



11 - 22 October 2023  
Wollongong | Sydney | Newcastle  
Hobart | Melbourne

# The Song Company

The Song Company is Australia's leading vocal ensemble, presenting music from all times and places. Since its beginnings in 1984, it has captivated Australian and international audiences with exquisite performances of vocal work ranging from the 10th century to contemporary compositions. Every project The Song Company undertakes is underwritten by its unwavering commitment to excellence and to the transcendent and transformative beauty of the human voice.

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## Songs from a Strange Land Artists



SUSANNAH LAWERGREN



AMY MOORE



JESSICA O'DONOGHUE



CHRISTOPHER WATSON



TIMOTHY REYNOLDS



HAYDEN BARRINGTON



JAMES FOX



The Song Company is assisted by  
the NSW Government through Create NSW

The Song Company acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia  
and we pay our respect to the Elders past, present and those yet to come

The Song Company Pty Ltd trading as The Song Company is a non-profit organisation  
registered as a company of limited guarantee ABN 27 001 577 377

# Songs from a Strange Land

<b>Wollongong</b>	St. Francis Xavier Cathedral	Sat 7 Oct, 3pm
<b>Sydney*</b>	The Crypt, St Mary's Cathedral	Sun 8 Oct, 3pm
<b>Newcastle</b>	Newcastle Conservatorium	Fri 13 Oct, 7pm
<b>Sydney</b>	Sydney, The Neilson	Tue 17 Oct, 7pm
<b>Hobart</b>	Hobart, St David's Cathedral	Sat 21 Oct, 8pm
<b>Melbourne</b>	Trinity College Chapel, Melbourne	Sun 22 Oct, 3pm

\*The performance on Sunday 8 October in The Crypt of St Mary's Cathedral is dedicated to our friend and supporter, the late Tom Karplus

## Program

<b>William Byrd</b>	Tristitia et anxietas
<b>Paul Stanhope</b>	Longing
<b>David Lang</b>	I want to live
<b>Joseph Twist</b>	How Shall We Sing in a Strange Land?
<b>William Byrd</b>	Ye sacred muses
<b>Roxanna Panufnik</b>	Kyrie after Byrd
<b>Gabriel Jackson</b>	In all his works
<b>William Cornysh</b>	Ah Robin, gentle Robin
<b>Pelle Gudmunsen-Holmgreen</b>	You and I and Amyas II
<b>Gabriel Jackson</b>	(Song) I gaze upon you
<b>William Byrd</b>	Tribue Domine

## The Song Company

**Susannah Lawergren**, Soprano  
**Amy Moore**, Soprano  
**Jessica O'Donoghue**, Mezzo Soprano  
**Timothy Reynolds**, Tenor  
**Christopher Watson**, Guest Director, Tenor  
**Hayden Barrington**, Baritone  
**James Fox**, Bass

## Partners



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# Program Notes

The genesis of this program came from the desire to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the death of the great English composer, William Byrd. The concert is bookended by two of his most significant motets, *Tristitia et anxietas* and *Tribue Domine*. *Tristitia* is a plea for mercy and forgiveness written at a point in history when Catholics like William Byrd were left feeling like exiles in their own country. On the other hand, Byrd's faith was so strong that he was also able to compose monumental hymns of praise to God, none finer than *Tribue Domine*.

At the centre, this program is one of his most touching pieces, *Ye Sacred Muses*, written on the death of his great friend and teacher Thomas Tallis. David Lang, Paul Stanhope, Joseph Twist, Roxanna Panufnik, Pelle Gudmunsen Holmgreen and Gabriel Jackson have all taken texts that reflect the emotions of one of the pieces of Byrd – be that exile, paying tribute or praise and love – and they remind us that the emotions and experiences that were familiar to Byrd in 16th Century England are just as relevant to us today in 21st century Australia.

– Christopher Watson

## Composer's notes

### **Paul Stanhope – Longing**

Composed 2007, arranged for six voices in 2016.

Text from poem no. 14, *Al Qasida Kaf* by Tawfiq Sayigh and from Lamentations 1:7

### **David Lang – I want to live**

"*I want to live* is a movement from the staged oratorio *Shelter* that I wrote with composers Michael Gordon and Julia Wolfe, with libretto by Deborah Artman. *Shelter* was commissioned by Musikfabrik and the Next Wave Festival of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and was premiered 18 March 2005 in Cologne, Germany."

### **Joseph Twist – How Shall We Sing in a Strange Land?**

Commissioned by the National Youth Choir of Australia by the Australia Council for the Arts.

