11 September 2024 **Sydney Opera House Concert Hall** EUMERALLA, AVVAR REQUEM FOR PEACE BY DEBORAH CHEETHAM FRAILLON **SYDNEY**SYMPHONY

SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

PATRON Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC

Founded in 1932 by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra has evolved into one of the world's finest orchestras as Sydney has become one of the world's great cities. Resident at the iconic Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra also performs in venues throughout Sydney and regional New South Wales, and international tours to Europe, Asia and the USA have earned the Orchestra worldwide recognition for artistic excellence.

The Orchestra's first chief conductor was Sir Eugene Goossens, appointed in 1947; he was followed by Nicolai Malko, Dean Dixon, Moshe Atzmon, Willem van Otterloo, Louis Frémaux, Sir Charles Mackerras, Zdenêk Mácal, Stuart Challender, Edo de Waart and Gianluiai Gelmetti, Vladimir Ashkenazy was Principal Conductor from 2009 to 2013, followed by David Robertson as Chief Conductor from 2014 to 2019. Australian-born Simone Young commenced her role as Chief Conductor in 2022, a year in which the Orchestra made its return to a renewed Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. The Sydney Symphony Orchestra's concerts encompass masterpieces from the classical repertoire, music by some of the finest living composers, and collaborations with guest artists from all genres, reflecting the Orchestra's versatility and diverse appeal. Its award-winning education program is central to its commitment to the future of live symphonic music, and the Orchestra promotes the work of Australian composers through performances, recordings and its commissioning program.

PERFORMING IN THIS CONCERT

FIRST VIOLINS

Harry Bennetts

Associate Concertmaster Alexandra Osborne

Associate Concertmaster

Lerida Delbridae Assistant Concertmaster

Jennifer Booth

Sophie Cole

Sercan Danis Claire Herrick

Georges Lentz

Alexandra Mitchell

Robert Smith®

Benjamin Tjoa°

Dominic Azzi[†] Brian Hong*

SECOND VIOLINS Marina Marsden

Emma Hayes

Principal

Acting Assistant Principal

Alice Bartsch Victoria Bihun

Monique Irik

Wendy Kong Nicole Masters

Emily Qin^o

Riikka Sintonen^o

Rain Liu[†] Elizabeth Jones*

Cristina Vaszilcsin*

VIOLAS

Tobias Breider Principal

Anne-Louise

Comerford

Associate Principal Rosemary Curtin Jane Hazelwood

Stuart Johnson Leonid Volovelsky Andrew Jezek^o

Rachel Dyker* Raphael Masters* Aaron Wyatt*

CELLOS

Simon Cobcroft Associate Principal

Leah Lynn

Assistant Principal

Kristy Conrau Fenella Gill Timothy Nankervis

Elizabeth Neville

Christopher Pidcock Eliza Sdraulig°

DOUBLE BASSES

Kees Boersma Principal

David Campbell

Dylan Holly Steven Larson

Richard Lynn Benjamin Ward

FLUTES

Emma Sholl

Acting Principal

Laura Cliff[†] Tomomi Matsuo*

OBOES

Conall McClure*

Guest Principal

Callum Hogan

Alexandre Oguey Principal Cor Anglais

CLARINETS

Francesco Celata

Associate Principal

Alexander Morris

Principal Bass Clarinet

BASSOONS

Ben Hoadlev*

Guest Principal

Fiona McNamara Noriko Shimada

Principal Contrabassoon

HORNS

Samuel Jacobs

Principal

Euan Harvey

Acting Principal

Marnie Sebire Rachel Silver

TRUMPETS

Brent Grapes

Associate Principal Anthony Heinrichs

TROMBONES

Scott Kinmont

Acting Principal

Nick Byrne

Christopher Harris

Principal Bass Trombone

TUBA

Steve Rossé

Principal

TIMPANI

Antoine Siguré

Principal

PERCUSSION

Rebecca Lagos Principal

Joshua Hill^o

Acting Associate

Principal Timpani/

Section Percussion

Timothy Constable

Jack Peggie[†]

HARP

Louisic Dulbecco

Principal

PIANO

Vatche Jambazian* **Guest Principal**

Bold Principal

* Guest Musician

^o Contract Musician

[†] Sydney Symphony Fellow

2024 CONCERT SEASON

Wednesday 11 September, 7pm

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

EUMERALLA, A WAR REQUIEM FOR PEACE

BY DEBORAH CHEETHAM FRAILLON

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor
DEBORAH CHEETHAM FRAILLON soprano
JESS HITCHCOCK mezzo soprano
JUD ARTHUR baritone
DHUNGALA CHILDREN'S CHOIR
STUDENTS OF CONSERVATORIUM HIGH SCHOOL, SYDNEY
SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS
BRETT WEYMARK, ELIZABETH SCOTT, TIM CUNNIFFE chorus masters

