Graeme Leak

full curriculum vitae 2025

Performance | Events | Installations | Workshops

2025 Performed as drummer in **GHOST TRAIN-THE ARRIVAL** event, music by Sarah Llewellan *Stockton UK*
2025 **Commissioned by Avanti Display** to create performance/sound installation for **GHOST TRAIN** major event *Darlington UK*
2025 ***SAVED*** solo show tours to Eastgate Theatre, Lyth Arts Centre and Orkney Insternational Festival *Scotland*
2025 Lead artist **Swan Hill Harmony Day**, 3 weeks of drumming workshops culminating in public parade and performance *Australia*
2024 **Artist-in-Residence, Girgarre** for encore season of Junkestra
2023 June to 2024 January: sabattical leave and research period *Scotland*
2023 Vibraphone and percussion player for **Ruthless Jabiru** session recordings of **Girl** by **Soosan Lolavar**, *London*
2022 **SAVED** season at **ZOO Southside** for **Edinburgh Festival Fringe**, 24 show full-run to 4 and 5 star reviews *Edinburgh*
2022 Simultaneously recorded international episodes of **Eco Opera** 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 **SAVED** presented at **Edinburgh Festival Fringe** on **ZOOTV** digital platform to 4 and 5 star reviews *Edinburgh*
2021 Filmed **SAVED** with DoP Hazel Palmer for **Made in Scotland** Showcase, **Edinburgh Fringe Festival** *Edinburgh*
2020 **Eco Opera Live Streams** on **ZOOTV** - six four-hour durational broadcasts on ZOO's digital platform *Edinburgh, streamed*
2020 devised and built **Eco Opera** instruments - Bird feeder, Sonic Tube and Amplified Fence *Scotland*
2020 **SAVED** included in **Made in Scotland** program for Edinburgh Festival Fringe (cancelled due to Pandemic)
2020 Lead artist **East Neuk Festival Big Project**. 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 **SAVED** featured at **Glasgow Science Centre** for 'Science Lates' including a 'show and tell' presentation. *Glasgow*
2020 **Artist-in-Residence, Girgarre**: pre-rehearsed **Junkestra** for ABC TV recording and planned **Sound Trail** installations. *Australia*
2019 Premiered **SAVED** at the **Scottish Music Centre** *Glasgow*
2019 Build, write, rehearse and develop new solo performance **SAVED** built around rescued 70s Yamaha organs *Scotland*
2019 Tutor, **Music for People** Summer School. Led **Make and Play** and **Rhythm Orchestra** workshop programs *Giggleswick, UK*
2019 Toured the **Girgarre Junkestra** to Melbourne to appear as guests at the Arts Learning Festival *Australia*
2019 Led **Make and Play** workshops for Arts Learning Festival, Melbourne *Australia*
2018 Composed **The Exquisite Now** for massed handbells (premiered May 2019), Museum Victoria Commission *Australia*
2018 Sound design for Holly and Ted's **Polaris**, Edinburgh Festival Fringe *Edinburgh*
2018 Ten-week **Artist-in-Residence, Girgarre's Small Town Transformation**: built orchestra of upcycled instruments, led over 50 rehearsals, composed 40minute work for gala show *Australia*
2017 Conducted **Noise Orchestra** workshops, creating a band to lead lantern parade that evening *Didcot, Oxfordshire*
2017 Sound designer and composer for **Polaris** 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 **Home Sweet Home**, Grid Arts program *Milton Keynes*
2017 Twelve-week **Artist-in-Residence**, **Girgarre's Small Town Transformation**: 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, **Rag House Band** *St Albans*
2016 - 17 Led a series of six **music devising and performance workshops**, working with disabled people *Milton Keynes*
2016 **Guest Lecturer**, **Anglia Ruskin University** creative music technology class *Cambridge*
2016 **Performer and Sound Designer** for UK tour of Mark Anderson's **Furious Folly** *Oxford, Birmingham and Stockton*
2016 **Sound Designer** and **Workshop Leader** for Young Corn Exchange's **Sky** project *Newbury*
2016 Led **creative music devising and performance** day with Year 9's at **St Francis College** *Letchworth*
2016 Conducted public **Noise Orchestra** workshop series at the **London Irish Centre** *Camden, London*
2016 Conducted public **Noise Orchestra** workshop series *St Albans*
2015 Devised and directed a '**Eurovision Song Challenge**' workshop for NN Art Gallery *Northampton*
2015 Created **LISTEN!** for **Watford Colosseum**: three day occupation of FOH spaces with multiple parallel performances and publicly activated music machines *Watford*
2015 **Performer and Sound Designer** for premier or **Furious Folly** by **Mark Anderson** *Poperinge, Belgium*
2015 Featured artist in **Gauge** 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 **Performer and Sound Designer** for preview of **Furious Folly** by **Mark Anderson** *Newbury*
2014 Led **Pulse-Metre-Rhythm** workshop for Grand Union Orchestra *London*
2014 Led **Pulse-Metre-Rhythm** workshop for Guildhall percussion students *London*
2013 **Music Director, Centenary of Canberra** - **programmed** music on boats, **composed** music for a Welcome to Country and directed public **Noise Orchestra workshops and performance** *Canberra Australia*
2013 Directed **The Incredible Hulls** (2005, revised 2013), *Mandurah, Western Australia*
2013 **The Dripolator** featured in **Gauge** exhibition and performances, Arts House *Melbourne*
2012 Designed, devised and co-directed **Raising the Roof** community concert; wrote a Finale for over 300 performers including the audience, Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne with **Patrick Cronin** *Melbourne*
2012 Designed and installed **Sound Explorers** interactive exhibition, **Melbourne Recital Centre** *Melbourne*
2012 **Spaghetti Western Orchestra**, **Sydney Opera House** season *Sydney*
2012 **Spaghetti Western Orchestra** tour *Amsterdam*
2012 **Spaghetti Western Orchestra** 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 **From Africa to the Kitchen Sink**, first ever solo concert of original material, **Astra Concerts** *Melbourne*
1986-1990 **Percussion Lecturer, Sydney Conservatorium of Music** *Sydney*
1988-1990 Percussionist **Jump Back Jack** and **Hungarian Rap Sadists** bands led by Jackie Orszacksky *Sydney*
1978-1990 Casual Percussionist **Sydney Symphony Orchestra** (including Guest Principal) *Sydney*
1986 - 88 Performer **WATT** electronic and computer collective, dir Martin Wesley Smith *Sydney*
1989 Co-writer, Composer and Performer **Home Boys** dance music show, Rocks Theatre *Sydney*
1988 Glockenspiel Soloist in **From the Canyons to the Stars** with composer **Olivier Messiaen**, Sydney Opera House *Sydney*
1979 - 88 Percussionist and core member **Flederman** contemporary music ensemble *Australia, Europe, NZ, UK, USA*
1987 **Artist-in-Residence, University of Western Australia**, Perth (2 weeks) *Perth, Western Australia*
1980 - 86 Percussionist and core member **Synergy** percussion ensemble *Sydney Opera House, Sydney*
1979 - 86 Percussionist **Australia Ensemble** and **Seymour Group** *Sydney*
1984 **Percussion Lecturer, Canberra School of Music** *Canberra*
1979 - 88 Percussionist **Australian Chamber Orchestra** *Sydney*
1981 - 82 **Percussion Lecturer, Queensland Conservatorium of Music** *Brisbane*

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