



# Media Release

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## RONE in Geelong soundtrack by Nick Batterham

Geelong Gallery  
27 February to 16 May 2021



Nick Batterham, 2020  
Photographer: Thuy Vy

Musician and composer **Nick Batterham** has developed a suite of three pieces of classical music for the soundtrack to Geelong Gallery exhibition, **RONE in Geelong**, which opens on 27 February.

In response to **Rone's** exhibition concept of the abandoned function room with its two opposing ends of light and dark, the music features two separate ensembles that play off each other in a musical conversation of layered reflections and repetitions.

At the dark end of the room is the piano, augmented by wind and brass, while at the light end plays a string quartet. Melodies intertwine to form one larger ensemble before receding to their respective ends. The ensembles work both separately and together.

Featuring members of the **Melbourne Symphony Orchestra**, the music was composed and recorded by Nick Batterham at his studio in Melbourne.

The piano was recorded on an 1897 *Schiedmayer & Soehne*. Rich in the colourful character of the antique mechanism, its sound emits from the burnt-out piano at the dark end of the space. It is joined by wind and brass instruments, each carrying the breath and humanity of the performers that played them.

At the light end of the room, the strings are mournful and sombre. Within the ensemble, each singular instrument is heard from a different seat at the dining table. The cello at one end, the violin at the other. The viola and bass fill the seats in between.

The suite of three pieces was written at the time of the devastating Black Summer bushfires of 2019–20 and reflects the sadness of these events.

*Prelude* establishes the relationship between the solo piano at one end and the cello (David Berlin) and viola (Christopher Moore) at the other. These are the three main voices of the suite.

*Red Sun Sky* is ominous and brooding. A ten-minute meditation on loss, conjuring the darkened skies, heavy with smoke and the deep crimson sun.

As a very slow waltz, it alludes to a past when people danced in the now abandoned function room. Starting with just piano and cello then gradually joined by viola, violin and double bass. Each string instrument is matched by a corresponding wind or brass voice at the opposite end: clarinet, flute, oboe and trombone. Each melody is bounced from end to end as the arrangement grows more layered. A collective sadness for an unimaginable loss.

*Dawn Chorus* speaks of new beginnings, the resilience of nature and humanity. From the smallest signs of life, interwoven melodies grow to become a majestic fanfare. A sense of hope; a celebration of new life.

As part of *RONE in Geelong*, there will be a concert by members of the **Geelong Symphony Orchestra**, performing all of Batterham's *RONE in Geelong* compositions, on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 March at Geelong Gallery.

To book or find out more details, visit: [geelonggallery.org.au/nick-batterham](http://geelonggallery.org.au/nick-batterham)





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## RONE in Geelong soundtrack

1. Prelude — 2:23
2. Red Sun Sky — 9:54  
available on Soundcloud  
[soundcloud.com/nickbatterham](https://soundcloud.com/nickbatterham)
3. Dawn Chorus — 5:37



## Musicians

- Piano — Nick Batterham (1, 3)  
Piano — Luke Howard (2)  
Violin — Zoë Black  
Viola — Christopher Moore  
Cello — David Berlin  
Double Bass — Damien Eckersley  
Oboe, Cor Anglais — Michael Pisani  
Clarinet — David Thomas  
Flute - Adam Simmons  
Trumpet — Tristan Rebien  
Trombone — Don Immel  
Percussion — Ben Wiesner

## Nick Batterham

Nick Batterham is an ARIA nominated musician, composer and sound-designer from Melbourne. A graduate of the VCA school of film and television, his sound design and location work have twice been nominated for an AFI/AACTA award.

Batterham first collaborated with Rone on the *Empire* project in 2019, where he created a multi-layered musical soundscape inspired by the abandoned mansion at Burnham Beeches. The classical score, along with nature recordings from the surrounding gardens, married with Rone's vision to celebrate the melancholic beauty of nostalgic memory.

## RONE in Geelong

A Geelong Gallery exhibition  
27 February to 16 May

Saturday 27 February to Sunday 16 May  
2021, from 10am to 7pm  
Closes at 5pm on Sundays | Closed Good Friday

Tickets on sale now:  
[geelonggallery.org.au/rone](https://geelonggallery.org.au/rone)

RONE  
*The Music Room (Empire) 2019*  
archival pigment print on 310 gsm Canson Baryta;  
edition of 10  
Courtesy of the artist  
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RONE  
*The Study (Empire) 2019*  
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edition 1 of 3  
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## RONE in Geelong

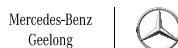
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