



An immersive live musical-visual experience of the
living world

A proposal for collaboration

But first ...

Imagine yourself seated in the audience for Symbiotica. The house lights dim, and before you, a large, freestanding curved screen wraps around at least 120 degrees of your field of vision, enveloping you and the rest of the audience in a sweeping, panoramic visual landscape. The curvature of the screen enhances the sense of immersion, pulling you into the world of the performance by filling your peripheral vision and making the visuals feel more lifelike and immediate.



There is a narrator, an actor, who begins our journey into the more-than-human world. She is our guide, weaving a story amidst the immersive visions on screen. As the live band begins to play, synchronized high-definition projections dance across the entire curved surface. The images are crisp and vibrant, seamlessly blended from multiple projectors so that the visuals flow smoothly across the expanse of the screen. The content is dynamic: sometimes abstract, sometimes narrative, always in perfect harmony with the music and live dialogue.

Suddenly, a three-dimensional holographic effect appears at the front of the stage. Using a thin, nearly invisible film angled toward the audience, life-sized holographic figures or objects seem to materialize in mid-air, floating and interacting with the performers. These 3D projections-created using Pepper's Ghost technology-give the illusion that digital elements are sharing the stage with the musicians, adding a magical, futuristic layer to the live performance.



Throughout the show, the combination of panoramic projection and holographic visuals creates a sense of being inside the story, rather than just watching it. The visuals respond to the music in real time, shifting in colour, form, and intensity, making you feel as though you are part of an unfolding, multisensory narrative. The overall effect is deeply engaging: the boundary between the stage and the audience dissolves, and you are transported into the immersive world of Symbiotica.

The Story

Human life is inescapably entangled with the rest of the living world. This reality is increasingly being understood by individuals, communities, governments and the international community, resulting in initiatives and actions to regenerate biodiversity and where possible return land and oceans back to nature.

This project is an artistic celebration of this broad ambition.

Grounded in science and scholarship, it uses music and large scale visual projections underpinned by a narrative arc to tell this story.

Objective

Create a 1.5-hour stand-alone multimedia musical concert/event with narrative that *celebrates a story* of humans' entanglement with the rest of nature.

While it will be educational, that is a byproduct, not the main objective. It will be scientifically rigorous and artistically creative.

This event will be designed to be mobile and will tour throughout Australia.

Background

The ontological problem of human exceptionalism, is a barrier to transformative action to support more-than-human-communities. Individuals (of whatever species) matter. Communities (of whatever species) matter. Landscapes matter. Biodiversity matters. Protecting and restoring ecological services is essential to human and more-than-human flourishing.

This is the story we plan to tell. It is a natural evolution of our previous climate storytelling work.

Music for a Warming World



In 2015, Simon Kerr, Christine Parker and Simon's band produced the first iteration of a climate focused project called '[Music for a Warming World](#)'.

This show has been performed close to 100 times, from Queensland to Tasmania, in theatres, music festivals, academic institutions, art galleries and

community spaces to over 3000 people. It has been [extremely well received](#) as ‘very powerful’, ‘fabulously celebratory and ‘a unique masterpiece’.


However, it is now time for us to move on from a direct focus on climate change. The restoration of the living world is now our focus, in line with the Kunming/Montreal Convention on Biodiversity 30/30 Plan.

In this polycrisis we all need something positive. Immersion in the living world and doing what we can to bring back nature and humans back to nature is powerful and attractive for many people.

This is the aim of Symbiotica.

The Three Foundational Concepts

This proposed new show will have three sections, each with a different focus and addressing a different ecological level:



One	Many	All
Individual beings and their <i>umwelt</i> (how each organism ‘sees’ their world)	Communities of diversity and entanglement	Biodiversity, place and its restoration

It will use **new music** created to express these ideas. The show will be backed by state-of-the-art **large-scale multimedia projected images** that act as a visual collaboration of the story and music.

