

# Dr Nicholas Freer – Research Portfolio (Selected Works)

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## Overview

This portfolio presents an integrated body of research and creative practice spanning musicology, performance, composition, and pedagogy. The work includes both traditional scholarly outputs and non-traditional research outputs (NTROs), demonstrating how analytical and theoretical frameworks are realised through performance, recording, and digital dissemination.

Collectively, these outputs demonstrate a sustained focus on the translation of complex musical knowledge into applied and accessible forms. This includes dissemination through recordings, publications, and digital media, as well as direct integration into tertiary teaching and curriculum design.

Research and creative practice are embedded directly into teaching through the use of recordings, analytical models, and video-based materials as core learning resources. This approach supports applied, student-centred learning and enables students to engage with contemporary practice in ways that reflect real-world musical and professional contexts.

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## Selected Outputs

### 1. Doctoral Research

#### PhD Thesis – University of Melbourne (2022)

*Allan Holdsworth: Principles of Harmonic Organisation in Selected Compositions*

- Develops analytical frameworks for post-tonal harmonic systems
  - Bridges music theory and contemporary performance practice
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### 2. Peer-Reviewed Publication

#### Music Theory Online

- Internationally recognised journal
  - Research contributes to contemporary analytical discourse in jazz
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### 3. Creative Work (NTRO)

#### Apperceptions (2025)

- Original compositions integrating advanced harmonic systems

- Demonstrates the translation of research into compositional output
  - Link: [www.nickfreer.com](http://www.nickfreer.com)
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#### 4. Creative Work (NTRO)

##### The Unsuspecting (2015)

- Critically reviewed instrumental fusion album
- Recognised for innovation in composition and improvisation
- Link: [www.nickfreer.com](http://www.nickfreer.com)

#### 5. Creative Work (NTRO)

##### Hands (2007) Musea

- **49<sup>th</sup> Grammy Awards, Shortlist Nomination**, (Nick Freer and Avatar for Best Pop Instrumental Album), **2006**
  - Critically reviewed instrumental fusion album
  - Link: [www.nickfreer.com](http://www.nickfreer.com)
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#### 5. Video Catalogue (NTRO – Digital Dissemination)

Extensive published video works across:

- Jazz and fusion performance
- Harmonic analysis and conceptual explanation
- Pedagogical demonstrations

This catalogue functions as a scalable research dissemination platform, translating complex musical knowledge into accessible formats for students and practitioners.

Link: [www.nickfreer.com](http://www.nickfreer.com)

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#### 6. Conference Presentations

Selected international presentations:

- University of Oxford (UK)  
<https://www.sma.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Conference-Booklet-18.8.23-Post-conference-Final.pdf>
- University of Lisbon (Portugal)

<https://fabricadesites.fcsh.unl.pt/ncmm/nicholas-freer/>

- University of Birmingham (UK)

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/documents/college-artslaw/music/events/2021/brummac-programme-2021-draft.pdf>

- Ball State University (USA)

<https://www.21cguitar.com/>

**Focus:**

- Harmonic organisation
- Jazz analysis
- Practice-led research