



## The australYSIS Electroband

### Creating Australian Improvised Musics

**"makes music on more technology than the Navy possesses" (Sydney Morning Herald, 2000)**

**"those doyens of computerised music" (Sydney Morning Herald, 2008)**

**"one of the best improvising bands in the world" (Time Out, Sydney, 2009)**

The Electroband is available for performances around the world: contact [roger.dean@uws.edu.au](mailto:roger.dean@uws.edu.au).  
+61 481 309 612.

australYSIS has developed unusual techniques for control of rhythmic, timbral and harmonic interaction, and since 1995 has used computer interactive and networked technology in the australYSIS Electroband. "Incredible interaction" said the Wire (UK); "eclectic and consummate" said BBC Radio 3. Formed by Roger Dean in 1970 as the innovative European group LYSIS, australYSIS has played in 30 countries, and made more than thirty commercial recordings. Since 2010, australYSIS' work has been presented in countries such as Australia, Canada, Denmark, Romania, Singapore, UK, and the US.

The Electroband repertoire is based around free and process/interaction improvisation and comprovisation, mainly using compositions of Roger Dean, many written in the programming platform MAX/MSP/Jitter. Novel computer interaction, real-time computational sound processing and generation is used to complement and extend the acoustic instruments (primarily piano, saxophones), and often to form a complete continuum with them. Real-time audio-visual performances (using Jitter for algorithmic image generation and manipulation) extend this even further. A new electroband CD, *History Goes Everywhere*, has been recorded and mixed, and is in production for release in 2014.

Members of the Electroband are: Roger Dean (leader, piano, computer); Sandy Evans (saxophones); Greg White (computer). australYSIS member Phil Slater often performs with the Electroband also. See overleaf for individual biographies.

Australian novelist and poet David Malouf has written of australYSIS' Tall Poppies CD *Moving the Landscapes*:

"Track after track commands our attention, not just with the drama of what australYSIS can do, but with the variety of means, instrumentally and rhythmically, and the degree of emotion they are prepared to risk. What I liked best of all was the inwardness these performers develop, the sense we get of their moving off alone, without compromising the drama of interplay; most of all, without ever releasing tension. This is improvisation that offers increased pleasure at every hearing...*Moving the Landscapes* is a real coup."

John Shand of the Sydney Morning Herald (2013) on our *MultiPiano* album: 'trail-blazing', 'willing grooves', 'earthy approach', 'surprising and disquieting', 'exquisite', 'crystalline or tumultuous', 'brilliant musicianship', 'exploding with vivacity'.

### EDUCATIONAL and RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Besides performance events, the australYSIS Electroband also offers performance

masterclasses, and also lecture/recital/workshops on: jazz and its development; 20th century developments in improvisation and composition; and process and computer interaction in improvisation. Following his well known books on *Creative Improvisation* (1989: a practical book), and *New Structures in Jazz and Improvised Music* (1992: a musicological work), and others on improvisation, the research of leader Roger Dean now concerns music cognition and computation and particularly, improvisation. From 2008 he has evolved an empirical project on interpersonal interactions during small group improvisation, correlated with ongoing computational and musicological analysis of the resultant works. A dozen well known Australian keyboard improvisers have already participated in these studies. *austraLYSIS* has given workshops in many countries, for lay and student participants (e.g. in New Zealand and Australia; Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore, Hong Kong, and India; and widely in Europe).

**BOOKINGS and Enquiries to :** *austraLYSIS Productions*, PO Box 225, Milperra, NSW 2214. Telephone : + 61 481 309612 or +61 2 9501 5399. email : [dr.metagroove@mindless.com](mailto:dr.metagroove@mindless.com).  
Go to the *austraLYSIS* [web site](http://www.australysis.com/View.html) <http://www.australysis.com/View.html> for sound examples of the Electroband.

The Electroband in action (2011):



Some cd releases:



### Brief Biographies of Musicians

**Roger Dean** Composer-improviser and research academic. A former double-bassist, having commissioned and premiered many solo works in performances at the Wigmore Hall, South Bank London, and around the world, and worked with ensembles from the London Sinfonietta and Spectrum (UK), to the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Sydney Alpha Ensemble (Australia). Jazz and improvising pianist notably with Graham Collier Music (since 1974 until his death in 2011), accompanist to many soloists (Gerald English, Colin Lawson, Hazel Smith, John Wallace ...), and computer composer and improviser. Has worked with improvisers Ted Curson to Tomas Stanko, Terje Rypdal to Derek Bailey, Art Themen to Evan Parker, and most of the leading figures in Australia, including many other pianists (in duo, and recently duet, formats). Founder of (austral)YSIS. His biography is available on Wikipedia.

**Sandy Evans** Saxophonist and composer. One of Australia's leading improvisers, co-founder of Clarion Fracture Zone and of Gestate, and member of the Australian Art Orchestra. Member of australYSIS since its inception in Sydney, and featured on most of its subsequent recordings. Particularly involved in the interaction of Indian and jazz/improvisation music traditions.

**Phil Slater** Trumpeter and composer. Member of australYSIS since 2001. Phil is extremely well known for his work with Mike Nock, the Australian Art Orchestra, and particularly his collaborations with Simon Barker and Matt McMahon. Several of his compositions are available on CD. Phil also teaches at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

**Greg White** Composer-improviser and computer sound artist. A developer in interactive technologies using MAX since 1989, and long standing audio engineer/producer and sound diffusionist. He has contributed to the production of many hundreds of commercial releases, as well as many film and installation sound designs and compositions. A founder member of the australYSIS Electroband, and a key contributor to its aesthetic and technological developments. Head of Composition and Music Production at the Australian Institute of Music (Sydney) since 2006.

For more biographical info: go to our [website](#).