

RHIAN SHEEHAN

C O M P O S E R



“WHAT BEAUTIFUL MUSIC RHIAN HAS GIVEN TO THE WORLD. WHETHER IT'S PERFORMING ON STAGE, OR COMPOSING IN HIS RECORDING STUDIO, ACROSS FILM, TV SOUNDTRACKS, GAMING, AND LOCATION-BASED EXPERIENCES, RHIAN IS AN INCREDIBLE TALENT AND AN INSPIRATIONAL ARTIST WORKING AND LIVING RIGHT HERE IN OUR WONDERFUL CITY. HOW LUCKY WE ARE!”

- Sir Richard Taylor (Wētā Workshop)

Rhian Sheehan is a multi-award-winning, Hollywood Music in Media Award (HMMA)-nominated New Zealand film, television and media composer, and recording artist internationally sought after for his immersive storytelling through music. From 3D fulldome planetarium experiences, state-of-the-art immersive museum installations, 360-degree cinema experiences and rollercoaster rides to feature films, television and major motion picture trailers, his emotionally driven scores blend orchestral, electronic and post-rock influences to create deeply cinematic experiences for audiences worldwide.

Alongside his immersive work, Sheehan composes for feature films, television, games and advertising. His music and scores have been heard on shows, films, and trailers across **Netflix, HBO, Disney+, Amazon Prime, National Geographic, Discovery, 20th Century Fox**, and the **BBC**, with credits including **Top Gear, Silicon Valley, Janet Jackson (Lifetime), Siege, 60 Minutes, Cunk on Earth, Formula 1: Drive to Survive, Belief, American Idol, America's Got Talent, Upload, NBC's** coverage of the **London Olympic Games** and the **US Super Bowl**, to name a few. His score for **The Cult** won the **Qantas Film & TV Award** for **Best Original Music in a TV Series**, and he received an **APRA Screen Music Award** nomination for **The Sounds**. He has also composed for Hans Zimmer's co-founded **Bleeding Fingers & Extreme Music** production houses, and written music for global powerhouse brands including **Google, Mercedes, Sony Pictures, Universal Pictures, Hennessy**, and **Nike**.

He has composed music for planetarium dome films, museums, multimedia installations, themed attractions (UK's Tetrastar Spaceport) and rollercoaster rides (Mission Ferrari) around the world, with commissions for the **British National Space Centre, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Wētā Workshop**, and **World of WearableArt**. His work includes the large-scale audiovisual installation **Voices For The Future**, projected onto the **United Nations Headquarters** in New York with **Brian Eno**, as well as Wētā Workshop's mixed-reality game **Dr. Grordbort's Invaders** (starring by Stephen Fry & Lucy Lawless). His acclaimed fulldome scores include **Back To The Moon For Good** (Narrated by Tim Allen), which has screened in more than 450 planetariums worldwide, as well as **CapCom Go! The Apollo Story, We Are Astronomers** (David Tennant), **We Are Stars** (Andy Serkis), **We Are Aliens** (Rupert Grint) and **One Step Beyond: A Journey to Mars** (Richard Armitage). These productions have earned multiple international Best Original Score awards and a **Hollywood Music in Media Award** (HMMA) nomination.

RHIAN SHEEHAN

C O M P O S E R

As a recording artist, Sheehan has released seven albums and three EPs through Loop Recordings (NZ/Aus), Darla Records (US), Extreme Music (US) and Preco Records (Japan). Early on in his career Sheehan's music first gained an international audience when his work was featured on the globally popular multi-platinum-selling **Café del Mar, Barramundi & Lazy Sunday** CD anthologies, and has since accumulated hundreds of millions of streams worldwide. British *Future Music* magazine featured a 2-page story on Sheehan, tipping him as "*The next big thing*" in ambient electronic music". His work has earned widespread critical acclaim, with *Echoes* host *John Diliberto* describing *Stories From Elsewhere* as "**A modern ambient chamber music masterpiece of quietly epic dimensions.**" Darla Records released his 2013 album *Stories From Elsewhere* in the US. His 2018 album, *A Quiet Divide*, is his most orchestral album to date, merging chamber strings & piano, with emotionally charged cinematic post-rock atmospheres. Releasing the album alongside a 6 date audiovisual live tour around New Zealand, it reached no.2 on the NZ Top 20 album chart. His 2025 collaborative album *Traces* (co-written with Arli Liberman) reached no.1 on the Independent Music Top 20 chart.

Whether writing for a giant planetarium dome, immersive museum installations or the big screen, Sheehan's music is distinguished by its emotional depth, expansive sense of space and cinematic storytelling.

MEDIA

Press reviews for *Traces* w/ Arli Liberman (2025):

"A true experience... journey into an electronic-inspired wormhole."

- *The Rolling Stone*

"This is an atmospheric, majestic and immersive album, replete with the hybrid vigour of collaboration - simply glorious."

- *The 13th Floor*

"Cinematic sound designs of almost oppressive density through a battery of electronics, Moog and Rhodes keyboards. Turn off your mind. This is atmospheric music for a place where there's no atmosphere, and no one can hear you scream."

