



All program and booking details are now available at: www.artsinthevalley.net.au or phone: 4465 2575 for a brochure



A Singing Quilt was commissioned by Wingecarrabee Shire Council with financial assistance from the Regional Arts Fund which is an Australian Government initiative supporting the arts in regional and remote Australia.

The performances of *A Singing Quilt* are being recorded by Belinda Webster from Kangaroo Valley who runs Tall Poppies Records. Tall Poppies is a non-profit Australian record company which promotes Australian composers, musicians, graphic artists and poets.

The recording will be made available on a CD at a later date.

Looking for local arts information?

Please contact Jenny Kena, Community & Cultural Development Officer

Ph: 4868 0855 jenny.kena@wsc.nsw.gov.au to be added to the

ArtsInfo mailing list



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The Singing Quilt concerts are part of the Wine Arts and Roses Festival
1st—16th November.

For further details of other events including the Art Studio Trail on this weekend
www.southern-highlands.com.au/war



Andrew Ford (b. 1957)

A Singing Quilt (2008) for mixed choir, percussion and prerecorded speaking voices

The starting point for this piece was a series of interviews I conducted in early 2008 with eleven residents of the New South Wales Southern Highlands. Let me name them in the order in which their voices appear in the piece: Elio Pezzella of Moss Vale, Hank Vandepol of Welby, Anni Heino of Robertson, Owen Conlan of Robertson, Gordon Lewis (at the time, Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire Council), Velma Mulcahy of Welby, Jan Alcock of Mittagong, Jill Chauncey of Moss Vale, Ian Bowie of Bowral, Lily Hephher of Mittagong, and Jessica Lean of Bundanoon. Some of these people were born in the Southern Highlands, some had arrived from other parts of Australia, some from other countries. As much as anything, I was interested in their early memories and first impressions of the place. In *A Singing Quilt*, we hear short excerpts from these interviews, including, at the very end, the first four speakers returning to describe their new locations in their native languages: Italian, Dutch, Finnish and Irish.

Having edited the interviews, I took some of the words and set them to music. In fact all the words the choir sings come from these interviews. Most of the choral writing in the piece is canonic. That's to say the singers divide into three, four and frequently six parts to sing the same melodies out of phase, in canons or rounds. This was a way of creating a rich musical texture out of fairly simple material, but it also felt (in my mind, at least) like travelling across an expansive landscape.

The final element in *A Singing Quilt* is the percussion ensemble: five players playing cymbals, wind-chimes and rain sticks, drums (bongos, congas and tom-toms) and tuned percussion (marimba, vibraphone, tubular bells, Thai gongs and hand bells).

A Singing Quilt was commissioned by Wingecarribee Shire Council with financial assistance from the Regional Arts Fund, an Australian Government initiative supporting the arts in regional and remote Australia. The driving force behind the project was Jenny Kena, the council's Community and Cultural Development Officer, and the title of the piece was her idea.

Program

Rapid Musical Tour Around the World

MOYA SIMPSON'S CAN BELTO will take you on a very rapid musical tour around the world. From Czech Republic mountain hollers, via traditional Bulgarian, Georgian, Italian and Maori songs with a little bit of Beatles fusion thrown in. World music with attitude!

Nigel Westlake (b. 1958)

Omphalo Centric Lecture (1984) for percussion quartet

DRUMatiX directed by Gary France

George Hamilton Green (1893-1970)

A selection of rags

DRUMatiX directed by Gary France

INTERVAL—20 MINUTES

Andrew Ford (b. 1957)

A Singing Quilt (2008) for mixed choir, percussion and prerecorded speaking voices

Combined choir, conducted by Andrew Ford, with members from Serendipity, WENCHEs, Berrima Singers, Southern Highlands Voices in Harmony, SHACappella, Singing for Leisure, Highlandaires, Southern Highlands Sing Australia.

DRUMatiX directed by Gary France

Moya Simpson's Can Belto

Can Belto was formed in 1996 after a series of voice workshops run by Moya. The group has performed mostly world music, but has broken loose recently with a performance of Bohemian Rhapsody, and now Beatles. Can Belto has performed at the National Folk Festival, the War Memorial's Hall of Memory, and have been involved in many Shortis and Simpson's theatre projects. They also were the basis of the choir in 'Emma Celebrazione' and 'The Universal Lake' for the Weereewa Festival.

