

labyrinth

During the 1990's, **Peter Cook** gained an international reputation for the creation of unique handmade boxes in fine timber and metal. These works have been best described as Puzzle Boxes - containers with hidden locks, often involving complex mechanisms.



In 1998, Peter joined forces with fellow artisan **Ian Collishaw** to form **Scarab Studio Wood**. Scarab has since grown to become an award winning firm widely recognized for the outstanding design and manufacture work the team undertake for corporate and private clients.

In 2007 Scarab Studio Wood accepted a prestigious commission to build a sophisticated music box of outstanding character. The design brief called for a beautiful timber chest crafted from exotic west Australian woods. The substantial box was to be fitted with a stunning 72-note clockwork musical movement, and would feature a secret chamber with a hidden locking mechanism.

Whilst we knew the music box commission would result in an inspiring work of art, we wanted to go further, and so grasped the opportunity to expand the project into something far more ambitious: the creation of not one but two matching music boxes, followed by what we believe is destined to be a truly unique art work - a set of five amazing Puzzle Boxes entitled 'Labyrinth'.

After a year in the making, we are very happy to present the first of the seven boxes - **the girschik music box**. (Please click here to get the full story about this beautiful work).



Back to the Labyrinth...

Once we had committed to the plan to build the set of boxes called Labyrinth, a series of narrative themes began to coalesce; threads that somehow seemed to weave themselves together before our eyes into a story at once arcane and archetypal....

The Labyrinth Puzzle Box is an artifact. It is a gateway between our ancient past and our distant future, between our primal child-self and our rational adult state. A quest for discovery and a challenge to believe...in magic...

On mythical island
Beyond land's end
Elysian fields of gold
Surround a stone temple
Where gods guard the key
To the gateway between
New and old



You are greeted by a fantastically crafted timber chest, embellished with solid gold and diamond ornament, and engraved and inlaid with mysterious glyphs. An enigmatic white gold and diamond key is needed to begin the quest... and then through the layers of the Labyrinth you must journey. Each layer is guarded by its own secret locks, and at the final revelation, the box will become alive before your eyes.



But where, or what, is the final 'key' - is it a metaphor, only for those who can believe?