



ASHLEY WILLIAM SMITH

CLARINET | BASS CLARINET

BIOGRAPHY

Described as *'Incandescent... a masterly display of skill and insight... as an apologist for contemporary music-making, you would search hard to find this young clarinettist's equal'* (The Age), clarinettist Ashley William Smith is a laureate of prizes including the Music Council of Australia Freedman Fellowship, an ABC Symphony International Young Performer Award, and a Churchill Fellowship.

Ashley has performed throughout Australia, the USA, Europe and Asia with the Chamber Music Society of the Lincoln Centre, Chamber Music Northwest, Bang on a Can, the Kennedy Centre and the Beijing Modern Music Festival. As a soloist and director he has performed extensively alongside Australian and international orchestras. In 2015 his performance of Lachlan Skipworth's Clarinet Concerto with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra was awarded the APRA Performance of the Year. He appears again as soloist with WASO as part of their 2021 season.

Ashley is the Chair of Woodwind and Contemporary Performance at the University of Western Australia Conservatorium of Music and is on the Perth Symphony Orchestra board of directors.

A graduate of Yale University, the University of Western Australia, and a Fellow of the Australian National Academy of Music, Ashley was awarded the highest honours as the most outstanding performance graduate of each institution. In 2020 was awarded a Doctor of Musical Arts from UWA.

A fitness enthusiast, Ashley runs with Perth Frontrunners and 2019 and was a national finalist in the 2019 Australian Allstar CrossFit Masters.