

Biography

Brendan O'Donnell is a recorder player from Adelaide, Australia. From 2009 he studied with Kamala Bain at the New Zealand School of Music in Wellington. Over the following three years he became a regular performer in Wellington's early music scene, while his studies earned him several awards, including the prestigious Ariadne Danilow Music Prize in 2011.

After completing his Bachelor degree, Brendan moved to Salzburg, Austria, where he completed his Masters on recorder with Dorothee Oberlinger and Matthijs Lunenburg in October 2013. Since 2012 he has been a finalist in several competitions, and in August 2013 he was the winner of the Don Cowell Memorial Trust in Melbourne, Australia's most prestigious recorder competition.

Brendan returns to Australia regularly, performing extensively with Adelaide's leading period music ensembles, including **Adelaide Baroque**, the **Adelaide Chamber Singers**, and **Ensemble Galante**. He has performed with **Accademia Arcadia** in the esteemed Woodend Winter Arts Festival in Victoria, and alongside the **Baroque Voices**, **Musica Lyrica**, and the **Wellington Orchestra** in New Zealand.

Aside from his ensemble work, Brendan has received outstanding reviews for his solo recitals *Breathless* (February 2013) and *Recorder Rara* (January 2014), one reviewer describing him as a "virtuoso, scholar, [and] presenter ... of rare charm and lucidity". In November 2013 he also began a new early music project in Australia, **Bowerbird Ensemble**, combining period practice with creative programming and venue choices designed to appeal to an alternative demographic.

Brendan currently lives and works in Munich, Germany, and performs with the new ensemble **Cembaless**, focused on the fusion of early and contemporary music.