Words from *A Song of Hope* by Odgeroo of the tribe Noonuccal, from *My People*, and Psalm 137:4

### **Roxanna Panufnik – Kyrie after Byrd**

"When new super-choir ORA came to me, asking for a Kyrie that related to Byrd's Mass for Five Voices, I immediately went to Youtube to listen to Byrd's original. I loved the way that the melody of the first *Kyrie eleison* almost immediately transposes and capitalised on this harmonically by taking my version through several quite chromatic changes and adding an extra bass voice, thereby extra harmonic potential. I've kept the *Christe eleison* as a calmer and more ethereal section, floating gently back into the chromatic *Kyrie*, which almost forgets itself in harmonic and dramatic propriety but suddenly takes stock of itself and ends with quiet reverence."

First performed 10 February 2016 at the Tower of London.

### **Gabriel Jackson – In all his works**

First performed by Stephen Taylor, Ian Thompson, Robin Tyson (altos), Peter Mitchell, Christopher Price, Peter Thresh, Christopher Watson (tenors) and Donald Greig, Andrew Rupp, Jeremy Backhouse, Duncan Perkins (basses), directed by David Woodcock, at the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Dr Allan Wicks CBE in Canterbury Cathedral on 21 May 2010.

Text: Ecclesiasticus 47: 8-10

### **Pelle Gudmunsen-Holmgreen – You and I and Amyas II**

Composed 2013 for Theatre of Voices

### **Gabriel Jackson – (Song) I gaze upon you**

Written for the wedding of Mark Wilde and Imogen Wright and was performed by the choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor, directed by Jonathan Rees-Williams, on 1 June 1996.

Text by Paul Eluard from *Marine* translated by Gilbert Brown

# Texts and Translations

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## TRISTITIA ET ANXIETAS

Tristitia et anxietas occupaverunt interiora mea.  
Mœstum factum est cor meum in dolore,  
et contenebrati sunt oculi mei.  
Væ mihi, quia peccavi.  
Sed tu, Domine, qui non derelinquis  
sperantes in te,  
consolare et adjuva me propter nomen sanctum tuum,  
et miserere mei.

Sadness and anxiety have overtaken my inmost being.  
My heart is made sorrowful in mourning,  
my eyes are become dim.  
Woe is me, for I have sinned.  
But thou, O Lord, who dost not forsake those  
whose hope is in thee,  
comfort and help me for thy holy name's sake,  
and have mercy on me.

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## LONGING

My feet are torn,  
and homelessness has worn me out.  
Park seats have left their mark  
on my ribs.  
Policemen followed me  
with their suspicious looks.  
I dragged myself from place to place,  
destitute except for  
daylong memories of a home  
that yesterday, only yesterday  
was mine,  
And except for evening dreams  
of my dwelling there again.

1:7 Recordata est Ierusalem dierum afflictionis suæ,  
et prævaricationis omnium desiderabilium suorum,  
quæ habuerat a diebus antiquis,  
cum caderet populus eius in manu hostili,  
esset auxiliator.

1:7 Jerusalem has remembered the days of her affliction  
and the betrayal of all her desirable ones,  
whom she held from the days of antiquity,  
when her people fell into the hand of the enemy,  
and there was no one to be a helper.

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## I WANT TO LIVE

I want to live where you live

## HOW SHALL WE SING IN A STRANGE LAND?

Look upon my people  
The dawn is breaking  
The world is waking to a bright new day.

How shall we sing the Lord's song  
in a strange land?  
(Quomodo cantabimus canticum Domini  
in terra aliena)

Now brood no more  
On the years behind you  
The hope assigned you  
Shall the past replace.

When a juster justice  
Grown wise and stronger  
Points the bone no longer  
At a darker race.

So long we waited  
Bound and frustrated  
Till hate we hated  
And caste disposed.

Now the light shall guide us,  
No good denied us  
And all doors open  
Than long were closed.

How shall we sing in a strange land?

See plain the promise  
Dark freedom lover  
Night's nearly over  
and though long the climb.

New rights will greet you  
New mateship meet us,  
And joy complete us,  
In our new Dream Time.

Look up my people  
The dawn is breaking.  
The world is waking  
to a bright new day.

To our fathers' fathers  
The pain, the sorrow  
To our children's children  
The glad tomorrow.

How shall we sing the Lord's song  
in a strange land?

### YE SACRED MUSES

Ye sacred Muses, race of Jove,  
Whom Music's lore delighteth,  
Come down from crystal heav'ns above  
To earth, where sorrow dwelleth,  
In mourning weeds, with tears in eyes:  
Tallis is dead, and Music dies.

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### KYRIE

Kyrie eleison	Lord have mercy
Christe eleison	Christ have mercy,
Kyrie eleison	Lord have mercy

### IN ALL HIS WORKS

In all his works he praised the Holy One most high  
with words of glory; with his whole heart  
he sung songs, and loved him that made him.  
He set singers also before the altar,  
that by their voices they might make sweet melody,  
and daily sing praises in their songs.  
He beautified their feasts, and set in order  
the solemn times until the end,  
that they might praise his holy name,  
and that the temple might sound from morning.