TOM DAY artwork
DR VICKI COUZENS and TRAVERS EIRA Gunditimara translations

DEBORAH CHEETHAM FRAILLON (born 1964) Long Time Living Here

Acknowledgment of country

DEBORAH CHEETHAM FRAILLON (born 1964) Eumeralla, a war requiem for peace (2018)

- i. O Pernmeeyal (Requiem)
- ii. Deen nganang warrakeeleek (Dies irae)
- iii. Wanga-n-wanoong (Tuba mirum)
- iv. Kooveen-wanoona (Liber scriptus)
- v. Tyookooyong-ee (Agnus dei)
- vi. Tarrameek-tarrameek-kee-ngeeye (Libera me)
- vii. Nganya laka wangoong (Quid sum miser)
- viii. Deen ngootyoong meereeng (Rex tremendae)
- ix. Pang ngutee-kee-weeng (Recordare)
- x. Ngarnda wanoong (Ingemisco)
- xi. Tamboorawananga-n-eeye (Confutatis)
- xii. Deen nganang weerakaleeyt (Lacrimosa)
- xiii. Yakeen-aya meereeng (Domine jesu christe)
- xiv. Pernmeeyal (Hostias)
- xv. Paman paman (Sanctus)
- xvi. Ngatanwarr (Benedictus)
- xvii. Moongay wata keenanpa nganang walawa (Lux aeternum)
- xviii. Noombapee-ngeeye (Kyrie)
- xix. O Pernmeeyal (Requiem)

Sung in dialects of the Gunditjmara people of southwestern Victoria

The Gunditjmara translation was the work of senior Gunditjmara language custodian Vicki Couzens and linguist Travers Eira.

Pre-concert talk

By Aaron Wyatt in the Northern Foyer at 6.15pm, including interviews with members of the Eumeralla creative team.

Estimated durations

75 minutes, without interval

Cover image

Artwork by Tom Day

This performance has been generously supported by the Oranges & Sardines Foundation.

Principal Partner



FROM THE COMPOSER

Just a little over four hours drive from Melbourne there is a battlefield haunted with the memory of war and loss of life. When you walk on this land, you are surrounded by restless warrior-spirits. It is a powerful feeling and a fearful one. It is inescapable.

The name Eumeralla is unlikely to be among the theatres of war that you could name. The history of battles fought and the lives that were lost is almost unknown to anyone outside the Aboriginal community. It is more than 170 years since the last shots rang out in the country of the Gunditimara but the land is not silent. The voices of those who lost their lives in defence of their country ring in your ears when you stand amongst the lava flows of south-west country Victoria. Unlike other theatres of war such as Anzac Cove and the Somme, where peace was declared and relationships restored with the Turks and Germans, no such peace was declared in the resistance wars, no such restoration.

Whilst the Gunditjmara uphold the memory of their warriors slain, most Australians have been denied access to this history and denied resolution – and so the land remains haunted.

I first walked on this battlefield in 2013. I felt it right away. I was moved and I was disturbed. Given the chance to camp on that land I could not sleep or find rest. The voices of those lost were so loud I couldn't stay for more than one night. It woke something in me and my immediate response was music. A song, A Requiem. A War Requiem. It would be called Eumeralla and named in honour of one of the most brutal resistance wars fought on this continent. It would be sung entirely in the language of the Gunditimara people and it is designed for non-Indigenous Australians to sing along-side Indigenous brothers

and sisters. We need a way to ease the troubled spirit of the battlefields of the Fumeralla.

It is my hope that this song, this war requiem will help the spirits of those who fell – those who resisted and their aggressors, to find a lasting peace and that we their descendants might find our way to deeper understanding of the legacy of these battles. For you, for me, for all who were lost in a war Australia has yet to find a way to talk about. Eumeralla, a war requiem for peace will break the silence of so many decades and serve to amplify the importance of our nation's shared history.

One day I hope to walk on that country and feel no restless spirit – just the strength of two thousand generations of lives lived and culture sustained.

Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO



Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO. Photo by Wayne Quilliam.

ABOUT THE COVER

The piece on the cover of the program is a cultural map depicting the Eumeralla river landscape. Contained within the design are places of high cultural importance, historical significance and places we continue to enjoy today.

Our landscape is powerfully spiritual, fierce and soft at the same time – much like us. We are the embodiment of our country.

The Eumeralla War marked a pivotal moment in our ancestors lives and what remains is the name we became known for: The Fighting Gunditjmara. A name we continue to carry today.

Our ancestors who fought to protect everything they cherished continue to sing their songs across country, never far from our hearts, and constantly reminding us they are with us still.



Artwork Description

The works depicts the Budj Bim Landscape with the Eumeralla River the central design. The red signifies the blood shed of our people.

The top designs represent the beginning of the landscape, the waterholes, natural springs and large wetlands.

Throughout the rest of the design I have incorporated designs representing borra grounds used for ceremony, circular designs representing the house sites and fish trap channels built by the old people.

All the elements of our existence are contained within the design. All the stories I have been told, I have tried to incorporate in the design. I have attempted to design the landscape based on these things and how I see the landscape, looking beyond what I can see with my eyes, trying to see it from that spiritual point of view and honour the old people.

