

*Below are several bios of varying lengths (from 83 up to 503). You are welcome to edit as you please or put together your own based on what is most suitable. It would be great if you could send your selected, edited or new version to me for final approval before publishing. Thank you.*

*You can also find additional information in the curriculum vitae on my website at <https://thembisoddell.com/abridged-cv/>*

**83 words:**

Thembi Soddell is a sound artist best known for their powerful acousmatic performances and installations in darkness. In 2019 they were awarded a PhD from RMIT University for their practice-based research titled, 'A Dense Mass of Indecipherable Fear: The Experiential (Non)Narration of Trauma and Madness through Acousmatic Sound'. This research developed a novel approach to understanding lived experiences of anxiety, depression and trauma using a medium (abstract sound) with the unique ability to reflect the intangible nature of the inner world.

**99 words:**

Dr Thembi Soddell is a sound artist and practice-based researcher known for their powerful acousmatic performances and installations in darkness. Their PhD research, titled 'A Dense Mass of Indecipherable Fear: The Experiential (Non)Narration of Trauma and Madness through Acousmatic Sound', explored a novel approach to understanding lived experiences of anxiety, depression and trauma using a medium (abstract sound) with a unique ability to reflect the intangibility of the inner world. Their last album, *Love Songs*, was praised for its 'innovative approach to form' (Fluid Radio) and its launch won a Green Room Award for Contemporary Sound Performance.

**114 words:**

Dr Thembi Soddell is a sound artist and practice-based researcher known for their powerful acousmatic performances and installations in darkness. Their PhD research, titled 'A Dense Mass of Indecipherable Fear: The Experiential (Non)Narration of Trauma and Madness through Acousmatic Sound', explored a novel approach to understanding lived experiences of anxiety, depression and trauma using a medium (abstract sound) with a unique ability to reflect the intangibility of the inner world. Their last album, *Love Songs*, was praised for its 'innovative approach to form' (Fluid Radio) and its launch won a Green Room Award for Contemporary Sound Performance. Soddell is a Polish-Australian (second generation) born and living on Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

**254 words:**

Thembi Soddell is a sound artist, composer, and practice-based researcher best known for their powerful acousmatic performances and installations in darkness. In 2019 they were awarded a PhD from RMIT University, Melbourne for their practice-based research titled, *A Dense Mass of Indecipherable Fear: The Experiential (Non)Narration of Trauma and Madness through Acousmatic Sound*. This research developed a novel approach to understanding lived experiences of anxiety, depression and trauma using a medium (abstract sound) with the unique ability to reflect the intangible nature of the inner world.

Their last album, *Love Songs* was praised for its 'innovative approach to form' (Fluid Radio 2018) and 'fearless conceptual framework' (Self-Titled Magazine 2018). Its launch at The SUBSTATION won the 2019 Green Room Award for Contemporary Sound Performance. Its companion sound installation, *Held Down, Expanding* (2018), premiered at MONA-FOMA and was a finalist in the 2019 APRA-AMCOS Art Music Award for Excellence in Experimental Music.

Soddell has released five albums (2004; 2005; 2006; 2012; 2018), twice toured Europe (2006; 2009), and exhibited and performed at galleries including: Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid (2020); Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart (2018); Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane (2016); Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (2016); National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2013); National Gallery of Australia (online), Canberra (2004); and San Francisco Museum of Art (2002). Soddell is Polish-Australian (2nd. Generation), lives in the rural Victorian town of Clunes, Australia, on Dja Dja Wurrung Country, and is the 2020-21 Regional Arts Victoria Fellow.

#### **294 words:**

Thembi Soddell (they/them/theirs) is a non-binary Polish-Australian/settler colonial sound artist best known for their powerful acousmatic performances and installations in darkness of ‘startling, even hallucinatory, intensity’ (New Zealand Listener 2012). In 2019 they were awarded a PhD from RMIT University for their practice-based research entitled ‘A Dense Mass of Indecipherable Fear: The Experiential (Non)Narration of Trauma and Madness through Acousmatic Sound’. This research developed a novel approach to understanding lived experiences of anxiety, depression and trauma using a medium (sound) that has a unique ability to reflect the intangibility of trauma and mental distress. In drawing upon their lived experiences, Soddell’s uncompromising artistic voice reveals ‘just how personal laptop music can be’ (Resonate Magazine 2014).

