

## Jeremy Cullen - Bio

*A powerful, singular compositional voice: proof, if any were needed, that fine composers can be found everywhere in the music business and aren't always the ones whose names are constantly forced on us by the PR people.*

- **American Record Guide**, Review of **Scenes Vol. 1** (May/June 2017 – Rob Haskins)

Jeremy Cullen (b. 1976) is a New Zealand composer and pianist whose music draws on his diverse experience as a composer for film and theatre soundtracks, his classical training and his work in recording studios as a sound editor/sound designer.

Jeremy began playing piano at the age of 6 and won the Westpac School Music Contest Composition Competition in 1993. While at high school he had informal lessons with Christchurch composer **John Ritchie** and performed his own piano concerto with the NZ Secondary Schools Symphony Orchestra. He subsequently studied composition, piano and electroacoustic/computer music at Canterbury University with composers John Cousins and Elaine Dobson.

After leaving university he worked for ten years (1999-2009) as sound engineer and composer at Wellington recording studio Marmalade Audio where he learnt the art of producing, recording, mixing and mastering – skills he uses today to release his own music on his record label Notornis Music.

Since becoming a freelance composer and sound designer in 2009 he has established a career as a self-released recording artist, as well as maintaining a roster of clients in the film, television, advertising, game and theatre industries.

As music editor, he has worked on film-scores such as Howard Shore's score for Peter Jackson's film **The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies**, composed original music for the **Behind the Scenes** special features on the DVD release of **The Hobbit**, and edited the music of **Nick Cave and Warren Ellis** for the Peter Jackson-produced documentary **West of Memphis**.

His first album **Scenes Vol. 1** (2016) was described by American Record Guide as "*A series of exquisite miniatures: interesting, expressive, and surprising melodies, coupled with traditional sounding harmonies that often lead the ear to other places than expected.*"

The soundtrack album to the haunting horror film **Blackspot** was released in 2018 and features piano played by the composer with string players from the **New Zealand Symphony Orchestra**.

Into 2020 his string quartet track *Arabesque* was selected for the *Classical New Releases – Spotify Picks* playlist in 2020, gaining him over 100,000 streams. He is currently one of the most popular New Zealand classical composers on streaming services, with over 20,000 monthly listeners.

*This is tonal, ambient, post-modern, post-Satieian music of lyrical charm and substance. It is not a nostalgic glance backward as much as a step forward in a historically aware, radically tonal vein...I recommend it to you.* - **Gaplegate Music Review**

Website: [www.jeremycullen.com](http://www.jeremycullen.com)

# Jeremy Cullen

## Composer / Sound Designer

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### Experience

#### **FREELANCE COMPOSER / SOUND DESIGNER**

**(2009 - PRESENT)**

I currently work as freelance sound designer and composer, both for my own clients and at facilities such as Park Road Post Production. I take great pride in the quality of my work and enjoy collaborating with clients to produce the ideal soundtrack for their projects through creativity, craft and attention to detail.

My services include:

- original music composition - from solo instrumental or electronic to full orchestral score
- sound design – sound FX creation, soundtrack supervision, sound mixing

#### **SOUND DESIGN TUTOR - NEW ZEALAND FILM SCHOOL**

**(2013 - 2018)**

I taught at the NZ Film School as guest tutor in sound design and film music.

#### **SENIOR SOUND ENGINEER / COMPOSER - MARMALADE AUDIO**

**(1999 - 2009)**

I worked for ten years at Marmalade Audio, a leading New Zealand audio post-production and music composition studio. During that time I gained experience in all aspects of sound recording and mixing, and worked on a wide variety of projects involving:

- Creating original music and sound design for film, TV, commercials and other media
- Sound mixing and sound editing (dialogue, sound FX, foley and music)
- 5.1 sound design for film, cinema commercials and museum installations
- Music recording, mixing and mastering for bands, solo artists and orchestra
- ADR and voice-over sessions for NZ and international film, TV and game projects

## Selected Credits

**DOOMSDAY VAULT** **2020**

Original score for [this](#) environmentally themes science-fiction game. *'The whole thing, from the look and level design to the excellent music, is very lovely'* ([Macworld](#))

**THE GREAT WAR EXHIBITION** **2019**

Soundtracks for a series of surround-sound exhibits called [Chapters of the Great War](#) at the World War 1 Museum created by Sir Peter Jacskon in Wellington.

**ELEMENT** **2016**

Original music and sound design for [this](#) visually stunning sci-fi game from Flightless Studios. *"It looks cool and sounds cool!"* (Kotaku – January 2016)

**THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES** **2014/15**

Music editing for composer Howard Shore's score for the final film in Peter Jackson's Hobbit trilogy. I also composed original music for the "Chronicles" special features on the extended edition. Watch the trailer [here](#).

**10,000 YEARS LATER** **2014**

Sound FX editing for this animated Chinese 3D feature film. Watch the trailer [here](#).

**THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG** **2013**

ADR recording for Balin the dwarf, played by actor Ken Stott.