This landscape became a fortress for our people, it is like the great spirit determined this site to protect the people.

The fine detail line work signifies the generations of my people who continue to live on the landscape today.

May their story never be forgotten and their sacrifice not be in vain.

By Gunditimara artist Tom Day

DEVELOPING THE TEXT

The process of composing Eumeralla, a war requiem for peace began with the structure of the traditional Latin text and my original plan was to translate directly from the English into the Gunditjmara dialects. It became obvious the work required a text which reflected 70,000 years of spirituality and ceremony.

You will notice the metamorphosis of the text from the ceremony familiar to members of the Roman Catholic faith and audiences and performers who have had the good fortune to experience the requiems of Mozart, Fauré and Verdi. But in the tradition of Benjamin Britten I found I needed more.

Whilst the structure and purpose of the traditional mass served my purpose, the substance and spirituality needed to be taken further in order to honour seventy thousand years of ceremony the battles fought in defence of the longest continuing culture. Ultimately the turning point in this process came as I approached a setting the *Angus Dei*. Our inescapable, shared truth is that Aboriginal families, men, women and children were sacrificed for the lambs

Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO

i. O Pernmeeyal

o pernmeeyal wooka-tyeen leenan toota moongay wata keenanpa nganang walawa-tyeen leerpee-wanoo-ngoo leerpee-yt ba yoonggama-yt makatepa wanga-kee leerpee-wanoong, yareeyaree-wanoong

i. requiem

o creator, give to them eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon them a hymn and a vow we will sing to you today, hear our song of mourning

ii. Deen Nganang warrakeeleek

deen nganang warrakeeleek ngami ngami kooknawak meerreeng palayn-ee pang kooyeen-nganeen poongpoong-oota-eeya deen tamboort-eeyt wata-n woongoora-teepa takoort parpanee-pa yangteeyt-oo

ii. dies irae

this day of anger
will consume the world in ashes
no one could have told us
what trembling there would be
the judgment came too swiftly
everything weighted in favour of loss



Act 1: Pernmeyyal the great creator stands proud in the dreaming, surrounded by the creator beings he sent long ago to create the landscapes.



Act 2: Something has awakened the spirits, it is ominous and dark, a monster that has a hunger and breeds destruction.

iii. Wanga-n-wanoong

wanga-n-wanoong ngamee ngamee woonggaroong yanda-na keelkarteen moorookan-tyeen ngalam meen-ngeeye-ngat karta-wanoong kaleengkat moot-moot takoort meerreeng parpa koolang-na nammereeng-oota takoortmaar pang-wang-eeyt mayapa-n-tyeen nammereeng

iii. tuba mirum

we heard an awful sound scattered across the burial places of our ancestors we stood before the weapons all nature was stunned (confounded) by the ugliness of mankind made ugly by ignorance



Act 3: A call to arms, warriors stand at the ready, weapons at the ready to stand and protect all that sacred.

iv. Kooyeen-wanoong

kooyeen-wanoong yang-teeyt-ngeeye leenyoong ba marnmarn kooweetpa pangyangteeyt marrangmara-n deen malayeeto-kooweetpa meerreeng-moongay tyama-wanoong ngootyoong takoort yooloowa-na pang-yooloowa-mayapa takoortakoort tyama-k-wanoong

iv. liber scriptus

we recorded our loss in name and great detail the winners who wrote the history but when the truth is known all that is hidden will appear nothing will remain unknown



Act 4: The monster that is revealed as WAR is here, blowing uncontrollably like a wildfire through country, sweeping all comes before it.

v. Tyookyong-ee

ngalam meen-ngeeye nhoomapee yoondapoorana-yoota tyookooyong-ee moongay wata moorroop-tyeen tamboora toota ngalam meen-ngeeye nhoomapee yoondapoora-nayoota tyookooyong-ee moongay wata moorroop-tyeen tamboora leenan toota

v. agnus dei

our ancestors, who were sacrificed for the lambs may their spirits find rest our ancestors, who were sacrificed for the lambs may their spirits find eternal rest



Act 5: Spirits, high in the sky, watch as the Eumeralla turns blood red and the movement of the people across a sweeping landscape becomes evident.

vi. Tarrameek-tarrameek-kee-ngeeye

tarrameek-tarrameek-kee-ngeeye pang-wangeeyt –oo

makatepa ba nhoonpee ngameengamee nganang-ee meerreeng moongay takoort meerreeng wang-wangga-ka

kaneekanee tyama-ka ngathoongan poongpoong-oota ba kooneenp-oota-ngeeye manamanakooweeya-wanoong kaneengootyoong pangat yana-na

meerreeng moongay takoort meerreeng wangwangga-ka

vi. libera me

deliver us from ignorance now and on that awful day when all the world will be shaken and consciousness will be complete we are seized with fear and trembling we are longing for justice denied when all the world will be shaken



Act 6: As Gunditjmara become victims of the monster their spark travels to Pirnmeyyal through the wetlands.

vii. Nganya Laka-wangoong

nganya laka-wanoong ngarra protekatar kooweeya-wanoong ngeetoong katyook thookay pang-ngootyoonayt

vii. quid sum miser

what could we say? to which protector could we appeal? when even the child was not safe?



