> workshops, creating a band to lead lantern parade that evening	Didcot, Oxfordshire
2017 Sound designer and composer for <b>Polaris</b> by Holly and Ted: specified, purchased and programmed sound rig, designed and built on-stage instruments and composed show cues	London
2017 Worked with year 5, 6 and 7 students from two schools to devise and present performance materials as principle artist in <b>Home Sweet Home</b> , Grid Arts program	Milton Keynes
2017 Twelve-week <b>Artist-in-Residence, Girgarre's Small Town Transformation</b> : created outdoor installations, led skills workshops, produced a school concert and up-cycled found objects into instruments	Australia
2016 - 17 Guest percussionist, singer and ukulele player, <b>Rag House Band</b>	St Albans
2016 - 17 Led a series of six <b>music devising and performance workshops</b> , working with disabled people	Milton Keynes
2016 <b>Guest Lecturer, Anglia Ruskin University</b> creative music technology class	Cambridge
2016 <b>Performer and Sound Designer</b> for UK tour of Mark Anderson's <b>Furious Folly</b>	Oxford, Birmingham and Stockton
2016 <b>Sound Designer and Workshop Leader</b> for Young Corn Exchange's <b>Sky</b> project	Newbury
2016 Led <b>creative music devising and performance</b> day with Year 9's at <b>St Francis College</b>	Letchworth
2016 Conducted public <b>Noise Orchestra</b> workshop series at the <b>London Irish Centre</b>	Camden, London
2016 Conducted public <b>Noise Orchestra</b> workshop series	St Albans
2015 Devised and directed a ' <b>Eurovision Song Challenge</b> ' workshop for NN Art Gallery	Northampton
2015 Created <b>LISTEN!</b> for <b>Watford Colosseum</b> : three day occupation of FOH spaces with multiple parallel performances and publicly activated music machines	Watford
2015 <b>Performer and Sound Designer</b> for premier or <b>Furious Folly</b> by <b>Mark Anderson</b>	Poperinge, Belgium
2015 Featured artist in <b>Gauge</b> at Brighton Festival, three-week installation at Circus St Market attended by over 8,000 visitors, created by Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey	Brighton, UK
2014 <b>Performer and Sound Designer</b> for preview of <b>Furious Folly</b> by <b>Mark Anderson</b>	Newbury
2014 Led <b>Pulse-Metre-Rhythm</b> workshop for Grand Union Orchestra	London
2014 Led <b>Pulse-Metre-Rhythm</b> workshop for Guildhall percussion students	London
2013 <b>Music Director, Centenary of Canberra - programmed</b> music on boats, <b>composed</b> music for a Welcome to Country and directed public <b>Noise Orchestra workshops and performance</b>	Canberra Australia
2013 Directed <b>The Incredible Hulls</b> (2005, revised 2013),	Mandurah, Western Australia
2013 <b>The Dripolator</b> featured in <b>Gauge</b> exhibition and performances, Arts House	Melbourne
2012 Designed, devised and co-directed <b>Raising the Roof</b> community concert; wrote a Finale for over 300 performers including the audience, Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne with <b>Patrick Cronin</b>	Melbourne
2012 Designed and installed <b>Sound Explorers</b> interactive exhibition, <b>Melbourne Recital Centre</b>	Melbourne
2012 <b>Spaghetti Western Orchestra, Sydney Opera House</b> season	Sydney
2012 <b>Spaghetti Western Orchestra</b> tour	Amsterdam
2012 <b>Spaghetti Western Orchestra</b> 31 show, 31 city tour of UK	England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales

