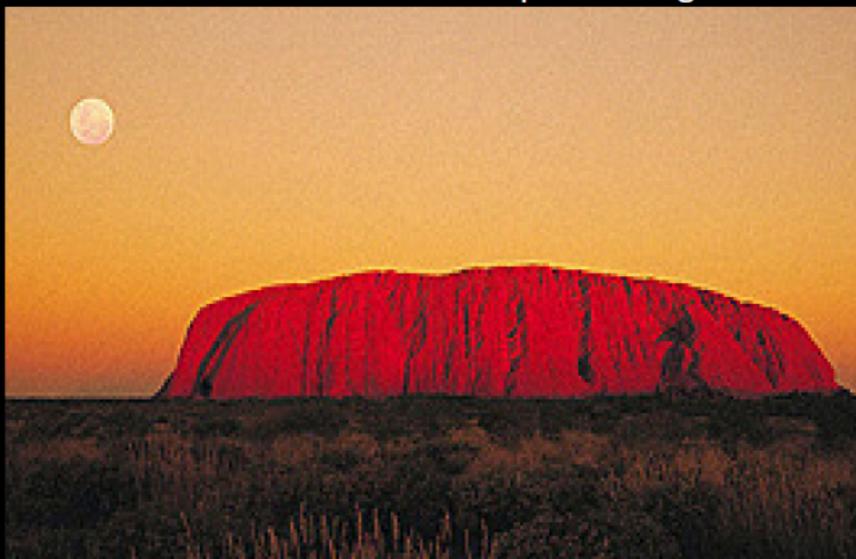


West Gippsland Chorale

with Rodney Williams

The Listening Land

Australian and British Landscapes in Song & Verse



Saturday 28th April 2pm

Sunday 29th April 2pm

2012

Wesley of Warragul

West Gippsland Chorale

An auditioned community choir based in Warragul, the Chorale consists of approximately 50 of the districts most talented singers. The Chorale was formed as a madrigal group 28 years ago. On several occasions it has combined with neighbouring choirs to present major works. In 2010 a collaboration with Camberwell Chorale presented Verdi's Requiem. In 2011 the West Gippsland Chorale together with the Heidelberg Choral Society performed Handel's Messiah to audiences in West Gippsland and Melbourne. This highly successful partnership will see these choirs join together again in August 2012 to perform *Carmina Burana* under the musical direction of Peter Bandy - details of this next concert can be found on the last page of this program.

Simon Loveless - Musical Director BA BMus LMusA

The Chorale welcomed Simon as accompanist in 2011. When the position of Musical Director became vacant there was no questioning Simon's suitability for the role.

He has been active in choral music for many years, variously as conductor, accompanist, singer, administrator and advocate. Simon is also Musical Director of Da Capo Singers & Casey Choir, accompanist & tutor to Berwick Youth Choir, and a state committee member of the Australian National Choral Association. In the past he has sung with Melbourne Chamber Choir and Gloriana, toured the UK and China with (respectively) Australian Welsh Male Choir and Cranbourne Chorale, and worked on a number of theatrical productions, including the world premiere productions of "1975: A Populist Opera" and "Love Death Music and Plants".

Lisa Fraser - Performance Accompanist

Lisa is a graduate of the University of Queensland, having studied piano with Pamela Page. She also completed Education Studies at Monash University and was based for a number of years at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar in Melbourne, participating in many areas of classroom music education including VCE, performing, accompanying, musical productions, choral education and piano tuition. In choral music, Lisa has previously enjoyed being a member of The Melbourne Chorale, participated in various conducting and vocal workshops and has studied voice with Kathryn Sadler in Melbourne. Lisa currently works in Warragul teaching piano, theory and voice, and enjoys freelance accompanying.

The Listening Land - programme

Three Australian Bush Songs Dawn - Birds - Sunset	Iain Grandage
“That whistling crack” - a haiku sequence	Rodney Williams
Cutty Sark	Stephen Leek
Drovers	Stephen Leek
Simple Gifts	arr Stephen Leek
“Across a sloping field” - a tanka sequence	Rodney Williams
The Listening Land	Matthew Orlovich
- Interval -	
The Sprig of Thyme	John Rutter
The Bold Grenadier	I Know Where I’m Going
The Keel Row	Willow Song
The Willow Tree	O Can Ye Sew Cushions
The Sprig of Thyme	The Miller of Dee
Down by the Sally Gardens	Afton Water
The Cuckoo	

3 Australian Bush Songs – Iain Grandage

Dawn

Silence greets the glowing orb at dawn,
Lighting bush with misty innocence
Dry, Harsh, Hard, Dark, Sparse
This land that is lit by whispering rays
Fire and gold they dissolve the morning dew
Waking the birds,
Shaking the shadows from their wings,
The day comes alive with calls and cries from bleary throats, bringing life
and harmony to the land.
This Dry Harsh, Hard, Dark land.
This land that is lit by whispering rays of dawn.

