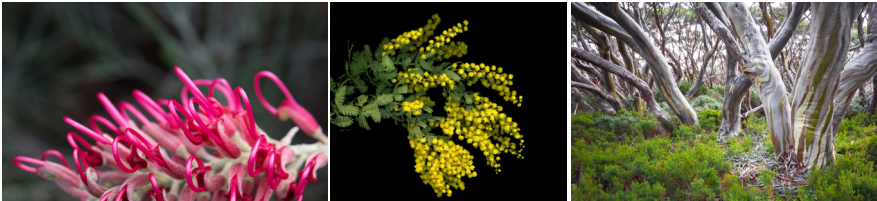


ChoirWorks
presents

Songs
of the
Earth



Songs of the Earth 9 September 2023

TALBOT THEATRE, THOMAS DIXON CENTRE

Music Director

Debra Shearer-Dirié

Special Guest Speaker

Jerry Coleby-Williams

Accompanist - **John Woods**

Hymn of Ancient Lands Joseph Twist

Soprano Solo: Alyssa O'Neill

There Was a Tree Arr. Gustav Holst

The Soul of a Tree Amy F. Bernon

Jerry Coleby-Williams

Savory, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme . . . Donald Patriquin

Linden Lea Arr. Ralph Vaughan-Williams

A Spotless Rose Herbert Howells

Baritone Solo: Michael Strasser

A Red, Red Rose James Mulholland

Jerry Coleby-Williams

INTERVAL (20 minutes)

Jerry Coleby-Williams

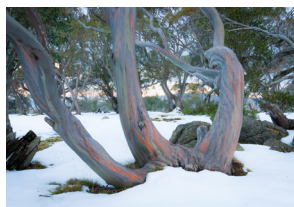
Great Trees - The Peace of Wild Things Dr Gwynneth Walker

Clarinet: Jaye Lamb

Rainstorm Stephen Leek

Earth Song Frank Ticheli

Earth Teach Me Quiet Eriks Esenvalds



Hymn of Ancient Lands
by Joseph Twist

It is a setting of a short text known as “Caedmon’s Hymn”. Caedmon is believed to have been the earliest English poet and his poem (or hymn) is believed to be one of the oldest recorded poems written in “Old English” dialect of the Anglo-Saxons.

Now we shall praise
the Guardian of heaven’s kingdom
The might of the architect and his purpose
The work of the father of glory as He,
the eternal Lord,
established the beginning of wonders.
Now we shall praise the Guardian
of heaven, the children of men.
For the children of men,
he created heaven.

There Was a Tree
Hampshire Folksong
arr by Gustav Holst

There was a tree all in the woods,
As fine a tree as ever you did see,
For the tree was in the woods,
And the woods lie down in the valley below.

There was a limb all on the tree,
As fine a limb as ever you did see,
For the limb was on the tree,
And the tree was in the woods,
And the woods lie down in the valley below.

There was a bough all on the tree,
As fine a bough as ever you did see,
For the bough was on the limb,
And the limb was on the tree,
And the tree was in the woods,
And the woods lie down in the valley below.

There was a bird all on the tree,
The finest bird that ever you did see,
For the bird was on the bough,
And the bough was on the limb,
And the limb was on the tree,
And the tree was in the woods,
And the woods lie down in the valley below.

The Soul of a Tree
Words and music by Amy F Bernon

I sing of the soul, of the soul of a tree,
I sing of the soul, of the soul of a tree,
as cool and forgiving as night after sun,
when the notes of the sparrow are secret,
(hush).

The soul of a tree, the soul of a tree
sings an ancient, ancient song.

The soul of a tree is the deepest place,
where the seedling takes hold,
where the rootwater waits,
where the sky sleeps for the night,
in a branch-bend,
in the shade of a leaf-tip,
seeking wisdom in bark.

The soul of a tree, the soul of a tree
sings an ancient, ancient song. Ah-

I sing of the soul, of the soul of a tree,
I sing of the soul, of the soul of a tree,
as cool and forgiving as night after sun,
when the notes of the sparrow are secret,
(hush).