Act 7: The giant wetlands and stones created by Budj Bim become a fortress for the people, the creator's body is providing protection.

viii. Deen ngootyoong meerreeng

deen ngootyoong meerreeng mana-n parta-na koong-ngeeye wayapa-wanoong ngalam meen-ngeeye thoombook-nganang-deepa

viii. rex tremendae

the earth in all its beauty received our broken bodies we joined our ancestors much too soon



Act 8: The monster rages on, its thirst for land and conquest is insatiable, leaving little trace of the peoples' existence.

ix. Pang ngutee-kee-weeng

pang ngutee-kee weeng ngathoonganeen nhaka pooree tharn ngooteen yanda-n-warr-ngeeye katakee pang-tyama wata-n-warr wanggat-oota nyeepma karta-n-warr parpanee-yt-oota tamboorawanangeenyee

wata-n-warr ngootyoong-oota watan leek pangat kooweeya-n noombapee wamba-n-warr nganang tamborteeyt

ix. recordare

remember
that we were your destiny
you cast us aside unknown
you came such a long way to ignore
you endured such hardship only to
condemn yourselves
with righteous vengeance you came
asking no forgiveness
you brought the day of reckoning



Act 9: But the people are stronger than that, evidence remains and people continue to live, they are stronger than first thought.

x. Ngarnda-wanoong

ngarnda-wanoong nhoonampee wana-woot kalng-pa kapeeyang wanyoo parpanee-yt-ngooteen kalng kapeeyang deen ngootyoongeeyt pang-ngootyoongayt ngakee-wanoong nhoonampee noombapee-ngooteen ngamee koonangooteen wananga-ngeeye manamana-wanoong manakooweeya wampee-mayapa

nhoonampee pang-nhakee ngooty-ngeeye pang weerakaleek waloong ngamee ngamme kooknawa-ngeeye pangkapoo weeyn-a

yangee yangee ngameentyarr-mayapa-n woorangkeel ngathoonganeen yangee yangee ngameentyarr-mayapa-n taytmeerreeng

pang-wooka-n-warr-ngeeye meerreeng

x. ingemisco

we groan as one made guilty under the burden of your guilt the innocent were not spared we saw you pardoned for your crimes against us we clung to a diminishing hope our worth was not considered no mercy was at hand consumed by an everlasting fire we were made lower than the cattle lower than the sheep you gave us no place



Act 10: Ancient fish trap channels, the lifeblood of the people, the water continues to hit the channels, the people continue to be there.

xi. Tamboorawananga-n-eeye

tamboorawananga-n-eeye ngal koorrook-eeyt-een ba ngameeleemoo-teeyt-een yoonggama-n-eeye peeneeyt torrowan-oo karnda-kee-ngeeye yakeeneeyt-eeyt-ee yookapa-n-wanoongpang ngool-ngool teenyan eeyt ngooyt tamboopa-n yookap-eeya-wanoong deen meerreeng

xi. confutatis

condemned by hatred and confusion consigned to keen flames call us with the blessed call us with the blessed we offered without threat with pure intention that we could share this world



Act 11: The spirits of the fallen continue to walk, talk and dance the landscape, trapped in limbo.

xii. Deen nganang weerakaleeyt

deen nganang weerakaleeyt
meert-ook-warr palayn-oo
nhoonampee tamboora-ngooteen marn kalng
kapeeyang
deen mayapa-ngooteen noombapee-ngeeye
malangeepa
noombapee-kee
wooka-tyeen toota

xii. lacrimosa

that day of weeping on which will rise again from the ashes the guilty among you, to be judged therefore, spare our future be merciful give them rest



Act 12: The stones continue to have a life force, etched by generations of Gunditjmara. Moving to escape the monster.

xiii. Yakeen-aya meerreeng

vakeen-ava meerreeng walata-kee moorroop-tyeen ngalam meen-ngeeye-ngat manamana-kee-ngeeye karrakee-yt-ngoo kooneentamboora -kil pang-wang-ee-tyeen-oo nhoonampee wata-n pang pang wanga-n tarrameek-tarrameek-kee-ngeeve takang-nyoong-oo deen ngamateeyt-ngat wananga ngal koorrook-eeyt ba markap-eeyt pang nganata-ngeeye wananga nhoonpee wamba takoort nganang maar-ngeeye-ngoo wata-pa-kee-ngeeye tyamateeyt-oo Yoonggamoongoo-n-ngeen ngathoonganeen ba koorrookee ba ngapoon-ngeeye mayapa-kee wangangooytyoong

xiii. domine jesu christe

land of eternal dreaming cradle the souls our ancestors save us from the scars of prejudice from the ignorance of those who came and would not listen deliver us from the jaws of this beast

lest hatred and greed engulf us lest all light be taken from us lead us towards wisdom fulfil the promise made to us and to our elders pay respect



