



Fine Blue Thread is an exciting new collaboration of three musicians from three very different worlds: Helen Mountfort (baroque, gut-stringed 'cello), Ria Soemardjo (voice and gut-stringed viola) and Sam Evans (tabla and percussion). The trio perform their own eclectic compositions informed by Indian, Indonesian and Western classical musical traditions, while remaining free to express their own inner musical desires. The music of Fine Blue Thread is moody, open, sweet and surprising - generating a distinctive contemporary Melbourne sound.

Fine Blue Thread have just completed recording their debut album Red Mountain with funding assistance from Arts Victoria. Recent performance highlights include the Melbourne International Arts Festival, Spiegeltents in both Melbourne and Sydney, The Victorian Arts Centre, and a variety of Melbourne's music festivals.

Helen Mountfort - 'Cello. Helen Mountfort studied 'cello and composition at Victoria University Wellington New Zealand. Helen moved to Australia in 1986 and soon after joined the band Not drowning,waving. Helen was a founding member of the band My Friend the Chocolate Cake with whom she still records and performs, and is also a member of gypsy/tango band Cosmo Cosmolino. Helen writes music for film, television, dance and theatre and is in demand as a session musician having recorded with many Australian artists including Missy Higgins, Archie Roach, Paul Kelly, Midnight Oil, Renee Geyer, and the John Butler Trio.

Sam Evans – Tabla and Percussion. Over the past decade Sam Evans has evenly divided his time between Australia and India performing concerts as soloist and accompanist in both traditional and modern music. He has performed live on Indian and Australian television, on national and international radio and at numerous international jazz and world music festivals. Renowned for his cross-cultural collaborations and creative approach to tabla, Evans has written music for television, animation and documentaries and is currently teaching Indian music at Monash University where he co-founded and directs the 20 piece World of Music Orchestra.

Ria Soemardjo – Voice and Viola. Ria Soemardjo has established herself in Australia as a unique voice in the world music scene. Born in Melbourne of Australian/Indonesian descent, Ria draws on her deep respect for the Javanese musical tradition in her song writing and collaborative projects. Ria has just returned from 3 months intensive vocal study in India and Indonesia, funded by the Australia Council for the Arts. She has recently performed in the Singapore Performing Arts Showcase, The Melbourne International Arts Festival and has recorded live for Radio National's Music Deli show at the Iwaki Auditorium.