

SPEAK PERCUSSION: BELL CURVE

2:15PM, 3:45PM

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER 2022

ST BRIGID'S CHURCH, CROSSLEY



Eugene UGHETTI (born 1980)

Bell Curve for 12 bell players

Director: **Kaylie Melville**

Sound Engineer: **Jem Savage**

Performers: **Francisco Aedo Sato, Phoebe Baker, Angus Brooks, Cairo Cullinane, Amelie Hiscock, Charles Hiscock, Finley Hiscock, Elli Kirkpatrick, Nancy Leonard-Pekin, Demby McKenzie, Marianna Novokov, Airlie O'Brien, Jack Perrin**

Supported by One Day Studios, the Australia Council for the Arts, the Federation Handbells, and the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria and the Department of Education and Training.

Bell Curve is a spatial performance work for twelve independent bell ringers, composed by Speak Percussion's Artistic Director Eugene Ughetti. The work dissects the finest details in rhythm, pitch and resonance to unlock the pristine beauty of Victoria's Federation Handbells. Through the use of click track technology, the players move seamlessly in and out of sync from stunningly complex rhythms to perfect unisons. A massed sound event unfolds across the space, a world revealed between the attacks and beating patterns of tuned bell resonance.

Bell Curve explores complex mathematical and spatial relationships between acoustic sounds. Imagine a massed unison attack on twelve bells being gradually split apart; whilst the time between each attack expands so too do the positions of the sound sources in space. Many of the compositional techniques are derived directly from physics, including the motion of pendulum action and drawing inspiration from the recent detection of gravitational waves.

Harmonic relationships between the bell pitches and sine tones have been determined through a spectral analysis of the Federation Handbells, achieved by identifying each of the prominent overtones. These relationships underpin both the exact tuning and harmonic material of the work, as well as generating powerful acoustic phenomena such as difference tones or the perceived bending of overtones.