# Nick Haywood – Ithaca Bound

# Research Background

This quintet has for many years used poetry and other literature as inspiration for themed improvised music projects. This work is inspired by Homer’s epic ‘Odyssey”. Each ensemble member has composed music inspired by aspects of the Odyssey to provide a complete album. The connection between ensemble members, in a musical sense, further expands on my long-term research project around collaborative group improvisation, and uses the additional element of literature as an inspiration to develop musical dialogue between players.

**Research Contribution**

The recording of this project informed my research into collaborative group improvisation, particularly from the perspective of improvising and performing pre-composed music with the additional element of written words. The connection between players in this ensemble is of an advanced level, with the group having developed for 14 years prior to the recording. Examination of the application of the ‘Key Elements’ as outlined in my earlier work, within this context, provides insight into the way that individuals work together in an intuitive manner, both from the perspective of artistic output as well collaborative group work in more generic terms.

**Research Significance**

The significance of this research is that it investigates the connection between experienced musicians, who have been performing and recording together over an extended period of time, within a setting of entirely new works inspired by classic literature. This is a new approach to improvisation from both a performance standpoint and within academic investigation. A significant gap in the research is filled with this study. The following indicators attest to its value: the performances at the Melbourne International Jazz Festival received outstanding reviews in national press (a review is attached with this powerpoint presentation. The CD was nominated for a prestigious ARIA award for Best Jazz Album in the 2015 ARIA (fine art section) awards.