

FARRELL, Claire

A New Tempest

It is not uncommon for me to find stimuli for my compositions in the natural world. As I looked out my window onto the rugged slopes of kunanyi/Mount Wellington, I drew upon the vastness of Tasmania's wilderness and the intense feeling of connection it evokes within me. This influence is not intended to be audible in *A New Tempest*, but rather is used to achieve a sense of space and organic development. The title is directly inspired by gusty winds and a fear of uncertain times ahead, something that seemed very apparent to me at the beginning of December 2019.

With this being my first foray into writing for chamber orchestra, the compositional process became a valuable orchestration exercise. I found particular interest in pairing different instrument families to see what combined effect they could produce. Combinations you will hear in the final work include muted brass and woodwind, and harp and vibraphone.

A New Tempest explores mixed emotions of tension and release, fear and hope, through a variety of textures and timbres. The work is characterised by pulsing rhythmic energy, contrasted by moments of calm, which I hope will inspire reflection among listeners.

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Claire Farrell is a Hobart-based composer and recorder player currently studying Honours in composition at the University of Tasmania Conservatorium of Music. Her musical style is informed by her love of nature and is characterised by polyphony, pulsing rhythms and musical imagery.

Farrell enjoys working on multidisciplinary projects. In 2018-19 she was commissioned by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (TSO) to compose music for the TSO & DRILL (Hobart's youth dance company) collaboration, NEON. Most recently, she composed music for RANT Art's multimedia project *Soliloquy*, presented at the 2019 Junction Arts Festival, Launceston.

As a participant of the 2020 AYO National Music Camp Composition Program, Farrell has been privileged to be mentored by composer Melody Eötvös in developing new compositions for chamber orchestra and string quintet. Her participation was made possible by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, which supports the arts in regional and remote Australia.