

Louis Wishart

Composer, Musician.

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Experience

Reaching the limits #3 w/ Patsiaoura Ensemble — Resident Composer

Louis has been selected as a resident composer for the third edition of Patsiaoura Ensemble's "Reaching the limits" concert series. Louis will travel to Cyprus in March 2026 for a week of workshops under the guidance of composer Andys Skordis, the founder of the ensemble.

Ensemble Offspring Hatched Academy — Resident Composer

In 2025, Louis was selected as one of four composers to participate in Ensemble Offspring's "Hatched Academy" professional development program. Louis received guidance throughout the year from English composer Lisa Illean and Australian Composer Holly Harrison to create his new Chamber work "Children of Aurora" which was premiered in November by the ensemble at the Sydney Opera House. Louis worked closely with each performer in an intensive week of rehearsals and workshops in the week leading up to the premiere.

Ostrava Days 2023-25 — Fellow and Resident Composer

In 2023 and 2025, Louis received a scholarship to attend Ostrava Days, a 3-week intensive institute of lectures and workshops with the world's leading composers and musicians, concluding with a 1-week festival. Louis was commissioned in 2023 by the festival to write a new work for visiting ensemble "Ensemble Garage", resulting in his work "Föhnkrankheit", which premiered at the festival. The piece has also been included in the ensemble's ongoing repertoire and was given its German premiere by the ensemble in Cologne, Germany. In 2025, his chamber work "Are Ye Then With God?" was performed by Ostravska Banda at the festival's finale concert, receiving its Czech premiere. During his time at the institute, Louis had the opportunity to study closely with legendary composers, namely Peter Ablinger, Phill Niblock, Lisa Streich, Annesley Black, Eric Wubbels, Klaus Lang, Bernhard Lang and many more.

Willoughby Symphony Young Composer Award — Encouragement Award

In 2024, Louis was awarded the third-place "Encouragement Award" for his composition for Orchestra and SATB Choir "Eternal Thread", for the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra's annual "Young Composer Award".



AWARDS

Myron Kantor Bequest (2020, University of Sydney).

University of Sydney - University of Houston Composer Exchange (USA) (2023)

Scholarship to attend *Ostrava Days 2023-25* Institute/Festival (CZE)

Encouragement Award - Willoughby Symphony Orchestra (AUS) **Young Composer Award** (2024)

Participant in Ensemble Offspring's (AUS) "Hatched Academy" (2025)

Composer in Residence with Patsiaoura Ensemble (CYP) (2026)

University of Houston Composer Exchange — Visiting Composer

In early 2023, Louis' composition "In Spite of Time" won him the opportunity to travel to Houston, Texas, for the American premiere of his work by the University of Houston's AURA Ensemble, as part of a composer exchange with the University of Sydney.

Projects

Scalp — Founder, Artistic Director, Conductor

Scalp is a new music ensemble founded and directed by Louis. Formed in 2024 and debuting in January 2025, the collective of composer-performers focuses on a deeply collaborative workshop process to develop new Australian works. Their debut concerts in January and June, in partnership with Phoenix Central Park, featured the world premiere of Louis' work "Are Ye Then With God?", alongside 2 new works for fellow emerging Australian composers and the world premiere of Louis' arrangement of "John Gavanti", the punk operetta composed by members of the no-wave bands the Mars and DNA. Louis leads the ensemble as the conductor and artistic director, programming each concert with new premieres and similar canonic works. Scalp will return with 3 new concerts in 2026, premiering new works by Louis and other Australian composers, as well as performances of works by Linda Catlin Smith, Alvin Lucier and Peter Ablinger.

Angel Grindr — Co-Founder

Angel Grindr is an industrial punk band based in Sydney, co-led by Louis, that performs experimental rock, industrial and noise music with an emphasis on the brutality of sound and confrontational performance art aesthetics.

Angel Grindr was recently commissioned to compose and prepare a performance for the 2024 Backstage Music AU festival alongside esteemed Australian singer Jane Sheldon. The resulting work was a live film score for New York experimentalist Hollis Frampton's film, "Palindrome".

Education

Sydney Conservatorium of Music — Bachelor of Music (Composition), First Class Honours.

2020 - 2023

Receiving the Myron Kantor Bequest as a scholarship for the first year, Louis completed his degree in Music Composition at the Sydney Conservatorium in 2023 with First Class Honours. Louis studied closely with leading Australian composers Liza Lim and Gerard Brophy, honing his practice in limited aleatory. Louis graduated in 2023 with a Bachelor of Music (Composition), with First Class Honours, for his undergraduate thesis "Approaches to Ensemble Interaction in Free Improvisation", which continues his organisation of polyphony.