2012 Spaghetti Western Orchestra, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre	London
2011 Spaghetti Western Orchestra, BBC Proms Concert, Royal Albert Hall	London
2011 Spaghetti Western Orchestra, Guest Appearance, Jools Holland Show, BBC TV	London
2011 Composed and conducted Drumming the Light, CHOGM Commonwealth Festival	Perth
2011 Conducted Ringing the Changes, CHOGM Commonwealth Festival	Perth
2011 Led Noise Orchestra workshops and parade, Winton Outback Festival	Winton, Queensland
2011 Devised and presented a series of public Rhythm and Reading Workshops	Melbourne
2010 Retrospect - Prospect duo concert with Neil Thomas, for Astra Concerts	Melbourne
2009 Spaghetti Western Orchestra tour	Greece, London, France, Italy
2009 Composed Ringing the Changes for the opening of Melbourne International Arts Festival	Melbourne
2008 Spaghetti Western Orchestra tour	The Netherlands, Germany, USA
2007 Funk-O-Matic Drum Machine featured in Musicircus, Melbourne International Arts Festival	Melbourne
2007 Artist-in-Residence, Jundah (pop 80) state school. We built junk instruments and made a show	Jundah, outback Queensland
2007 Spaghetti Western Orchestra, Montreal Jazz Festival	Canada
2007 Spaghetti Western Orchestra tour	France and Germany
2007 Spaghetti Western Orchestra, Auckland Festival	New Zealand
2006 Wrote and directed Finale for 180 'All-Star' players, Commonwealth Games, Myer Music Bowl	Melbourne
2006 Ennio Morricone Experience, renamed Spaghetti Western Orchestra, Edinburgh Festival Fringe season at the Assembly Rooms	Edinburgh
2006 Co-writer and performer, The Session, music-theatre work, set in a recording studio	Melbourne
2006 Composed and conducted Under the Bonnet for cars and band, Melbourne International Arts Festival	Melbourne
2005 Queensland Music Festival opening takes place at the Musical Fence in Winton. Directed the Winton Fence Band, made up of locals, in a dawn concert	Winton, outback Queensland
2005 Ennio Morricone Experience, Edinburgh Festival Fringe season at The Queens Hall	Edinburgh
2005 Composed and conducted The Incredible Hulls, for an orchestra of boats, Ten Days on the Island Festival	Tasmania
2004 The Art of Noises solo show, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art,	Kanazawa, Japan
2004 Ennio Morricone Experience, Adelaide Cabaret Festival	Adelaide
2004 Ennio Morricone Experience, Sydney Opera House	Sydney
2004 Conducted Music Making Workshops in Kanazawa for adults and children	Japan
2004 The Lab with Linsey Pollak, Seattle and Vancouver International Children's Festivals	Canada and USA
2004 The Lab with Linsey Pollak, Sydney Festival	Sydney
2004 Composed and conducted Hullabaloo, for children's choir, Melbourne International Arts Festival	Melbourne
2003 Created and conducted the Winton Fence Band for Queensland Music Festival	Winton, outback Queensland
2003 Actor-Musician in Phobia, Chamber Made Opera, Dancehouse	Melbourne
2003 Funk-O-Matic Drum Machine appears at The Blue Thong artist's club, Melbourne International Arts Festival	Melbourne
2003 Ennio Morricone Experience appears at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival	Adelaide
2003 Designed and built the Musical Fence, for Queensland Music Festival and Winton Shire Council	Winton, outback Queensland
2002 Ennio Morricone Experience sell-out season, Melbourne Fringe Festival	Melbourne
2002 Soloist, REV festival of new instruments and sounds, dir. Linsey Pollak, Powerhouse	Brisbane
2001-2002 Ennio Morricone Experience perform in the Melbourne Festival and the Adelaide Festival Port Fairy Folk Festival and Queenscliff Music Festival	Australia
2001 Bell Director for Melbourne Festival Bells and Brass. Coached and conducted over 400 performers from regional Victoria for a performance at the Myer Music Bowl - with Patrick Cronin	regional Victoria, Melbourne
2001 The Art of Noises solo show Hong Kong City Festival	Hong Kong
2001 Led group-devising workshops to create Happy New Ears, music-theatre piece, IHOS Opera	Hobart
2000 Stunts with midi juggler Joel Salom, Festival Big Top, Edinburgh Festival Fringe	Edinburgh
2000 Soloist, Slave Pianos International Biennial, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art	Melbourne
2000 The Art of Noises solo show, Fourth Australian Performing Arts Market	Adelaide
1999 Created and directed Axe Lyrical, Honky Tonk and Percussion Maintenance Team, outdoor music-theatre pieces for Queensland Music Festival	Brisbane
1999 The Art of Noises solo show, Queensland Biennial Festival of Music (featured artist)	Brisbane
1999 The Art of Noises solo show, Sydney Opera House Studio	Sydney
1998 Head of Department, La Trobe University Music Department	Melbourne
1991-1998 Lecturer in Performance, La Trobe University Music Department	Melbourne
1994-1997 Composer-performer-director-instrument-builder Graeme Leak String Quartet [string-can instruments]	Melbourne
1997 A History of the String Can, GLSQ, Astra Concerts	Melbourne
1996 GLSQ concert season for Arts Centre Melbourne	Melbourne
1996 Music Workshop Leader for Arts Centre Melbourne Winterarts program	Melbourne
1996 Programmed and conducted Choir and Brass Band, ASTRA Concerts	Melbourne
1995 and 1996 Artist-in-Residence, Buchan Primary School, devising and performing with the kids	Buchan, Victoria
1995 Art of Noises solo show, Percussive Arts Society International Convention	Phoenix, Arizona
1995 GLSQ season, Napier St Theatre	Melbourne
1994-1995 Multi-instrumentalist, THAT improvised music collective, director David Tolley	Melbourne
1994 Six-weeks Artist-in-Residence, Edge Dance Theatre and Young Drums group, culminating in a performance at Lismore City Hall	Lismore, New South Wales
1993 The Art of Noises solo show, Folkwang-Hochschule,	Essen, Germany
1992 Solo Recital for the opening of National Composer's Conference	Melbourne