Moya Simpson

Moya Simpson, singer, actor, comedian, leader of voice workshops and choirs, discovered she could sing in 1984. Since then she has carved out a career built upon her extraordinary vocal versatility, comic timing and energetic delivery of whatever she takes on. She's sung songs of the Balkans in Mesana Salata and Martenitsa, toured for Musica Viva in acappella group Girls In Your Town with Mara Kiek, Jarnie Birmingham and Margret RoadKnight, and trained with British singer and voice specialist Frankie Armstrong to develop her own voice workshop skills.

Moya has worked with the Singing Quilt choir members leading two highly successful singing workshops at Exeter Hall earlier this year.



His compositions have been performed by John Williams, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Australia Ensemble, Slava Grigoryan, Synergy Percussion, the Amsterdam Percussion Ensemble, Trilok Gurtu, the New York Percussion Ensemble, Michael Kieran Harvey, and Australia's leading orchestras and soloists.

In 2004 Westlake was awarded the HC Coombs Creative Arts Fellowship at the Australian National University.

George Hamilton Green (1893-1970)

A selection of rags

George Hamilton Green was born in May 1893 in the USA, into a musical family. He was a piano prodigy by age four, and by the time he was eleven he was already being called "the greatest xylophone player in the world"! He recorded hundreds of solos, and played with many bands. In 1928, George and his brothers Joseph and Lew formed the original sound crew for Walt Disney animations, playing George's own compositions.

In the 1920s, George Hamilton Green wrote a series of 50 lessons for xylophone and sold them for \$1 each. Each lesson is crafted to develop and refine a particular xylophone skill or technique, while teaching the player all of the keys. This book is still universally used by percussionists at all stages in their development, and is generally thought of as the best instruction course for xylophone. The course teaches the xylophonist both general xylophone technique, and also special ragtime technique.

Ragtime is an American style of music which preceded jazz from the late 1800s until about 1920. It is characterised by accents on unusual parts of the beat, which gives a syncopated style. One of the most famous ragtime composers was Scott Joplin, who wrote such famous pieces as 'The Entertainer' and 'Maple Leaf Rag'. Xylophone rags are characterised by fast, virtuosic solo parts.

Program notes

Nigel Westlake (b. 1958)

Omphalo Centric Lecture (1984) for percussion quartet

The title comes from the painting by Paul Klee, the direct and centred simplicity of which inspired the composer. The piece also owes much to the music of the African *balofon* (or xylophone), with its persistent ostinati, cross-rhythms and variations on simple melodic fragments. Like African music it seeks, in the words of the composer, "to celebrate life through rhythm, energy and movement". *Omphalo Centric Lecture* is essentially Westlake's Opus 1. It was chosen to represent Australia at the 1986 Paris Rostrum of Composers and has gone on to become one of the most frequently performed and recorded works in the percussion repertoire by groups in the USA, Japan, Europe and Australia. Originally written for the percussion ensemble Synergy, *Omphalo Centric Lecture* deals with the basic principles of repeated rhythmic melodic fragments and multi-metrics.

Nigel Westlake's professional career as a clarinetist commenced in 1975 at the age of 17. He has played in fusion bands, soundtrack recording sessions, Australia's leading instrumental groups and as a soloist with orchestras and classical ensembles in Australia and in many cities around the world.

Westlake's film work includes the feature films *Babe, Babe – Pig in the City, Children of the Revolution, A Little Bit of Soul, The Nugget, Miss Potter* and the Imax films *Antarctica, Imagine, The Edge* and *Solarmax*. He has received numerous awards for his compositions including the Gold Medal at the New York International Radio Festival.

Nigel Westlake's conducting debut was with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in 1997. He has since conducted film scoring sessions and performances in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Tasmania. Last month, he conducted a concert of his music with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra during the Melbourne International Arts Festival.

Gary France and DRUMatiX



Gary France loves to play music, all kinds! You will find him at home in the orchestra, a circus band, the concert stage, a jazz club, a western swing band, folk festivals or in Canberra, Australia, making music with his percussion students at the Australian National University. Past performances and teaching have taken him to India, Africa, Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan, New Zealand, Brazil and all parts of North America. Gary has been an ANU School of Music faculty member since 1998, and is director of the ANU ensemble DRUMatiX.

