

AntipodEntoMenagerie
twenty-one miniatures for piano with rolling preparation

AntipodEntoMenagerie was written for the Australian pianist Clemens Leske, primarily for his doctoral thesis on piano miniatures. Comprising of twenty-one short movements - ranging from 30 seconds to 3 minutes - the work celebrates the 'miniature' in the context of both Western music and Australian fauna.

The title of each movement refers to a particular and distinct Antipodean insect. Other than biological class, the featured creatures have something else in common: the evocativeness of their names. This may seem a frivolous springboard for composition - maybe because it is - but a label, however silly, can be powerful. Is the music a portrayal of the insect itself? An allusion to the text's literal meaning? A reaction to the inherent colour of the words? All of the above? None of the above? Though 'miniature' themselves, these textual artifacts are packed with creative potential.