Jerry Coleby-Williams

Flora of the Past including aspects of
old European and Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander knowledge and history.

Savory, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme
(from British Columbia)
arr by Donald Patriquin

Pray can you buy me an acre or more –
Savory, sage, rosemary and thyme
Between the wide ocean and the sea shore?
And then you can be a true lover of mine.

Pray can you plough it with one ram's horn –
Savory, sage, rosemary and thyme
And sew it all over with one pepper corn?
And then you can be a true lover of mine.

Pray can you reap it with a sickle of leather –
Savory, sage, rosemary and thyme
And tie it all up with one peacock's feather?
And then you can be a true lover of mine.

Now you have asked me
 of these questions three,
and now it is my turn to ask three of thee.
Pray can you make me a fine cambric shirt –
Savory, sage, rosemary and thyme
Without any seam and all needle work?
And then you can be a true lover of mine.

Pray in yon brook can you wash it and wade –
Savory, sage, rosemary and thyme
Where water n'er flowed
 since earth it was made?
And then you can be a true lover of mine.

Pray can you dry it on yonder thorn –
Savory, sage, rosemary and thyme
Where blossom n'er bloomed
 since Adam was born?
Then you can be a true lover of mine.

Linden Lea - A Dorset Song
Arr. Ralph Vaughan-Williams
Words by William Barnes (1801-86)

Within the woodlands, flow'ry gladed,
By the oak trees' mossy moot,
The shining grass blades, timber-shaded,
Now do quiver underfoot;
And birds do whistle overhead,
An water's bubbling in its bed;
And there, for me, the apple tree
Do lean down low in Linden Lea.

When leaves, that lately were a-springing,
Now do fade with the copse,
And painted birds do hush their singing,
Up upon the timber tops;
And brown-leaved fruit's a-turning red,
In cloudless sunshine overhead,
With fruit for me, the apple tree
Do lean down low in Linden Lea.

Let other folk make money faster
In the air of dark-room'd towns;
I don't dread a peevish master,
Though no man may heed my frowns.
I be free to go abroad,
Or take again my homeward road
To where, for me, the apple tree
Do lean down low in Linden Lea

A Spotless Rose by Herbert Howells
(14thC German hymn, tr. Catherine Winkworth)

A spotless rose is blowing,
sprung from a tender root.
Of ancient seers' fore-showing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
amid the cold, cold winter
And in the dark mid night.

Solo
The Rose which I am singing, Where of Isaiah said
Is from its sweet root springing in Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might,
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

A Red, Red Rose
by James Mulholland
Words by Robert Burns

O, my luvè's like a red, red rose,
that's newly sprung in June.
O my luvè's like the melodie,
that's sweetly played in tune.
As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
so deep in luvè am I
I will luvè thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.
I will luvè thee still, my dear,
while the sands of life shall run.
Till the seas gang dry, my dear,
and rocks melt with the sun!
As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
so deep in luvè am I.
I will come again my luvè,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile!
I will come again.

Jerry Coleby-Williams

Focus on global awakening of the late 20th century and the need to preserve seeds in banks such as the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway.

Interval (20 minutes)

Jerry Coleby-Williams

The Future – How we may have to live differently including reviving some of the traditional practices of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Great Trees - The Peace of Wild Things
Words by Wendell Berry,
music by Dr Gwyneth Walker

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life
 and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water,
 and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Rainstorm
Words by Thora Nicholson,
music by Stephen Leek

Rain on distant horizon
The clouds build up in the far south-west
Just behind Seaforth Island
Then as darkness falls and the sea is leaden
There's rain on distant highlands – Whoa
The whisper of rain comes across the sea
Hear the swish of it in leaves
Soon raindrops shine on trees
and still not a wind has breathed
And still not a wind has breathed – Whoa
The rain falls heavier and down it comes
Watch the gullies run
At last the wind is behind the rain
Hear on rooves how it drums – Whoa
The dry earth hungrily drinks
and the land is new again
So wild bush tress and plants
give thanks for the welcome rain
And the trees give thanks
for the welcome rain - Whoa