Gary has performed with the Auckland Philharmonia, the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, the Nova Ensemble, the West Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestras, the Dallas Brass, the Doddworth Saxhorn Ensemble, the Australian Chamber Orchestra and was principal timpanist/percussionist with the Canberra Symphony 1998 - 2003, with whom he performed William Kraft's Concerto for Timpani and Orchestra in 2001. Gary's list of world premieres includes works by Larry Sitsky, Ross Edwards, Peter Sculthorpe, Robert Cucinotta, Edward Applebaum, Roger Smalley, Sir Michael Tippett and Robert Casteels.

His leadership activities include former Head of the West Australian Conservatorium of Music and the ANU School of Music, as well as Convener/Artistic Director of numerous major events such as Heartbeat International World Music Festival (1995), the Rhythms of Life Percussion Festival (2002), the Australian National Percussion Symposium (2003), the Australian Music Educators National Conference (2005), The Australian World Rhythms Festival (2008) and the Australian International Marimba Festival (2008). Gary is also the Lead Principal Investigator in the ANU New Media Laboratory (NML), a research team that explores the multifaceted relationships between acoustic instruments.

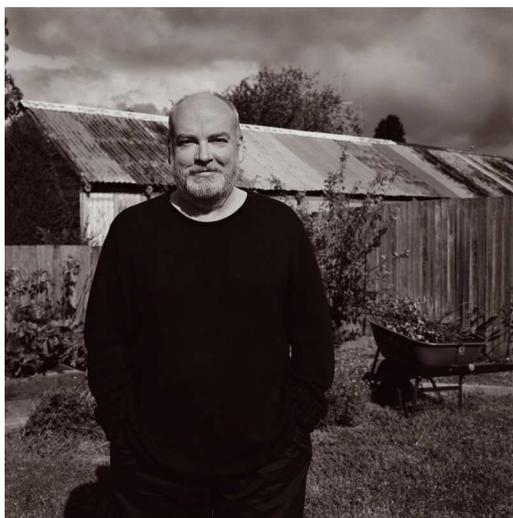
The members of DRUMatiX for this performance are Charles Martin, Izac Sadler, Jonathan Barrington, Christina Hopgood and Yvonne Lam.

Andrew Ford

Andrew Ford is a composer, writer and broadcaster, and has won awards in all three capacities, including the prestigious Paul Lowin Prize for his song cycle, *Learning to Howl*. His music has been played throughout Australia and in more than 40 countries around the world.

Highlights in 2008 have included the premiere of *Thin Air* by quarter-finalists in the Sydney International Piano Competition, a performance by the New Juilliard Ensemble of Ford's Chamber Concerto No 4 at New York's Museum of Modern Art and the CD release of his music-theatre piece *Night and Dreams: the death of Sigmund Freud* (Decca Eloquence). In 2009 Victorian Opera will perform his new opera, *Rembrandt's Wife* (libretto by Sue Smith), and Brett Dean will conduct the premiere of Ford's first symphony with the Orchestra of the Australian National Academy of Music. Also for next year, Ford is writing *Bright Shiners* for the Australian Chamber Orchestra and *Willow Songs* for the vocal duo Halcyon. In 2010, there will be a new piano trio for Trioz.

Beyond composing, Ford has been an academic in the Faculty of Creative Arts at the University of Wollongong (1983–95). He has written widely on all manner of music and published five books. He wrote, presented and co-produced the ABC radio series *Illegal Harmonies*, *Dots on the Landscape* and *Music and Fashion*. Since 1995, he has presented *The Music Show* each Saturday morning on ABC Radio National.



The Singing Quilt Choir

The Singing Quilt Choir is a combined choir formed specifically to perform *A Singing Quilt*.

Singers from eight local choirs make up its 100 members. The choirs and their choir leaders in the Singing Quilt Choir are -

Berrima Singers—Christine Tilley

Highlandaires—Ray Hill & Brendan Ackhurst

SHACappella—Ganga Karen Ashworth

Serendipity—Kerith Fowles

Singing for Leisure—Yvonne D'Arcy

Southern Highlands Sing Australia—Rhonda Langford

Southern Highlands Voices in Harmony—Alison Attwater

WENCHes—Robyn Smith