- *The Listener*

Press reviews for *Recollections Vol.1* (2020):

"A sublime snapshot of some of the best he has had to offer. A gift that keeps on giving." - Simon Sweetman (*Off The Tracks*)

"Put your headphones back on... You can't help floating to the ceiling on this one." - Ambient Light (★★★★★)

Press reviews for *A Quiet Divide* (2018):

"*A Quiet Divide* is an album that swallows you whole, and sends you out the other side a lighter, calmer version of yourself." – The Sunday Star Times (★★★★1/2)

"If music can help transcend a broken heart, here is the evidence... simply outstanding." – A Closer Listen

"This really is a lovely album." – Elsewhere

RHIAN SHEEHAN

C O M P O S E R

Press reviews for *Live At The Wellington Opera House* (2015):

"The whole album is a wish you were there moment, where the audience is so mesmerised you could hear a pin drop before the bursts of applause that signal the spell has been broken momentarily." – The Sunday Star Times (★★★★★)

"In a truly magical way his music is a form of classical/instrumental that works in front of a crowd more likely reared on rock and dance musics. And this was a stunning show at the time and brings with it happy memories in listening again." – Simon Sweetman (Blog On The Tracks)

Press reviews for *Stories From Elsewhere* (2013):

"Stories From Elsewhere is a modern ambient chamber music masterpiece of quietly epic dimensions." – John Diliberto (Echoes)

"The album transitions effortlessly between moments of elation, reflection, melancholy and serenity, creating in the process a unique world all of its own, almost as visual as it is aural." – Joel Little (Lorde writer/producer)

"I cannot recommend Stories From Elsewhere enough... Sheehan is an unstoppable force." – RIP IT UP (★★★★★)

"Stories From Elsewhere contains so much heart and soul. It has the power to blow you away." – Simon Sweetman (The Dominion Post)

"An enchanting and high-quality collection of genre defying instrumental works." – Textura

Press reviews for *Standing in Silence* (2009):

"This is Rhian's breakthrough album, his grand cinematic excursion, overwhelming with crushingly beautiful yet daring emotion... Accomplished, evocative and sustained... the finest release I've had the privilege to review this year." – The Silent Ballet, USA

"A masterpiece, a five-star album; something every New Zealand home should have ... it almost qualifies as a religious experience" – NZ Musician Magazine

"A stunningly static, beautifully textured, listening experience... it devours and envelopes you." – NZ Herald

"Spine tingling... a tsunami of sound. Sheehan, take a bow, you've nailed it." – The Dominion Post (★★★★★)

"Superbly lush soundscapes with truly off-the-charts production value." – Rip It Up

"A big, bold, beautiful album, exquisitely epic and happy to wait for you to discover it." – North & South Magazine

"Guarantees a fulfilling state of reflection... finally climaxing in an euphonious tone." – Groove Guide

RHIAN SHEEHAN

C O M P O S E R

Awards and Nominations:

Finalist "Best Original Music" Hollywood Music in Media Awards "One Step Beyond: A Journey To Mars" (2025)

Finalist "Best Original Score" APRA Film & TV Awards "The Sounds" (2021)

Finalist "Best Original Score" New Zealand TV Awards "The Sounds" (2021)

Winner "Best Original Score" New York Film Awards "CAPCOM GO! The Apollo Story" (2020)

Winner "Honourable Mention (Best Score)" Los Angeles Film Awards "CAPCOM GO! The Apollo Story" (2020)

Winner "Best Score" Top Shorts Film Festival for "CAPCOM GO! The Apollo Story" (2019)

Winner "Best Composer" American Golden Picture International Film Festival for "CAPCOM GO! The Apollo Story" (2019)

Winner "Best Soundtrack" Festival de Cortometrajes de Requena (Spain) for "The Mauritania Railway: Backbone of the Sahara" (2018)

Finalist "Best Score" Revolution Me Film Festival (New York) for "Los Angeles 1991" (2016)

Winner "Best Soundtrack" Fiske Fulldome Film Festival for "We Are Stars" (2015)

Winner "Best Original Score" – Qantas Film & Television Awards (2010)

Finalist "Best Animated Video" – Animate Festival 2009 official selection (Director) for "Standing in Silence Pt3" (2009)

Finalist "Best Electronic Album" – B-Net New Zealand Music Awards (2005)

Finalist "Most Outstanding Musician" – B-Net NZ Music Awards (2005)

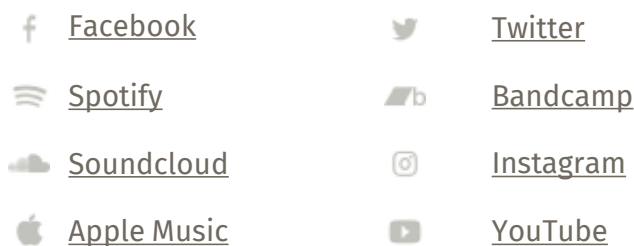
Winner "Best Animated Video" – Young Guns International Video Awards (2004)

Winner "Best Video" – Handle The Jandal Music Video Awards for "Waiting" (2002)

Finalist "Best Electronica Album" – B-Net NZ Music Awards (2002)

Finalist "Best Electronica Album" – New Zealand Music Awards (2002)

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