**SHELVED** **2013**

Music composition and 5.1 mix for this short film, which won "Best Animation" at the Los Angeles Movie Awards and "Best Animated Short Film" at the New York International Short Film Festival. The film is available to watch online [here](#).

**WEST OF MEMPHIS** **2012**

It was a privilege to work on this Peter Jackson-produced documentary, which screened at the Sundance Film Festival. I was a music editor for the score composed by Nick Cave and Warren Ellis, as well as songs performed by Eddie Vedder. You can watch the trailer [here](#).

**THE PRIEST, THE WITCH AND THE POLTERGEIST**

**2012**

I composed the original score for this iPad audiobook produced by innovative New Zealand company Booktrack, in collaboration with Park Road Post who handled the sound design.

*"It was great to work with you on The Priest, The Witch and the Poltergeist, Jeremy. I think you have written a beautiful, interesting, humorous, unique score which perfectly captures this book! Thank you so much for all your stellar work."* - Sarah Lineham, Story Director (Booktrack)

**GORDON CROOK - A LIFE OF ART**

**2010**

Original music for a documentary on the life of New Zealand artist Gordon Crook, which screened in the New Zealand International Film Festival, 2010.

**KOO KOO KA CHOO - ROYAL NZ BALLET**

**2009**

Original arrangements of eight Beatles songs for the Royal NZ Ballet. I arranged, produced, recorded and mixed the songs, as well as playing piano, guitar and bass. The singer was Eva Prowse, and the production toured the country with great success.

*"An exquisite tour de force...a great closing number"* - Dominion Post

*"What a blast, with Beatles music given an alt-country twist...on Sunday night in Papakura it was utterly gorgeous and totally riveting."* - NZ Herald

**BLACKSPOT**

**2008**

Original music and sound design. This New Zealand horror film was directed by Ben Hawker of Weta Workshop and won the "Best International Thriller" award at the 2008 New York Independent Film and Video Festival. The strings were performed by members of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, and I played the solo piano part.

*"Composer and sound designer Jeremy Cullen had the massive task of creating the soundscape for Blackspot. Jeremy would not only end up mixing the film, he composed, notated, conducted, recorded and performed piano for the original score. Along with his sound design, Jeremy's score remains one of the most impressive personal achievements within Blackspot."* - Luke and Ben Hawker (writer/director)

**LAMBS**

**2011**

Sound Design for this Film Commission funded short film directed by Sam Kelly, which screened at the Berlin Film Festival and won "Best Short Film" at the NZ International Film Festival.

**TWO LITTLE BOYS**

**2011**

I was dialogue editor on this black comedy feature film directed by Robert Sarkies and starring Hamish Blake and Bret McKenzie. The film reached #1 at the New Zealand box office.

**ROTORUA MUSEUM**

**2011**

I created the sound design for the Rotorua Museum's new wing. The 8 galleries required ambient sound, sound for animations, 5.1 surround mixing and restoring documentary material.

**THE WOTWOTS**

**2011**

I recorded foley sound effects for several episodes of this children's TV show, which is a mixture of live action and animation. The WotWots is produced by Pukeko Pictures, a production company founded by filmmaker Richard Taylor of Weta Digital.

**THE DEVIL'S ROCK**

**2010**

I recorded and edited foley sound effects for this New Zealand Film Commission-funded feature horror film directed by Paul Campion.

**NUMEROUS TV, RADIO, CINEMA COMMERCIALS**

**1999-2014**

I've worked on the audio post-production for hundreds of commercials for TV, Radio, cinema and new media. The majority of my clients have been advertising agencies such as Saatchi and Saatchi, Clemenger BBDO, Young and Rubicam, Ogilvy and Assignment.

The advertising process is high pressure and fast turnaround, with voiceover recording, sound effects tracklaying, music editing and final mix needing to be performed quickly and to the highest standard. I have also composed music for many commercials.

**LEILA ADU - DIG A HOLE** (ALBUM)

**2002**

Leila is a highly original jazz/pop singer and I produced, engineered and mixed her debut album *Dig a Hole*.

*"When I was looking for a producer for Dig A Hole, Jeremy's complex mix of pop sensibility, electronic production experience and compositional skill made him an obvious choice.*

*Jeremy has a fine ear and is able to truly listen and synthesize detailed arrangements with melodic clarity. He was able to empathetically communicate and, as performers, we felt at ease working with him. As a composer and performer myself it is a blessing to work with such a meticulous thinker and understanding personality."* - Leila Adu

## Qualifications

- Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Music Composition – University of Canterbury
- Licentiate of the Trinity College of London (L.T.C.L.) in Piano Performance

## Skills

- Music composition
- Sound recording, editing, mixing and mastering to broadcast specifications
- Piano performance
- Score-reading, orchestration, arrangement, a high level of music theory knowledge
- A wide knowledge of audio and video formats
- Fluency with many audio systems incl. Protools, Fairlight, Logic, Digital Performer
- Voice recording, production and direction of voice talent

## References

Please contact me at [jeremycullen@gmail.com](mailto:jeremycullen@gmail.com) for references or showreel samples.