

Research Reports

Biographical Dictionary of Australian Composers

The aim of this project, which has been funded in 1992-93 by an Australian Research Council grant, is to provide a biographical dictionary of the hundred most significant Australian composers, from European settlement to the present, which will be a prime reference source for knowledge of the nature and scope of Australian composition in the Western 'art-music' tradition. The project will be a unique contribution to the investigation of this area: several books on Australian art-music have been published since the 1950s, notably those by W. Arundel Orchard (1952), Andrew McCredie

(1969), James Murdoch (1972), Frank Callaway and David Tunley (1978), and John Jenkins (1988), but they have all been limited in scope (particularly with regard to critical perspective) and in some cases inaccurate; all—with one exception, Jenkins's book—are now out of date. The dictionary entries will comprise biographical information and critical appraisal, followed by selective work-lists and bibliographies.

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