Soddell’s 2018 album ‘Love Songs’ exemplifies this method. Accompanied by a book of concrete poetry it was praised for its ‘innovative approach to form’ (Fluid Radio 2018) and ‘fearless conceptual framework’ (Self-Titled Magazine 2018). Its launch at The SUBSTATION won the 2019 Green Room Award for Contemporary Sound Performance. They have released five albums (2004; 2005; 2006; 2012; 2018), twice toured Europe (2006; 2009), and exhibited and performed at galleries including: Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid (2020); Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart (2018); Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane (2016); Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (2016); National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2013); National Gallery of Australia (online), Canberra (2004); and San Francisco Museum of Art (2002).

Soddell lives on Dja Dja Wurrung Country in Clunes, and is a current Regional Arts Victoria Fellow. Their work has been discussed in two books, ‘Experimental Music: Audio Explorations in Australia’ (2008) and ‘Women of Note: The Rise of Australian Women Composers’ (2012) and their research published in the prestigious journal ‘Organised Sound’ (2020).

#### **503 words:**

Dr Thembi Soddell is a sound artist, composer and practice-based research best known for their powerful acousmatic performances and installations in darkness. In 2019 they were awarded a PhD from RMIT University for their practice-based research titled ‘A Dense Mass of Indecipherable Fear: The Experiential (Non)Narration of Trauma and Madness through Acousmatic Sound’. This research developed a novel approach to understanding lived experiences of anxiety, depression and trauma using a medium (abstract sound) with a unique ability to reflect the intangibility of the inner world. Their primary tool is the sampler, generating sounds through field recording, played found objects (including instruments), and analogue synthesis to form surreal and ambiguous realisations of psychological experience. Their volatile sound worlds often exploit the dynamic extremes, toying with a listener's sense of expectation and disquiet.

Soddell’s 2018 album *Love Songs* and accompanying book of concrete poetry was praised for its ‘innovative approach to form’ (Fluid Radio 2018) and ‘fearless conceptual framework’ (Self-Titled Magazine 2018), and its launch won the 2019 Green Room Award for Contemporary Sound

Performance. Its companion sound installation, *Held Down, Expanding* (2018), premiered at MONA-FOMA and was a finalist in the 2019 APRA-AMCOS Art Music Award for Excellence in Experimental Music. Their work has also shown in national and international galleries, including Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid (2020), the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (2016), Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane (2016), National Gallery of Victoria (2014), Wellington City Gallery (2013), National Gallery of Australia (2003), and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2002). They have performed at many Australian experimental music festivals, including Totally Huge, Liquid Architecture, What is Music?, and the NOW now.

Soddell has released three solo albums — *Intimacy* (2004) *Instance* (2006) and *Love Songs* (2018)— and two in a duo with cellist, Anthea Caddy — *Iland* (2006) and *Host* (2012). In their duo with Caddy they have twice toured Europe, performing 33 shows across 12 countries, including venues and festivals such as *Instants Chavirés* (Paris), *Cave 12* (Switzerland), and *Hoerkunst Festival* (Germany). They have also performed solo in Poland (2009), Germany (2017) and Iceland (2017), and presented at two conferences in Budapest, Hungary (2016). Soddell has worked as a sound designer and dramaturg for choreographer Tim Darbyshire, theatre director Rebecca H. Russell, and media and performance artist Vanessa Godden, as well as guest curated for *Melbourne Now's* electroacoustic composition playlist at the National Gallery of Victoria. Their work has been discussed in two books, 'Experimental Music: Audio Explorations in Australia' (2008) and 'Women of Note: The Rise of Australian Women Composers' (2012). Their research has been published in *Organised Sound* and *Disclaimer*

In 2020, Soddell was awarded a Regional Arts Victoria Fellowship to explore sustainability and access in regional arts and present a series of their work on sound and mental health in and around their hometown of Clunes — Dja Dja Wurrung Country — in partnership with Liquid Architecture and Clunes Neighbourhood House. Soddell is a non-binary Polish-Australian (2nd gen.) and a British-Irish descendent.