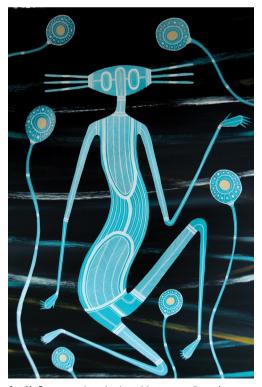
Act 13: Although the country has changed, the spirit and culture of place remains. It all looks different through a Gunditijmara cultural lens.

xiv. Pernmeeyal

Pernmeeyal, kaneepoorreewooka
-wanoong-ngooteen
Pernmeeyal, kaneepoorreewooka
-wanoong-ngooteen mayapa karweeyn ba
leerpeen
mana-kee nhoonampee-yee
pang-nguteeweeng-wanoong-tyeen
makatepa
Pernmeeyal, nhapa-kee nhoonampee
kalpeerna-kaloo-ngoo poondeeyt-oo
Yoonggamoongoo-n-ngeen
ngathoonganeen
ba koorrookee ba ngapoon-ngeeye
mayapa-kee wangangooytyoong

xiv. hostias

Great Spirit we praise you, do ceremony and sing take for those we remember today great spirit, guide them from death to life you promised us and our grandmothers and grandfathers pay respect



Act 14: Pernmeyyal awaits the spirits to come 'home'.

xv. Paman Paman

paman paman, paman paman, paman paman

moorroop ngathoo-nganeen-ee meerreeng ba moornong ngooyt-oota kaneepoorreewooka-wan Pernmeeyal

xv. sanctus

sacred, sacred spirit within us the earth and sky are full of beauty all praise to the creator



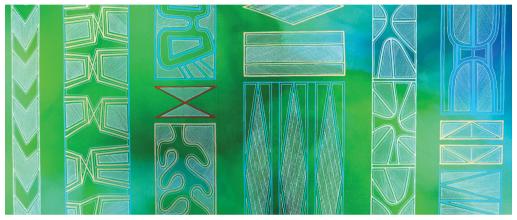
Act 15: Spirits on the journey to the dreaming, streaming in flight. The cultural essence.

xvi. Ngatanwarr

ngatanwarr, wata-kee,
ngakee tyamateeyt-ee
kaneepoorreewooka-wan Pernmeeyal
Paman Paman (reprise)
paman paman, paman paman, paman paman
moorroop ngathoo-nganeen-ee
meerreeng ba moornong ngooyt-oota
kaneepoorreewooka-wan Pernmeeyal

xvi. benedictus

welcome are those who come in the pursuit of knowledge all praise to the creator sanctus reprise sacred, sacred spirit within us the earth and sky are full of beauty all praise to the creator



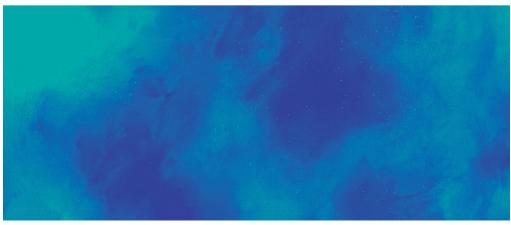
Act 16: This is ceremony, this is lore, this culture and this is US.

xvii. Moongay wata keenanpa nganang walawa

moongay wata keenanpa nganang walawa ngalam meen-ngeey-ee kooweekoowee-tyeen meengkeel-ee moongay wata ngameekooteen moorroop-tyeen tamboora leenan toota moongay wata keenanpa nganang walawa ngalam meen-ngeey-ee kooweekoowee-tyeen meengkeel-ee

xvii. lux aeternum

may everlasting light shine upon our ancestors their stories are with the stars may their troubled souls find eternal rest may everlasting light shine upon our ancestors their stories are with the stars



Act 17: We seem them, the spirits, when we look at the sky and see the stars. They are 'home'.

xviii. Noombapee-ngeeye

noombapee-ngeeye kaleekeetoo noombapee-ngeeye malangeepa noombapee-ngeeye kaloo

xviii. kyrie

have mercy on our past have mercy on our future have mercy on our present



Act 18: The Eumeralla continues to sing, the country has a story to tell, culture lives.

xix. O Pernmeeyal

o pernmeeyal wooka-tyeen leenan toota moongay wata keenanpa nganang walawa-tyeen

xix. requiem

o creator, give to them eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon them



Act 19: The effect of the monster that is named war. A bloodstained landscape. The fighting Gunditjmara stood and protected defended, we know this and feel this as we are Gunditjmara.

ABOUT THE ARTWORK

This is a journey of inner reflection directed at the core of what it means to be Gunditjmara, a descendent of warriors, a direct descendent of the 'Fighting Gunditjmara'.

I was raised on this country, I've walked this country, I know this country. The presence of the old people reveals itself to me with songs being carried in the winds and I then interpret their story, our story. Eumeralla represents power, sings of our story and is at the heart of our identity. It conveys the truth, however difficult, and tells of resilience and strength.

