



# Tower Divas

*Surrender to the mesmeric frequencies*

## CONTACT

Corrina Bonshek  
Composer | Artistic Director | Producer at  
Corrina Bonshek & Collaborators  
[corrina@cbcollab.com](mailto:corrina@cbcollab.com)  
+61 435 247 874

<https://www.cbcollab.com/tower-divas>

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## COMPANY PROFILE

Corrina Bonshek & Collaborators bring artists and audiences together from different cultural backgrounds to celebrate our shared connection to the spectacular, biodiverse ecosystems that sustain us. It is led by award-winning composer & artistic director Corrina Bonshek, and supported by the long-term producing relationship of Bonshek & Greta Kelly who produced Song to the Earth Bleach\* Festival 2017 & 2018, 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Arts & Culture Festival, Flowstate Southbank 2018, Rainforest Fringe Festival Sarawak Malaysia 2019, and Boom International Festival of Percussion, Redlands Performing Arts Centre, Kingston Butter Factory, Rockhampton River Festival 2022. <https://www.cbcollab.com>

## ABOUT TOWER DIVAS

Surrender to the mesmeric frequencies of three powerful voices as they call out across space and time.

Tower Divas is a 30-minute interactive, live music installation featuring three powerful goddess-like singers whose glistening voices float over a swirling soundscape of transformed underwater sounds, wind, stone and electronics that evoke the elements.

Dressed in stunning totem-inspired costumes and headdresses designed by Whaia, each singer is elevated on a 1m high plinth. The audience is invited to go on their own sound journey and sit, walk or stand as they feel within the 10 x 40m performance zone.

This installation experience is directed and sound-designed by award-winning composer Corrina Bonshek in collaboration with three awe-inspiring and deeply earthed artists: Yolngu songstress Gambirra Illume (NSW), Maori sonic weaver Whaia (QLD), and Korean-born vocalist and improviser Sunny Kim (VIC).

## PRODUCTION HISTORY

2023 | Bleach\* Festival Last Light August 13, 2023.

## VIDEO/AUDIO

### Video

Sneak Peak: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDhWCYx4CwM>

Archival and video highlights will be available from August 20, 2023 (after Tower Divas premieres at Bleach Festival on August 13).

### Audio

Highlight from 1st stage development: [Excerpt 1](#), [Excerpt 2](#), [Excerpt 3](#)

### Image

Available from September 2023.

## PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

**Duration:** 30 minutes with the option of two or three shows per night

**Touring party:** 6 pax

### Tech Details:

Speaker array created in collaboration with James Clarke from TonePacer, sound art specialist. His equipment and routing system can be hired and brought to the festival by the artists.

### *Sound*

- 8 Line array with subs for edge of the performance space
- 3 x subs and speakers for truss
- Mixing desk with expansion boxes (dante or similar) for wireless routing of sound to multiple speakers.
- 3 x Wireless mic headset + transmitters- Sennheiser JAG IMX6A "Countryman" or equivalent for vocalists.

### *Staging*

- 3 x 1m high square plinth truss for each singer to stand on.
- 6 x battery par can with wireless DMX & wifi (2 per singer)
- Additional lighting to gradually illuminate nearby architectural OR natural feature As part of the show.
- 12 Sandbags for skirts

*Creative team will provide*

- 1 x Orion studio audio interface, ableton controller & laptop for mixing and adding effects to 3 vocalist (Aaron)
- Apple laptop with ableton for sound design (Dante installed) and lighting design (Corrina).

*Sample schedule for tech/dress run day*

Time	What
3 hours	Bump-in of audio equipment, staging and lighting
90mins	Tuning of Orion interface. Sound check soundscape / speaker routing (Corrina & Aaron & Festival team)
45mins	Sound check vocals with effects (15mins per vocalist)
15mins	Group soundcheck
90mins	Evening. Stop/ Start run (with lighting cues etc) and 40min run

## CREDITS

### Creative Team

Concept, co-composer, soundscapes and collaborative direction: Dr Corrina Bonshek

Singer and co-composer: Gambirra Illume

Singer and co-composer: Whaia, Maori Sonic Weaver

Singer and co-composer: Sunny Kim

Costume Design & Creation: Whaia

Lighting design: Wes Bluff

Sound engineer: Aaron Mason

### Acknowledgements

Tower Divas was commissioned by Bleach\* Festival, and supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland. Photo by Claudio Kirac, Art-Work Agency

## BIOGRAPHIES



Residing on Awabakal & Worimi Country, **Gambirra Illume** A.K.A. *Mamma G* is a Yolŋu woman from the Gumatj Clan of Northeast Arnhem Land, N.T. She has over 30 years as a multidisciplinary artist; Gambirra is a performer, exhibiting visual artist, producer, facilitator, cultural arts educator, and clinical mental health coach.

She is a key Ceremonial vocalist of *Dream Drone*, First Nation's vocalist for Richard Petkovic's *Sydney World Music Chamber Orchestra*, a member of the *ILLUME Girls*, and leader of the 12-piece band '*Gambirra MOB*'.

Over the years, Gambirra has composed and produced music works for Catapult Dance Company, NAISDA Dance Company, Legal Aid NSW, Bowerbird Collective and of late Australian Geographic: '*Our Country*' Immersive.



**WHAIA** (Aotearoa / NZ) is a Sonic Weaver, Vocalist, Multi-instrumentalist, Designer/Stylist, Creative Producer. Whaia works with Taonga Puoro/Traditional First Nations Instruments and Singing Crystal Bowls creating her own unique cradle of embedded healing phonics. She activates an ancient primordial voice that calls beyond the veil of this earthly world.

A Ngati Kahugnunu woman raised in the outback of Western Australia, the land and her Aboriginal grandmother shaping her story from age 6. Touring with the band 'Bunna Lawrie & The Whaledreamers' in 2012 for 4 years, she has sung the whale songlines across Australia.

Her debut album **WHAIA & WATER** is 1st part of her 'Sacred Sonic Sessions' honouring the waters of the planet and our first home of water, the womb. With a depth of ochre in her skin and mana in her bones, she's a true warrior woman with a soft yet powerful delivery, entwining one's heart, body and spirit.



**Sunny Kim** is a Korean-born vocalist, improviser, composer and educator based in Melbourne, Australia. Drawing from her life journey as a global nomad - Seoul, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Denver, Boston, New York and now Melbourne - Sunny's artistic practice seeks to find meaningful connections to people, culture and place through a dedication to self-discovery, deep listening and collaboration.

A two-time winner of Jazz People's Magazine's Reader's Poll Awards in the Best Vocalist category (2012-13) and the recipient of the LIG Artist grant (2011), Sunny Kim has released five albums as a leader, three of which have been nominated for the Korean Music Awards in the Best Jazz Record category. Sunny has worked with hundreds of musicians, dancers, poets and visual artists and has performed internationally. Invited by the Australian Music Centre, Sunny delivered the Peggy Glanville-Hicks Address in 2020.

<https://www.sunnykimmusic.com/>

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