1991 Premiered <b>From Africa to the Kitchen Sink</b> , first ever solo concert of original material, <b>Astra Concerts</b>	<i>Melbourne</i>
1986-1990 <b>Percussion Lecturer, Sydney Conservatorium of Music</b>	<i>Sydney</i>
1988-1990 Percussionist <b>Jump Back Jack</b> and <b>Hungarian Rap Sadists</b> bands led by Jackie Orszacksky	<i>Sydney</i>
1978-1990 Casual Percussionist <b>Sydney Symphony Orchestra</b> (including Guest Principal)	<i>Sydney</i>
1986 - 88 Performer <b>WATT</b> electronic and computer collective, dir Martin Wesley Smith	<i>Sydney</i>
1989 Co-writer, Composer and Performer <b>Home Boys</b> dance music show, Rocks Theatre	<i>Sydney</i>
1988 Glockenspiel Soloist in <b>From the Canyons to the Stars</b> with composer <b>Olivier Messiaen</b> , Sydney Opera House	<i>Sydney</i>
1979 - 88 Percussionist and core member <b>Flederman</b> contemporary music ensemble	<i>Australia, Europe, NZ, UK, USA</i>
1987 <b>Artist-in-Residence, University of Western Australia</b> , Perth (2 weeks)	<i>Perth, Western Australia</i>
1980 - 86 Percussionist and core member <b>Synergy</b> percussion ensemble	<i>Sydney Opera House, Sydney</i>
1979 - 86 Percussionist <b>Australia Ensemble</b> and <b>Seymour Group</b>	<i>Sydney</i>
1984 <b>Percussion Lecturer, Canberra School of Music</b>	<i>Canberra</i>
1979 - 88 Percussionist <b>Australian Chamber Orchestra</b>	<i>Sydney</i>
1981 - 82 <b>Percussion Lecturer, Queensland Conservatorium of Music</b>	<i>Brisbane</i>

### Instrument design and construction

2025 Created 'bowling board' string instruments, composed and designed sound for GHOST TRAIN - THE DEPARTURE

2024 Constructed another 15 **String-Cans** during while in residence in Girgarre for return season of the **Girgarre Junkestra**

2019-22 Collected, assembled and **modified retro-tech organs, cassette players and AM radios** and created amplified bass drum using internal styrofoam panel and speaker-as-mic, as stage set for **SAVED** solo show.