Outcomes

1. Provide a moment of respite, joy and solidarity for people living with escalating crises
2. Increasing understanding and felt connection with the more-than-human
3. Inspire people to help restore and return land ‘to nature’

4. Help raise the profile and support for organisations working for a better future for all living creatures, including biodiversity and research.

A Collaborative Opportunity

This project requires collaboration and funding. Currently we are exploring a legal structure to support this initiative, sources of start-up funding to help create the show's narrative, multimedia and music, as well as some initial funding for the first few 'demonstrator' shows.

The first step in creating the actual show is the narrative

Creating the Narrative

This is a storyline that weaves its way through the show. It will be performed by a *skilled actor*.

The narrative is central to this story. The music and digital media support the narrative, so it is important to ensure the narrative:

- a) reflects the current science and scholarship of biodiversity
- b) tells a meaningful 'story' around which the other arts weave; and
- c) is poetic, powerful, dramatic, humorous and entertaining.

Opportunity:

We are seeking the support of a small group of people versed in biodiversity and ecology, philosophy and art to co-create a narrative that is scientifically sound and artistically compelling – storytelling, dramatic, humorous and totally engaging.

This would be a collaboration between the organisation/s and Symbiotica. This partnership would be reflected in all advertising, promotions and, where possible, at the shows.

Writing the music

The narrative will determine the music (though we have some songs and music already written) but the music will serve the narrative. It will include songs and instrumentals and cross multiple genres, from folk, electronic and ambient metal (yes, there is such a thing!).

Simon's band will primarily be involved in this aspect though we welcome the collaboration with other musicians.

Creation of the Visuals

Opportunity: We will need a skilled digital artist/s to workshop and collaborate in producing stunning and powerful digital projections that support the narrative and music.

We are also looking for a VJ to join the project as we perform and tour.

Into the Future

The intention is to create a show that could, in principle, be replicated elsewhere. It will be structured so that other groups could perform it and help it evolve.

Let's have a conversation!

We welcome a conversation with groups, Universities and research centres and individuals who would like to be involved in this project. It is a work-in-progress and we value the input of a range of disciplines and skills.

NOTE: While we seek to cover costs, this is mostly a work of love and passion for our planet. We are a not-for-profit initiative.

Simon Kerr

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About us ...

Simon Kerr is a musician, researcher and is currently Research Program Manager and Engagement Lead for the Murray Darling Water and Environment Research Program, led by La Trobe University and the CSIRO. It is funded by the Murray Darling Basin Authority. He also is an adjunct researcher at the Climate Adaptation Centre at La Trobe. Simon has a BA (Sociology), MAppSc (Resource Management) and PhD (Political Ecology). He has published on music and climate change and is currently writing a book on the role of music in the climate and biodiversity crisis, to be published by Peter Lang Publishers in 2026.

Simon has played in many bands in New Zealand and Australia, released four albums and an EP, produced [*Music for a Warming World*](#) and ran the *Musicians Climate Network* for 5 years.

With his partner, Christine, they have a conservation bush block near the Gariwerd/Grampians National Park and have just placed a 'Trust for Nature' covenant on the land.

Christine Parker is Professor of Law at the Melbourne Law School.

The band members, in addition to Simon are:

Mal Webb, legendary Melbourne based multi-instrumentalist and vocal adventurer who has played with many leading musicians and bands and tours regularly to the UK and Europe.

Kylie Morigan, a highly accomplished classically trained violinist, who played professionally for a number of years, including with Orchestra Victoria. She performs with Mal Webb, the [*Formidable Vegetable*](#) and many other music projects. Kylie has been playing with Simon for over 12 years.

We are also looking to recruit other musicians, as needed, for this project.

The Board

We are currently talking with people with relevant skills about forming an inaugural board to help establish the legal structure to support this project and the necessary fund raising. If you would be interested or could suggest potential board members please contact Simon Kerr.