Earth Song

Words and music by Frank Ticheli

Sing, be, live, see

This dark stormy hour

The wind, it stirs

The scorched Earth cries out in vain

Oh war and power, you blind and blur

The torn heart cries out in pain

But music and singing have been my refuge

And music and singing shall be my light

A light of song, shining strong

Hallelujah, hallelujah

Through darkness and pain and strife

I'll sing, I'll be, live, see

Peace

Earth Teach Me Quiet

Prayer of the Ute of North America

Music by Eriks Esenvalds

Earth teach me quiet -

as the grasses are still with new light.

Earth teach me suffering -

as old stones suffer with memory.

Earth teach me humility -

as blossoms are humble with beginning.

Earth teach me caring -

as mothers nurture their young.

Earth teach me courage -

as the tree that stands alone.

Earth teach me limitation -

as the ant that crawls on the ground.

Earth teach me freedom -

as the eagle that soars in the sky.

Earth teach me acceptance -

as the leaves that die each fall.

Earth teach me renewal -

as the seed that rises in the spring.

Earth teach me to forget myself -

as melted snow forgets its life.

Earth teach me to remember kindness -

as dry fields weep with rain.

Think you might like to join our choir?

We audition throughout the year. Sit in for a couple of rehearsals before you decide whether or not to try out.

contact@choirworks.au



Would you like to hire our choir (or a small group)?

Choral music can add colour, warmth and character to any occasion, whether it be a wedding, anniversary, Christmas party or Christmas in July gathering.



Debra Shearer-Dirié

Dr. Debra Shearer-Dirié is a musical trail-blazer. Her career spans continents, from earning a Doctorate of Music at Indiana University to leading prestigious ensembles as a renowned conductor. Now based in Brisbane, Debra maintains an active career in choral conducting, music education and as a clinician and scholar. She has been Music Director for ChoirWorks (previously performing as Brisbane Concert Choir) since 2005.



Jerry Coleby-Williams

Jerry is a highly qualified horticultural expert, managing prestigious gardens and appearing on ABC Radio Talkback Gardening since 1995 and ABC Television's 'Gardening Australia' programme since 1999. Jerry is always busy sharing his knowledge of gardening through his public Facebook Page, his website (jerry-coleby-williams.net), and by writing for the 'Gardening Australia' and 'The Organic Gardener' magazines.

John Woods - Accompanist

John Woods' career in music and the arts began in the cold of the northern hemisphere, travelled across the globe via Asia and down under into sunny Australia by the early 1990s. In 1992 John joined the staff of The Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University. He took up the position of accompanist for Brisbane Concert Choir (now ChoirWorks) in 2006.

Jaye Lamb - Clarinet

Jaye Lamb, a passionate clarinet player and classical music lover, is about to complete Year 12 at Brisbane State High School. His aim is to find a future career somewhere in the world of music.

We hope you enjoyed this concert and would love to see you at our next event, a reprise of our sold out performance in 2021:

Christmas in Blue

Sunday 3 December 2023

The Lussh

5 Hubert St, Woolloongabba

Early evening - Time TBA

Cash bar available



Sip something festive, relax and listen to Christmas carols set in the jazz idiom by UK composer Will Todd. Director of music Dr. Debra Shearer-Dirié will conduct ChoirWorks in this popular concert program, accompanied by a jazz ensemble featuring vocalist Kelsey Giarola. Ticketing for this event will open soon.

Listen to a snippet from 2021



Want to know more? Check out our website

choirworks.au



We would love to hear from you:

Send us an email - contact@choirworks.au

Leave a Google review

Join our mailing list



Our thanks to Thomas Dixon Centre Management and Staff

Photo Credits: Adobe Stock and Ian Maurer Photography

ChoirWorks Inc. ABN: 17 363 181 583