

Kilmeny Adie, "Composer Schultz on Crest of a Wave," Illawarra Mercury, 10/04/2004, p. 16.

ANDREW Schultz opened his briefcase and pulled out the most recent print of his composition, Song of Songs.

The A4 sheets were bundled together in a clear sleeve and looked about as thick as a fiction novel. Clearly, it was not a work the University of Wollongong Faculty of Creative Arts dean had thrown together overnight.

The 45-minute interpretation of the ancient biblical text has been years in the making and is just one of Schultz's latest projects.

Another is today's performance of Sleepers Wake, Karalanga for solo piano and Night Flight for violin and piano, at the Twilight at Riversdale concert at Bundanon.

Then there is next week's recording of a CD of his chamber music in Brisbane and last weekend's performance of another of his compositions at the Sydney Opera House.

"It comes in waves, a set," Schultz, a professor of composition, said.

"There's periods where you are very busy and then there's periods where you are wondering 'when's the next wave coming?'"

But in the midst of all this creative madness, Schultz has had time to create new work after returning last week from a three-week Canadian trip.

He was a visiting artist at the Banff Centre and drew from the creative environment in the Canadian mountains to complete the score of Song of Songs for The Song Company in Sydney.

"The Banff Centre has a very interesting set-up with each of the arts areas having an established program but they are all short term-residences rather than tertiary education," Schultz said.

"I was working with a group of professional composers and was also working on this piece as a resident. In a big piece you need time to edit and you need to cut yourself off for a few weeks just to finish it. It's a beautiful place to work sitting there in the middle of the woods."

The Song Company, which performed an earlier piece by Schultz, Ekstasis in Wollongong in March, commissioned the new work which features 18 voices and electronic equipment. Schultz has been associated with the group for a long time.

"They have changed tremendously over 15 years; their sound, style and what they do (makes them) an outstanding group now," he said.

As he works with The Song Company on the interpretation, he is readying himself to hear the Australian debut of Night Flight.

“It will actually be the first time I hear it played,” he said.

“(It is nerve-racking) the first time it's being performed because you are looking to see the things that have gone into the piece are there and you are trying to see if it has worked the way you thought it would.”

Bundanon, Arthur Boyd's Shoalhaven property, is the site for the today's performance.

“I had the good fortune to meet Arthur there twice going back to the early '90s and both times he said ‘I would love to see this place used for music, I would love to see music happening here’,” Schultz said.

The 4pm Riversdale performance features Australian Chamber Orchestra violinist Elizabeth Jones and pianist Bernard Lanskey from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

Clearly, Schultz is not the only one excited about this performance - it's sold out.