Birds

Morning chorus, birds sing for us,
Welcome us in their own way to this day.
Currawongs all sing their song with kookaburras and cicadas.
Morning chorus, birds sing for us, welcome us to this new day.
Through the day they sing away, a cooing wooing under rays of sun.
Caressing, feeding, resting in the shade of trees they hide from the heat of
the day.
They sing away, a cooing wooing, under rays of sun.
Caressing, feeding, resting. All these cries are part of our big bird song
chorus, they sing for us,
Welcome us in their own way to this day, they sing for us.
Currawongs all sing their song with kookaburras and cicadas.
Bird song chorus, they sing for us, welcome us to this new day.

Sunset

Sunset here - the image is furnace, molten metal the sky and glow that sinks
in the pool of purple night.
Summer beckons, the heat it threatens to harm, but the warmth of the day
now sinks away to the sleepy stars.
Sunset here - the image is furnace, molten metal the sky and glow that sinks
in the pool of purple night
Sunset - the sunset that sinks in the pool of the purple night.

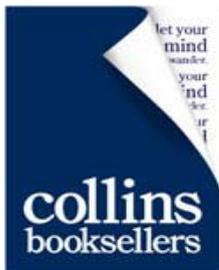
Rodney Williams

Living in Trafalgar for the past twenty years, Rodney Williams currently works as an English teacher at Warragul Regional College. Each February he presents his work at the Ficifolia Poetry Night in Drouin. He was chief editor for the first two editions of Baw Baw Writers' Network's annual anthology *Pre-Scribe*. In 2008, he worked in collaboration with the oil-painter Otto Boron (twice Victorian Artist of the Year) to produce the book *Rural Dwellings – Gippsland and Beyond*. Rodney's longer poems have appeared in a variety of journals in Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Haiku and tanka form Rodney's greatest area of passion poetically. His work in these Japanese forms were published in nine different countries in 2011. He has recently edited a poetry project for a leading American website. Over the last 12 months his poems have been included in a range of representative anthologies in Australia, Britain and America.

A local roots-based singer-songwriter – Todd Cook – has just released his latest CD, *Brilliant Green*, with the lyrics of its title-track co-written by Rodney. Tanka written by Rodney form one element in a multi-media performance (*dis*)connect, being presented by the Off the Leash Theatre Company. A book of his haiku and tanka will soon be published by Ginninderra Press.

Rodney feels most excited by this unique opportunity to collaborate with the West Gippsland Chorale. He hopes that audiences will find this selection of his haiku and tanka to be complementary to the choir's work, likewise reverberating with sounds and moods, creatures and images characteristic of the Australian landscape.



The chorale appreciates the generous continuing support given by Collins Booksellers Warragul

Shop 2, 9 Napier Street

Warragul Vic 3820



"That whistling crack" — a haiku sequence

across the lagoon oystercatchers squabble ... still no reply	the ewe nudges her lamb once more — ravens cawing	that same sweet phrase— rustling through leaf mulch a song thrush
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waterhole twilight ~ below cicadas bullfrogs croak	that whistling crack from an eastern whipbird... blue gums creaking	wind-chime tones from the gazebo rhythm of rain
--	---	---

a fox barks at the high-plains moon— creek brisk with thaw	cloud shadows pass over the bald hill— buzz of flies	cold front looming— a red hen scratches between graves
--	--	--

mosquito whine— rattling down the valley a night-freight	shotgun blast— nothing falls from the sky except silence	from oak to elm owls hoot full of moon
--	--	--

spillway at dawn— a kookaburra answers the cricket	irrigator arc over furrows bleeding ... tiger snake hiss	the lilting trill from a cockatiel ... daughter calling
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"Across a sloping field" — a tanka sequence

trees torn
from the cliff-top
at gale force —
down on the tide line
a single oar

round bales
across a sloping field
scattered ...
faces of you
appearing at random

a spot to pan
through alluvial sand
for gemstones
by the Darling's banks
a pair of diamond doves

footprints
on an empty beach
approaching
homeward bound
I run into myself

up the hill
our neighbour's axe
falls—
a second of silence
while sound chases light

in a field
flanked by plum trees
a chimney
its wood-fire stove
burning with rust

neon
from the night-ferry
shimmering
across the strait
aurora australis

in horsehair
on the fire-track
a bird's nest ~
this north wind scorching
the back of my throat

fairy-wren
azure in cheek and brow
cobalt in bib
its brown wings bringing
the sky down to earth

magpies warbling
between currawongs
whistling—
wake-up calls
in counterpoint

wild horses
splashing through a ford
at full gallop—
above the razorback
smoke in a corkscrew

a bike-ride north
toward the divide
at sunset
the west wind blows
my shadow longer

The Listening Land

Reflections at Night by Ernest Giles

“Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid,
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;
Hands that the rod of empire might have swayed,
Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre.”