2018 Created a **Jingling Johnny** for **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** from recycled materials

2018 Designed and built innovative **String-Cans**, fretted single-string instruments that enable non-musicians to quickly play chords and harmonies in public music workshops. Premiered in **Girgarre, Victoria**

2017 **Sound Designer** for **Polaris** by Holly and Ted: designed and built two contact-mic table-instruments used as principle audio production units for live sound on stage in the production

2016 Created **UK Noise Orchestra Instruments** from recycled water fountain bottles and chemical containers

2015 Created **Drum Machine MKII**, hand-cranked mechanical drumming instrument, for **LISTEN!**, Watford Colosseum

2015 Created **Leslie**, manually operated spinning horn voice-thrower, for **LISTEN!**, Watford Colosseum

2015 Assembled **Reel to Reel**, retro tape-delay installation created for **LISTEN!**, Watford Colosseum

2015 Refined and rebuilt **The Dripolator** for **LISTEN!**, Watford Colosseum

2015 Installed **The Dripolator** in **GAUGE** performance-installation at **Brighton Festival**

2015 Revived and re-presented **Drumming Bunnies** (AKA HomeBoys) for **LISTEN!**, Watford Colosseum

2012 Re-designed and re-built **Drum Machine**, electric mechanical drumming instrument

2012 Designed and built **Aerodrome**, collection of flying toys that produce sound

2012 Designed and built **The Chimes**, wind activated chime and guitar installation

2012 Designed and built **Wind Up Corner**, interactive children's installation

2012 Designed and built **Tin Can Telephones**, interactive children's installation

2012 Designed and built **HopScotch Stomp**, amplified boxes for children to play

2007 Designed and built **The Dripolator**, sound installation featuring amplified melting ice drips

2003 Designed and built **Drum Machine** - plays drums with a series of pulleys and sticks

2003 Designed and supervised construction of the **Musical Fence**, Winton, Qld.

1999 Designed and built **Spinning Horn** installation for tape loop and tin-can horn

1998 Designed and made **Flying Harmonica** and **Conduit Whistle** instruments for use in performance

1992 - 97 Developed, designed, built and played **String Can** instruments for use in performance

1993 Co-designed children's **Water-Sound Bridge** for **Linden Gallery** (with Stephen Hennessy)

1989 Designed, built and played **Salad Bowl Drums** (a version of African Water Drums) with large perspex bowl

1984 Designed, built and played **Bowl Chimes** for use in performance and recording

### Arranging and Production

2022 Sound recording and video editing of two international episodes of **Eco Opera**

2020 Edited full show video of **Flight Memory** by Sandra France to produce 6 minute promo

2018 Composed music and edited video footage to produce 50sec trailer for **POLARIS**, Holly&Ted

2016 Produced 2min radio edit of **Furious Folly** from many hours of live tapes. Piece played on BBC radio 3

2008 - 13 worked as **studio engineer and producer at Run Stop Sound**, including voice over, audio post production TV and radio advertising, film score composition and artist recordings.

2010 recorded, mixed and produced **Songs for Somebodies**, Bernadette Robinson, Run Stop Sound

2009 Producer, **Classic Ennio Morricone - Live CD**, Spaghetti Western Orchestra commercial release

2008 Arranged **The Little Drummer Boy** for **Tripod Christmas Album** and conducted the session orchestra

2008 Produced **Tripod Christmas Album, Adelphia Studio** - booked players and conducted sessions

2007 **Arranged the music of Ennio Morricone** for performance by the Spaghetti Western Orchestra

2003 **Arranged the music of Ennio Morricone** for performance by the Ennio Morricone Experience

### Awards and Scholarships

2020 Made in Scotland grant - inclusion in curated program for Edinburgh Fringe 2020 through Creative Scotland

2000 Arts Victoria project grant to support attendance at 4th Performing Arts Market, Adelaide

1995 Research Funding from La Trobe University to assist travel to Percussive Arts Society Convention, USA

1995 Rehearsal/Development grant for Graeme Leak String Quartet, Australia Council

1991 Creative Development grant, Australia Council

1991 Jacobena Angliss Fellowship (ASTRA Chamber Music Society)  
 1985 Australia Council overseas fellowship  
 1985 Alfred White Trust Fund (to assist study in the USA)  
 1978 Frank Hutchens award for excellence (Conservatorium High School)  
 1978 Premier Instrumentalist, A.S.C.M. course (Conservatorium High School)

