

THE SONG co.

presents

SONGS OF ROSA MYSTICA

Guest Director: JACK SYMONDS

9-15 JUNE Sydney – Canberra – Melbourne – Digital Broadcast



image credit: Keith Saunders

THE SONG COMPANY SINGERS ARE SET TO STUN AUDIENCES WITH THIS EXTREME PIECE

BRITTEN, SAARIAHO, GYGER AND MORE

Australia's national vocal ensemble is set to tackle one of the toughest tests in the entire repertoire

Media Contact:

For further images, interviews, artist details, recordings, review tickets, video features and more, please contact

The Song Company

Eva Frey (Marketing & Development Manager)

P: (02) 9156 2781

E: eva@song.company

“IT LOOKS LIKE THE PLANS FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPON OR SOMETHING ON THE PAGE!”

– Jack Symonds on Elliott Gyger's work *Ficta*



Government Partner



the.song.company

Media Release
May 2023

Songs of Rosa Mystica

Program

The Song Company's second program of 2023 is embarking to climb the Everest of a cappella performance – reaching the limits of what the human voice is capable of. Guest director Jack Symonds (Sydney Chamber Opera) is daring The Song Company singers with a program that will take them to a new level of “extreme singing”.

Elliott Gyger's *Ficta* (1994) will open a program that also features work from Benjamin Britten, Michael Tippett and Jack himself. The program concludes with *Tag des Jahrs* a work by contemporary Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho that could not be a greater contrast to *Ficta*.

When the elite singers of The Song Company last performed their commissioned work *Ficta*, a fiendishly complex work by Australian composer Elliott Gyger, they coined a new scale to measure the difficulty of learning and performing any work.

The tongue-in-cheek “Ficta Scale” that rates compositions on a scale from “1 to Ficta”, with the extreme end of the scale classified as almost impossible to perform.

This scale was only created half in jest, after the singers were stretched to their limits by the complexities of the work which they presented in its world premiere in 1994. During the course of the 20-minute work the singers are asked to inhabit six radically different vocal styles, from French Baroque to Eastern European folk song and even 1930s crooner.

Now guest director Jack Symonds and six of the Song Company's singers will once again scale this Everest of vocal music in his upcoming program called **Songs of Rosa Mystica**.

“*Ficta* is one of the most virtuosic things I've ever encountered for six unaccompanied voices to perform,” said Jack.

Artists

Guest Director:

Jack Symonds

Performers:

Susannah Lawergren, Amy Moore

Jessica O'Donoghue

Timothy Reynolds

Simon Lobelson

Andrew O'Connor

sopranos

mezzo soprano

tenor

baritone

bass-baritone

Ben Carey

sound designer

Government Partner

the.song.company

Media Release

May 2023



Songs of Rosa Mystica

Program

Elliott Gyger

Benjamin Britten

Jack Symonds

Michael Tippett

Kaija Saariaho

Ficta

A.M.D.G. Ad majorem Dei Gloriam (excerpts)

- *Rosa Mystica*
- *God's Grandeur*
- *O Deus, Ego Amo Te*

Fire-featuring heaven (World Premiere)

The Windhover

Tag des Jahrs

[Click to download high-resolution material](#)



“FICTA IS ONE OF THE MOST VIRTUOSIC THINGS I’VE EVER ENCOUNTERED FOR SIX UNACCOMPANIED VOICES TO PERFORM,”

Jack Symonds – Guest Director

Links

Website: <https://the.song.company/>

Program page:

<https://the.song.company/songs-of-rosa-mystica/>

[Media share material](#)

Tour Details

- Fri 9 June, 7pm **Sydney** The Neilson – Pier 2/3 ACO, Walsh Bay Arts Precinct
- Sun 11 June, 3pm **Sydney** The Neilson – Pier 2/3 ACO, Walsh Bay Arts Precinct
- Wed 14 June, 7pm **Canberra** Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia
- Thu 15 June, 7pm **Melbourne*** Athenaeum Theatre

*This performance will be live streamed via the Australian Digital Concert Hall.

Government Partner

the.song.company

Media Release

May 2023



About
THE SONG co.



The Song Company

Australia's national vocal ensemble

The Song Company 2023 artists

Susannah Lawergren	}	sopranos
Amy Moore		
Jessica O'Donoghue	}	mezzo-soprano
Timothy Reynolds		
Louis Hurley	}	tenors
Hayden Barrington		
Simon Lobelson	}	baritones
Andrew O'Connor		
Aidan O'Donnell	}	bass-baritones

The Song Company is Australia's leading professional vocal ensemble. Led by world-leading creative artists, the company has a proud tradition of fostering the careers of the nation's most exciting vocal performers.

Since its beginnings in 1984 it has captivated audiences with exquisite performances of vocal work ranging from the 10th century to contemporary compositions.



Government Partner



the.song.company

Media Release

May 2023