Tonight represents the visual telling of that truth, of that strength and of the people who endured it.

I've captured it through the cultural lens that our culture demands, that my spirit as a Gunditjmara man demands. My own personal journey from a young boy being told the story, to a young man walking the battlegrounds to the man that now understands is captured here within the artworks.

This is our story.

Tom Day

Gunditjmara, Yorta Yorta and Wemba Wemba man and multi-disciplined artist

ABOUT THE ARTIST

TOM DAY

Tom Day is a Gunditjmara, Yorta Yorta and Wemba Wemba man and multi-disciplined artist based in Shepparton, Victoria.

'Capturing the essence of country is everything to me! As a younger Gunditjmara, Yorta Yorta and Wemba Wemba man, it is always the essence of country I remember most. The intricacy of it all, when the seasons are on the verge of changing and the effect it has on that place, everything changes except its essence.

I paint it like I see it, through Aboriginal eyes, imagining the spirits living in harmony with the people and animals. Merging the old and the new moving towards a bright future by using traditional and contemporary artforms seamless throughout my work, giving it a visual voice whilst acknowledging where we come from.

Country has certain magic; its elusive quality can transform the landscape in just a matter of seconds. I strive to convey that sense of place by capturing this magical essence.



LANGUAGE CUSTODIANSHIP

DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGE

Deborah Cheetham Fraillon's Requiem Mass was a response to a request from a Gunditimara Elder to write and compose a work honouring the Eumeralla Wars, fought on my homelands during the first encounters of the colonial invasion in the early 1800's.

At Deborah's request, in partnership with Kris Eira, linguist, composer and musician, we undertook to translate the work. This translation process into Gunditimara language was an exciting and powerful experience. For myself this project presented a great challenge to my skills and knowledge base and to the language that we have available. Our languages are in revival mode

and so are not full and fluently spoken languages. We are in the process of language reclamation and revitalisation and this requires extensive research and innovation to develop language capacity to address translations of this scope. So translating the text for this work provided a great opportunity to create new words and explore grammatical processes that has expanded Gunditjmara language capacity. It has given my community much to build upon.

Vicki Couzens

Keerray Woorroong Gunditjmara Community Linguist and Senior Knowledge Holder for Language and Possum Cloaks

ABOUT THE LINGUIST

VICKI COUZENS

Possum skin cloak maker and prominent multi-media artist Vicki Couzens is a Gunditjmara Keerray Woorroong woman from the Western Districts of Victoria, who plays an active role in the revitalization and continuance of the culture of her people.

Vicki has distinguished herself with her interdisciplinary artwork, or as she prefers, 'creative cultural expression' – painting, installation, visual arts, printmaking, mixed media, performing arts, language, ceremony and teaching – but is best known for her central role in the revival of the possum skin cloak making tradition which began in Victoria and is now established across south-eastern Australia.

Vicki has worked in the Aboriginal community for over 40 years, serving on the Boards of Victorian Housing, Koorie Heritage Trust and the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL). She is considered a Senior Knowledge Holder of Language and worked with the curatorial team on the First Peoples Exhibition at Melbourne Museum. She continues to teach extensively across Victoria and south-eastern Australia.



DEBORAH CHEETHAM FRAILLON AO

composer and soprano

Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO (Yorta Yorta/Yuin) is a soprano and composer, a respected human rights advocate and recognised thought leader on the importance of cultural authority in the Art Music space. Throughout a long and distinguished career Deborah has championed the voice and visibility of classically trained Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island musicians through her achievements a composer, performer and artistic director of the Australia's national First Nations Opera Company Short Black Opera (est. 2009) and Director of Dhungala Children's Choir (est. 2008).

In 2019 Cheetham Fraillon established the *One Day in January* project designed to develop and nurture Indigenous orchestral musicians. From this emerged Ensemble Dutala, Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Chamber Ensemble which has led to the increased visibility and status of First Nations orchestral musicians in Australia.

As a composer Cheetham Fraillon's list of commissions for major ensembles and companies include works for the Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney Symphony Orchestras, Australian String Quartet, West Australian Symphony Orchestra String Quartet, Rubiks Collective, Melbourne Ensemble, ABC, The Sydney Philharmonia, Plexus Collective, Flinders Quartet Goldner Quartet, The Australian Ballet, Victorian Opera, The MPavilion Project, Chineke! Orchestra (UK) and Hawai'i Symphony.

Cheetham Fraillon's landmark compositions include Australia's first Indigenous operas *Pecan Summer* (2010) and *Parrwang Lifts the Sky* (2020), *Eumeralla, a war requiem for peace* (2018) and the ongoing multi layered, multilingual chamber music series *Woven Song* (2018).

