Ashley Hribar is an Australian born pianist-composer of German and Slovenian parentage. He has developed a reputation as a versatile musician embracing multimedia, world music, cross-disciplinary arts forms and a broad range of traditional genres. Ashley has a deep interest in contemporary aesthetics and is an advocate for the Australian music endeavour.

In 2005, Ashley won the International Gaudeamus Interpreters Competition and the 2008 Michael Kieren-Harvey Award. He has since performed in countless festivals including the Mersin International Music Festival, En Blanc en Noir Festival, The Port Fairy Spring Festival, Koper Biennale, Beethovenfest and The Gaudeamus Festival. Future projects include: Encounters, the composition of a new work for piano and didgeridoo and commissioning new works written especially for Stuart & Sons pianos. Past projects include: Anatolia, co-arrangements of Turkish folksongs with Ayșe Göknur Shanal (soprano), Deniz Şimşek (bağlama) and Ali Yıldız (kemane), performed at the Sydney Opera House (2018); and Sound and Colour in Scriabin’s Piano Sonatas, incorporating video projections of Australian opals (2017 European Tour).

Ashley’s compositions are poly-stylistic collages often employing extended techniques, voice and the deployment of objects.  Recent works include A Night in the Outback for piano and didgeridoo (2018), the soundtrack/dance score to the 1911 silent film Richard III, (for Silents Now, U.K) and film scores to The Cabinet of Dr Caligari (Wiene, 1922) and Faust (Murnau, 1926). He composed and performed the music for Betty Rettet die Volksbühne in Berlin (Die Volksbühne) in collaboration with actress Bettina Lamprecht. His solo piano works Paganini Variations, ‘ash’ Fantasie and a cadenza for George Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue appear on his album Piano Rhapsody (Auster Records).

Improvisation is also a key element to his creative process both in solo and collaborative works. He has performed live improvisations to classic silent films including Sherlock Jnr (Keaton, 1924) and Hamlet (Gade, Shall, 1921). His solo album for The Wizard Tone Records Improvisation Series was nominated for the South Australian Arts Awards in 2017. His most recent albums include Faust: A Mortal’s Tale, solo piano works and a selection of improvisations with cellist, Richard Vaudrey. Both albums were recorded on the Stuart & Sons piano of 108 keys at Beleura House, Australia.

Ashley is indebted to the invaluable guidance of his teachers Ann Adamek, Stefan Ammer, Stephen McIntyre, Eleonora Sivan, Graham Williams and Karl-Heinz Kämmerling. In 2018, he completed his performance PhD at the University of Adelaide researching the music of American composer, Frederic Rzewski.