### AH ROBIN, GENTLE ROBIN

Ah Robin, gentle Robin,  
Tell me how the leman doth  
and thou shalt know of mine.

My lady is unkind  
I wis, Alack, why is she so?  
She lov'th another better than me,  
and yet she will say no.

I cannot think such doubleness  
for I find women true,  
In faith my lady lov'th me well  
she will change for no new.

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### YOU AND I AND AMYAS II

The knight knock'd at the castle gate;  
The lady marvell'd who was thereat.  
you I and I and Amyas.

Amyas and you and I.  
To the greenwood must we go Alas.  
You and I, my lyf and Amyas.

To call the porter he would not blyn;  
The lady said he should not come in  
you I and I and Amyas ...

The portress was a lady bright;  
Strangeness that lady hight.  
you I and I and Amyas ...

She asked him what was his name;  
He said: "Desire, you man, madame."  
you I and I and Amyas ...

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"Desire, what do ye here?"  
He said: "Madame as your prisoner."  
you I and I and Amyas ...

He was counselled to brief abill;  
And shew my lady his won will.  
you I and I and Amyas ...

Kindness said she would it bear,  
And Pity said she would be there.  
you I and I and Amyas ...

Thus how they did we cannot say,  
We left them there and went our way.  
you I and I and Amyas ...

### (SONG) I GAZE UPON YOU

I gaze upon you and the sun grows large  
Soon it will overwhelm our day  
Awake with heart and colour in your head

To chase away the night's bad dreams  
Awake that I may follow where you go  
I have a body that waits to follow you

From the gates of day to the gates of dusk  
A body to spend with you a life of love  
A body to spend with you a life of love

## TRIBUE DOMINE

Tribue Domine, ut donec in hoc fragili corpore positus sum,  
Laudet te cor meum, laudet te lingua mea,  
et omnia ossa mea dicant:

Domine, quis similis tui?

Tu es Deus omnipotens, quem trinum in personis,  
et unum in substantia deitatis colimus et adoramus,  
Patrem ingenitum, Filium de Patre unigenitum,  
Spiritus sanctum de utroque procedentem,  
et in utroque permanentem,  
Sanctam et individuam trinitatem,  
unum Deum omnipotentem.

Te deprecor, supplico et rogo,  
auge fidem, auge spem, auge charitatem.  
Fac nos per ipsam gratiam tuam,  
semper in fide stabiles,  
et in opere efficaces, ut per fidem rectam,  
et condigna fidei opera ad vitam,  
te miserante, perveniamus æternam.

Gloria Patri qui creavit nos,  
Gloria Filio qui redemit nos,  
Gloria Spiritui sancto qui sanctificavit nos.  
Gloria summæ et individuæ trinitati,  
Cujus opera inseparabilia sunt,  
Cujus imperium sine fine manet.  
Te decet laus, te decet hymnus,  
Tibi debetur omnis honor,  
Tibi benedictio et claritas,  
Tibi gratiarum actio,  
Tibi honor, virtus et fortitudo,  
Deo nostro, in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that while I am placed in this feeble body,  
My heart shall praise Thee, my tongue shall praise thee,  
and all my bones shall say:

Lord, who is like unto Thee?

Thou art God Almighty, who as three persons in one  
divine substance we worship and adore:  
Father unbegotten, only-begotten Son of the Father,  
Holy Spirit proceeding from both  
and remaining in both,  
Holy and undivided Trinity,  
one God Almighty.

I entreat, pray and request Thee,  
increase my faith, increase my hope, increase my charity:  
Make us through Thy grace  
forever steadfast in faith  
and effective in works, that through true faith  
and works worthy of our faith  
we may come through, by Thy mercy, to eternal life.

Glory be to the Father, who created us:  
Glory be to the Son, who saved us,  
Glory be to the Holy Spirit, who sanctified us:  
Glory be to the highest and undivided Trinity,  
Whose works are inseparable,  
Whose reign remains without end.  
Praise and hymn become Thee,  
To Thee are due all honour,  
Blessing and glory,  
To Thee be thanksgiving,  
honour, power and might,  
Our God, world without end. Amen.

# Supporters

**The Song Company** depends on the generosity of individual donors to keep our artistic program thriving. With Government support at an historic low, your support is more important than ever. Thank you to the following donors who have supported us in this and last financial year. If you would like to see your name on this list, please contact Executive Director **Francis Greep** on (02) 9156 2781 or [francis.greep@song.company](mailto:francis.greep@song.company) or visit [the.song.company/donate](http://the.song.company/donate)

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Thu 30 Nov, 6 PM	Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood
Fri 1 Dec, 6 PM	The Garrison Church, Millers Point
Sat 2 Dec, 2 PM	St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong

[the.song.company/hark](https://www.the-song-company.com/hark)