Cheetham Fraillon's career and achievements have been celebrated with a number of significant awards and commendations including the Don Banks Music Award (2023), Queensland Government Australian Women in Music Lifetime Achievement Awards (2022). the JC Williamson Lifetime Achievement Award (2021) and the Sir Bernard Heinze Memorial Award for service to music, as well as an honorary doctorate from the University of South Australia (2018). In the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours List, Deborah was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), for distinguished service to the performing arts as an opera singer, composer and artistic director, to the development of Indigenous artists, and to innovation in performance. In 2022 she was appointed as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities (FAHA)

In 2021 Cheetham Fraillon began a five year appointment as MSO First Nations Creative Chair, and in and 2023 was appointed the inaugural Elizabeth Todd Chair of Vocal Studies at Sydney Conservatorium of Music at the University of Sydney.



Photo by Stefanie Zingsheim

BENJAMIN NORTHEY

conductor

Australian conductor Benjamin Northey is the Chief Conductor of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and the Principal Conductor in Residence of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. He has previously held the posts of Associate Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (2010-2019), Resident Guest Conductor of the Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra (2002-2006) and Principal Guest Conductor of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra (2007-2010).

Northey studied conducting at Finland's Sibelius Academy with Professors Leif Segerstam and Atso Almila after being accepted as the highest placed applicant in 2002. He completed his studies at the Stockholm Royal College of Music with Jorma Panula in 2006.

Northey appears regularly as a guest conductor with all major Australian symphony orchestras, Opera Australia (La bohème, Turandot, L'elisir d'amore, Don Giovanni, Così fan tutte, Carmen), New Zealand Opera (Sweeney Todd) and the State Opera South Australia (La sonnambula, L'elisir d'amore, Les contes d'Hoffmann).

His international appearances include concerts with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia, the Malaysian Philharmonic and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

Northey has collaborated with a broad range of leading artists including Pinchas Zukerman, Maxim Vengerov, Anne-Sofie von Otter, Julian Rachlin, Karen Gomyo, Piers Lane, Alban Gerhardt, Johannes Moser, William Barton, Lu Siquing, Amy Dickson, Slava Grigoryan and many others.

Northey is highly active in the performance and recording of new Australian orchestral music having premiered dozens of major new works by Australian composers. He has previously been a board member of the Australian Music Centre.

An ARIA, AIR and Art Music Awards winner, he was voted *Limelight* magazine's Australian Artist of the Year in 2018. Northey's many recordings can be found on ABC Classic.

In 2024, he conducts the Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Queensland and Christchurch Symphony Orchestras and the Hong Kong Philharmonic.



Photo by Laura Manariti

JESS HITCHCOCK

mezzo-soprano

Jess Hitchcock is a Melbourne-based Indigenous singer-songwriter. Her powerful voice and knack for storytelling has seen her shine across pop, country, folk, opera and music theatre, sharing the stage and studio with some of Australia's favourites.

Jess's much anticipated album, Unbreakable, was released mid-2023 and reached No.4 in the AIR charts. Her original material is equal parts dramatic and playful, always showcasing her vocal prowess.

Jess has also performed with leading Australian arts companies including the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Victorian Opera and Opera Queensland, and collaborated with Australian artists including Paul Kelly, with whom she performed and recorded 'Everyday My Mother's Voice', Archie Roach, Tina Arena and Kate Miller-Heidke.

With heritage from the Torres Strait Islands and Papua New Guinea, Jess's artistic diversity and adroitness are seldom seen in someone as young as her. The way she navigates her creative path is a rare find and nothing short of inspirational.

JUD ARTHUR

baritone

New Zealand-born Jud Arthur has been Australian-based since 2003. He has sung over 40 operatic roles for Opera Australia, West Australian Opera, Victorian Opera, State Opera South Australia and Opera Queensland as well as frequently returning to New Zealand Opera.

A particular highlight for Jud was creating the roles of Hunding and Fafner in Opera Australia's 2013 *Der Ring des Nibelungen,* for which he received critical acclaim.

In 2023, he sang Fafner in *Das Rheingold* for Sydney Symphony, The Bonze in *Madama Butterfly* for Opera Australia and appeared in the *Festival of Outback* Opera for Opera Queensland.

Concert performances have included the requiems of Verdi, Mozart and Fauré, Beethoven's Symphony No.9, Handel's Messiah and Haydn's Creation with all the major Australasian symphony orchestras.







DHUNGALA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

DEBORAH CHEETHAM FRAILLON AO

Musical Director

KERRY GERRATY Choir Manager

Dhungala Children's Choir was formed in 2008 by Short Black Opera Artistic Director Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO.

Since 2009 Dhungala Children's Choir has come together once a month to rehearse for an ever-increasing number of professional engagements in major venues and events around Australia, including the Sydney Opera House, Eastbank Theatre Shepparton, Westside Theatre Mooroopna. The Playhouse and Hamer Hall – Art Centre Melbourne, State Theatre Perth, Her Majesty's Theatre Adelaide, The Melbourne Recital Centre, Parliament House in Canberra, Government House in Victoria, The Edge at Federation Square, Dungala Kaeila Oration, Port Fairy Festival, the 2015 ARIA Awards, Perth Concert Hall, OPAC Concert Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music and MPavilion (2014-2023).