...These are the gorgeous constellations set thick with starry gems, the revolving orbs of densely crowded spheres, the systems beyond systems, clusters beyond clusters, and universes beyond universes, all brilliantly glittering with various coloured light, all wheeling and swaying, floating and circling round some distant, unknown, motive, centre-point.

...in the pauseless measures of a perpetual dance of joy, keeping time and tune with most ecstatic harmony, and producing upon the enthralled mind the not imaginary music of the spheres.

...From my heated couch of sandy earth I gazed helplessly but rapturously upon them... the glittering bands of brilliant stars shining in the azure vault of heaven.

...The mind is forced back upon itself, and becomes filled with an endless chain of thoughts which wander through the vastness of the star-bespangled spheres...

The Listening Land – by Victor Carell

The hills throb with quiet ... throb with quiet.

The land warmed in the passing sun...warmed in the passing sun stands waiting.

The golden sands stir silently ...stir silently.

The plains rustle quietly with trees...quietly with trees and waiting.

Water flows, its movement stilled... its movement stilled.

The giant rocks mutely stretch and heave... stretch and heave with waiting.

The stars hang close over the listening land ...

The moon- bathed trees reaching ... reaching...

the listening land is waiting

Traralgon Uniting Church Fabric Art Group

The works of art exhibited at these performances have been created by the Traralgon Uniting Church Fabric Art Group.

“Our fabric art is an expression of our spirituality. We use familiar objects and features of the Australian landscape as contemporary symbols of the human journey, and our awareness of God as a vital presence in that journey.

This is where we live! This is where God meets us!

Our early work (we began in 1984) made simple statements; our recent work is more complex. We tackle contemporary social issues, and challenge the viewer to respond.

We encourage people to pause, look and reflect on their journey through life, its wonder, beauty and the divine mystery.

Artists have commented that our work has a presence and the vibrant colours emit a distinctly Australian light. Others say our work emanates faith and love. We hope this is your experience too.”

Artists' notes on the works:

Looking Back, Looking Forward - 2004

The work on the front wall gives an historical perspective. Looking back, we remember that white colonists arrived by boat, moved through the forests, cleared the land and produced crops. Looking forward, we see growing urban communities.

God's here. Let's celebrate - 2002

On the side walls, these four landscapes from coast to coast, dawn to dusk, the bush, the mountains, the vast plains the gorges or the remote beach enable us to recall places, experience and emotions that remind us that “God's here”.

Hope. - 2003

The work at the back of Wesley reminds us that sometimes we are in a situation when we cannot see the whole picture or know in what direction to move. All we can do is walk towards the light.

Warragul Theatre Company Inc. presents

Carmen

- the musical

18-26 May

Fri 18 - 8pm (Gala)

Sat 19 - 2pm, 8pm

Sun 20 - 2pm

Thu 24* - 8pm

Fri 25 - 8pm

Sat 26 - 2pm, 8pm



TICKETS

Full \$37, Member \$32, Family \$95,

Concession \$35, Youth \$22

Group discounts & Gala Night offers available

*special reduced prices on Thu 24

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Members of West Gippsland Chorale

Sopranos

Sue Carson, Janette Clark, Marion Cohen, Lynne Davine, Jenny Guilford, Pauline Hastings, Vittoria van der Hoeven, Judy Hopkins, Elizabeth McCaffery, Gillian Mitra, Brooke Mollison, Fiona Powell, Joy Sim, Diane Wilkie.

Altos

Helen Chambers, Janice Eshuis, Lynn Jones, Jan MacLean, Sue Lester, Elizabeth Medling, Tamara Mollison, Anne Outhred, Karin Ryan, Venetia Somerset, Jenny Steele, Alice Youlden.

Tenors

Geoff Leunig, Marie Kitching, John McCaffery, Joshua Mollison, Walter Willems.

Basses

Glenn Barry, Peter Eshuis, Peter Medling, Allan Richards, Michael Sayer, Reg Staple, David Tanner,

The Chorale currently has vacancies for tenors. An ability to read music is a necessity. Please call our Musical Director, Simon Loveless, to arrange an audition 5622 3275



The West Gippsland Chorale is a member of the Australian National Choral Association. It is listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations. Donations are gratefully accepted and are fully tax deductible under subdivision 30-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

West Gippsland Chorale
Heidelberg Choral Society

Conducted by Peter Bandy



Sat 25th Aug 7.30pm

**West Gippsland Arts Centre
Warragul 5624 2456**

**with Leading Notes Youth Choir, Warragul,
Percussion ensemble & Soloists**

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Children \$15, Family (2 Ad, 2 Chn) \$92



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