## Compositions

SPACE	10 minute performance/composition with bespoke instruments and sounds for GHOST TRAIN
Spirit Reimagined	Girgarre 'Junkestra' of specially created instruments 2024
SAVED	Solo show built around rescued Yamaha organs 2019-20
The Exquisite Now	for Federation Handbells and Farraginous Bass Instruments played by groups of any number 2018
Spirit Rising	Girgarre 'Junkestra' of specially created instruments 2018
Water	rhythm section, lead vocals and backing vocals 2016
Say Something	multi drums, horn speaker and mini kbd (solo) 2015
Raising the Roof - Finale	for massed community ensembles and choirs 2012
Drumming the Light	for drummers of any number 2011
Exhibit B	piano and tuba OR piano solo 2011
Ringing the Changes	five aerial bell ringers and percussion duo 2010
Everything in Front of Me	SSA children's choir and percussion quartet 2010
ABAF Quartet	percussion quartet 2007
Percussion Construction Team	percussion quartet and building site workers 2007
Hello, a ringtone fantasy	percussion quartet 2007
Eavesdropping	bass, drums, kbd/horns 2006
In the Pocket (interludes)	metal, rocks 2006
The Coorong	voices and instruments, flexible 2006
Finale	massed percussion forces - adaptations possible 2006
Under the Bonnet	for classic cars, bass and drums 2005
Funky Fence	Winton musical fence 2005
Incredible Hulls'	orchestra' of boats, brass band and drummers 2005, revised 2013
Museum Walk	solo performer, shoes 2004
Welcome s	olo multi drums and pre-recorded accompaniment 2004
Hullabaloo	choreographed SSA children's choir, pre-recorded accompaniment 2004
Wonderful Winton	Winton musical fence 2003
Sound Hunters	for massed children around a pool or pond 2002
Sixty Seconds	for Astra choir of any number 2001
Water with my Water	choir of any number 2001
Happy New Ears	ensemble of performance makers 2001
Axe Lyrical	for wood choppers and drummer 1999
Percussion Maintenance Team	quartet of builder-percussionists 1999
Honky Tonk	for antique cars and trad jazz band 1999
Noise Medley	junk-n-found noise quartet (can double parts) 1998
Oradio	audio for radio broadcast 1997
Fanfare for Darebin	mobile brass band with extra percussion 1997
House Music - ASTRA	small groups of roving front-of-house vocalists 1996
Cup of Tea	SATB choir and percussionist 1996
All or Nothing Really	audio for radio broadcast 1995
Parade	stomping solo performer with string can 1994
Three Four Five	string quartet and voices 1994
Enid Thinks Rebecca Misses Tom	stomping solo performer with string can 1994
Sitting Standing Kneeling on one Leg	choreographed string quartet 1994
Do This	stomping and singing string quartet 1994
Overture for Art and Waste	flute, drums and remote flashing light 1993
The River Festival	for drums and percussion conducted by strobe light 1992
Panadol	performer and pre-recorded accompaniment 1991
Nobody Knows	marimba and melodeon, one player 1991
I Love Jazz	solo marimba and voice 1991
Yo Yo Man	marimba, feet and voice, one player 1991
Water	water bowl, gongs, salad bowls 1990
Turtle Soup	percussion quartet 1990
In the Morning	marimba and pre-recorded accompaniment 1991
Sink Symphony	kitchen percussion and pre-recorded accompaniment 1990
Drumsong	percussion quartet 1989
Rubadub (for Synergy)	percussion quartet 1989
Briefcase	amplified office worker 1989, revised 1991
Spirit Dance	marimba and pre-recorded accompaniment 1989
And Now for the News	percussion with pre-recorded accompaniment 1983
Just Testing	multi-percussion solo 1978