Members of Dhungala Children's Choir have premiered works by Deborah Cheetham Fraillon including *Pecan Summer, Dhungala Choral Connection Song Book Vols* 1 & 2, *Parrwang Lifts the Sky, Eumeralla, a war requiem for peace* and the *Wominjeka Song Cycle*. They have also appeared with artists such as Paul Kelly, AB Original, Jess Hitchcock and the late Uncle Archie Roach.

Affectionately known as DCC, members of this shining First Nations choir have championed the languages of the Yorta Yorta, Wadawurrung, Gunditjmara, Boon Wurrung, Parkanji, Kamilaroi, Bunjalung and Banjima people in countless performances, receiving recognition and awards along the way.

Angel Atkinson Laila Atkinson Marjorie Hannah Butcher Jobe Cooper Sonja Dare Sienna Dean Tirranna Gibbs Aidan May Katherine Norman Ella Thomas Riverlea Uppill Lillie Walker Sharleese Walker

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SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS

ARTISTIC & MUSIC DIRECTOR BRETT WEYMARK DAM

BRETT WEYMARK OAM

Artistic and Music Director

DR ELIZABETH SCOTT

Associate Music Director

TIM CUNNIFFE

Assistant Chorus Master and Principal Rehearsal Pianist

DANIEL GUO, CLAIRE HOWARD RACE

Rehearsal Pianists

Sydney Philharmonia Choirs presents the art of choral singing at the highest standard, and develops the talents of those with a passion for singing in Sydney and beyond. Founded in 1920, it has become Australia's finest choral organisation and is a Resident Company of the Sydney Opera House. Led by Artistic and Music Director Brett Weymark OAM and Associate Music Director Dr Elizabeth Scott, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs comprises three auditioned and three community choirs that perform repertoire from choral classics to musical theatre and commissions by Australian composers.

It presents its own season of concerts as well as collaborating with leading conductors, soloists and orchestras.

In 2002, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs was the first Australian choir to sing at the BBC Proms (Mahler's Eighth Symphony under Sir Simon Rattle), returning again in 2010 to celebrate the Choirs' 90th anniversary. The Choirs also perform in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra's concert season every year, as they have done for over 80 years.

2020 was Sydney Philharmonia Choirs' centenary and saw the realisation of an inspiring commissioning project - 100 Minutes of New Australian Music - featuring works from composers including Elena Kats-Chernin, Deborah Cheetham Fraillon and Brett Dean. In 2022 the Choirs took part in the reopening of the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall, performing Mahler's Resurrection Symphony with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. In 2023, Brett Weymark celebrated his 20th anniversary as Artistic Director. 2024 sees another exciting season including Mendelssohn's Elijah. Rachmaninoff's Vespers and ChorusOz to sina Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace



SYDNEY PHILHARMONIA CHOIRS

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BRETT WEYMARK chorus master Artistic and Music Director Sydney Philharmonia Choirs

Brett Weymark OAM is one of Australia's foremost choral conductors. Appointed Artistic & Music Director in 2003, he has conducted the Choirs throughout Australia and internationally. He has also conducted the Sydney, Adelaide, Queensland, West Australian and Tasmanian symphony orchestras, Orchestra of the Antipodes, Sydney Youth Orchestra, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Hong Kong Philharmonic. He has performed with Opera Australia, Pinchgut Opera, Australian Chamber Orchestra, The Song Company and Musica Viva.

He studied singing and conducting at the University of Sydney and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, continuing his conducting studies with Simon Halsey, Vance George, Daniel Barenboim and Sir John Eliot Gardiner, amongst others.

His repertoire at SPC has included Bach's Passions and Christmas Oratorio, the Mozart, Verdi, Duruflé and Fauré requiems and Orff's *Carmina Burana*. He champions Australian composers and has premiered works by Elena Kats-Chernin, Peter Sculthorpe and Ross Edwards amongst others. In 2011 he premiered his own work *Brighton to Bondi*.

He was chorus master for the Adelaide Festival's Saul (2017), Hamlet (2018) and Requiem (2020) and he has prepared choirs for Sir Charles Mackerras, Zubin Mehta, Edo de Waart, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Sir Simon Rattle. He has recorded for the ABC and conducted film scores for Happy Feet, Mad Max: Fury Road and Australia.

Recent conducting highlights include Joseph Twist's Watershed: The Death of Dr Duncan (Opera Australia), Sweeney Todd (West Australian Opera), Jandamarra by Paul Stanhope and Steve Hawke (Sydney Symphony Orchestra), Tippett's A Child Of Our Time (Adelaide Festival) and Carousel (State Opera South Australia). In 2001, he was awarded an Australian Centenary Medal and in 2021 the Medal of the Order of Australia.

Brett is passionate about singing and the role that music plays in both the well-being of individuals and the health and vitality of a community's culture. He believes music can transform lives and should be accessible to all.



Photo by Keith Saunders

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