

Amy caught up with Antelodic's Robbie Melville ahead of their free performance in BMI's Heritage Library on October 20th - come along for a unique experience!

How did the Spring Thing tour come about and why bookshops, galleries and libraries?



The Spring Thing Tour came from a desire to try to get Antelodic's music beyond the fringes of Melbourne. We've had some success in Melbourne, but we realise that there are many regional areas with communities that are into the arts who might enjoy hearing some original instrumental music. The idea of performing in bookshops, galleries and libraries was a suggestion my wife made, and it makes a lot of sense. We've been told by many audience members that our music is quite cinematic and tells a story. Our music is very intimate, and those kinds of spaces seem to suit what we're doing. On top of that, we thought that they would be good places to meet other creative people such as writers or visual artists, with the view to possibly collaborating with some of these people in the future.

What does Regional Victoria mean to you?

I live in central Victoria, in Fern Hill, so to me it means home. Regional Victoria has an incredible range of landscapes and different environments and historical towns and landmarks. It's been interesting travelling to areas I've never been to, or have been to but not really stopped in. Talking to locals about their area usually yields some pretty fascinating information, whether it's the history of the building we're playing in, or the reason a hill is named the way it is.

How does the interplay between music, art, books and unusual spaces inspire your creative practice?

I'm inspired by books a lot. I have a few particular authors who kind of generate a soundtrack in my head when I'm reading them. People like Richard Brautigan and Etgar Keret. And playing in unusual places is just generally more fun than playing in a lot of music venues. I like experiencing different acoustics. I've just done some recording in the Old Castlemaine Gaol, just me and a classical guitar. The reverb sounded amazing!

What do you love about the BMI heritage spaces?

I've played in the Humffray Room several times now with a few different ensembles. It's a gorgeous looking room, it sounds fantastic, the staff and audiences are always friendly and enthusiastic, and the feel of the whole building is not really something I have words for, but it feels great.

Do you have a favourite book? If so tell us why.

I don't know. There are a lot of incredible books out there. Off the top of my head, Steinbeck's "Cannery Row". Each and every sentence is put together with so much care. The way he uses the English language knocks me out. And he writes characters and dialogue so convincingly, and the story is a perfect blend of hilarity and melancholy. The central character, Doc, a marine biologist, has a great relationship with dogs, and that's always a winner for me.



Which jazz great from history would you love to collaborate with in a parallel universe?

Wow. Just being in a parallel universe would be interesting enough without collaborations. And another question with too many answers. So once again, off the top of my head, Charlie Haden. He's not long gone. But if you can tell about a person from the way they play their instrument, then he seems as though he was the kind of person I would want to be around and playing music with.

What's up next for Antelodic?

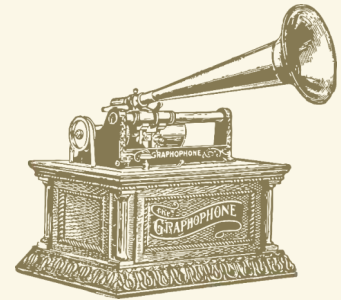
We're in the middle of road testing a whole collection of new material I've composed for our next album. We start recording that in a few weeks. We've been working on this trio for five years now. The band consists of two saxophones

and a guitar, and it's taken a lot of work to figure out how to make that really sit. We're ready to keep growing musically now we have an idea of how the music works, so the time is ripe for another album. Also, we're starting to look at trying to book some festivals in Europe.

Event info:



Listen to Antelodic:



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Memory Atlas Launch Invitation



The Memory Atlas is a project that links people's stories and memories to place using interviews, recordings and an online resource.

Over the last two years, The Memory Atlas has been capturing the stories of the people of Ballarat.

Please join us to celebrate the launch of our official online site.

The Ballarat Mechanics Institute

The Humffray Room, 117 Sturt Street, Ballarat

2pm Thursday 18th of October

The Memory Atlas gratefully acknowledges support given by The Ballarat City Council, The Victorian Seniors Festival and The Department of Premier and Cabinet Veterans Branch.