



# SS

*is for*  
**SEUSS,  
SILLY SAYINGS  
AND SUBLIME SONGS**

The Forum Cultural Centre,  
Norton Street, Leichhardt  
Saturday June 14 at 6pm  
Sunday June 15 at 3pm

Leichhardt Espresso Chorus  
Artistic Director: Michelle Leonard  
Pianist: Benjamin Burton  
French horn: Milan Boubov  
Percussion: Luke Robinson

[www.espressochorus.com.au](http://www.espressochorus.com.au)

## FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to two concerts of funny, sublime and wondrous music featuring the Leichhardt Espresso Chorus, French horn, piano and percussion. It is always inspiring to work on our term two concert,

seeing composers take the brief and turn it into something uniquely their own, working with the choir to co-create, and shape a musical offering into a bespoke and unique concert. This is the fifth year we have done this style of concert – commissioning new music is one of the more incredible things the LEC does that really sets us apart from other ensembles. Many of you will remember other concerts we created conceptually and artistically from scratch with new commissions and world premieres

– ‘Eternity and Grace’, ‘Lines in the Sand’, ‘Aesops Fables’, ‘Beyond Bach’ and ‘Luce’. I am so excited for you to hear the quirky music written especially for this event as we weave poetry, humour song and some silliness into a concert to make you smile. On behalf of all of us on stage – thank you for joining us.

**Michelle Leonard,**  
Artistic Director

**Leichhardt Espresso Chorus,**  
Ristretto

## PROGRAMME

*Theodore*, written and read  
by Richard Goodman

*Captive*, Daniel Brinsmead

*Animal Crackers*, Eric Whitacre

*Bumble Bee*, Anders Edenroth  
performed by Ristretto

*Now There's a Thought*,  
Benjamin Burton \*

*Food for Thought*, Tom Knapp \*

*Conjured Characters*, Alice Chance \*

*The Sseucle Song Cycle*, Anastasia Pahos \*

The Aquarium in the Picnic Basket,  
The Secret in the Box

*This Paradise Now*, Sally Whitwell \*

This Paradise Now

Miss Flipflap O'Flurry

Mister Garrulous Grinder

MC Smarmy

Negotiations

Epilogue

*Epilogue*, Richard Goodman

\* World Premiere

## ABOUT THE WORKS

SALLY WHITWELL, *This Paradise Now*

This Paradise Now is a musical tribute to the works of Theodor Seuss Geisel, otherwise known as Dr. Seuss. The elements of Dr. Seuss's work that I find most appealing are those surreal drawings, the inexorable roll of anapestic tetrameter (amongst other favoured poetry meters), and that unique combination of conscience and imagination present in his allegorical morality tales. So I took the meter and the morals and added music to the mix and... boom! My little eco-allegory was born.

I was keen to involve the LEC members in the creative process. I asked them about issues that mattered to them and many came up for discussion – Australia's treatment of refugees, how the media effects body image and self esteem, digital interaction overtaking human interaction etc. The one event at which everyone was horrified was the attempt by our present government to delist World Heritage Listed old growth forests in Tasmania.

My resulting forest and its inhabitants, principally a fairy called Miss Flipflap O'Flurry, are represented musically in a sweeping, cinematic style. The logging machine Mr. Garrulous Grinder and the land developer MC Smarmy are represented by more urban musical styles, jazz and hip hop respectively. The ensuing frantically farcical arguments in which they engage sound like somewhere halfway between a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta and Officer Krupke from Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story. But never fear, all ends well and the decidedly conservationist moral of the story leaves us all feeling optimistic in regards to the future of our planet.

### 1. This Paradise Now

Picture this paradise now, if you will,

A great verdant forest, so calm and tranquil

Fine-tuned ecosystems that balance just right  
The crawlers, the creepers, the ones blessed with flight  
All living together as happy as Larry  
There's no need to rush. There's no cause to tarry.  
Each knows his place in the great scheme of things  
He may take what he likes, as long as he brings  
Back to the forest a gift of his own  
You can trust here that you're never ever alone.

## 2. Miss Flipflap O'Flurry

Miss Flipflap O'Flurry, a fairy more sweet  
In all of the forest, you never could meet.  
Each morn she arose, stretched her filigree wings,  
Of all her fine attributes these were the thing!  
Drinking dewdrops from her wildflower cup  
She heard an odd noise. She knew something was up.  
The thing crashed and banged. It lumbered.  
It stumbled.  
"This racket is making my head ache", she grumbled.  
She poked her head out from her delicate bower  
And witnessed an ominous monster's great power.

## 3. Mister Garrulous Grinder

Mister Garrulous Grinder, Destroyer of Green  
Was the worst kind of wilderness hater about.  
With the meanest and beadiest eyes ever seen,  
Great champing steel gnashers within his great snout,  
He'd recklessly lurch through sweet Eden serene  
To demolish, to burn and to raze he was keen  
Until not a skerrick or trace of the green  
That once graced the countryside round could be seen.

## 4. MC Smarmy

Yo, hey ho, it's MC Smarmy  
Got my bootylicious babes, my grind n bump army  
I worship em, yo, you just ask em wasup  
Hey O'Flurry, that some sweet dew you got in that cup.  
Do I sense some unhappiness? Dissatisfaction?  
Lemme help yo, I be ready for action  
I da boss hog of these big companies  
You can't imagine the money I can make from these trees  
I say we level this forest, strip it down clean  
Take it to the city, share, don't be mean.  
You want some bling on those fingers?  
Sign here on da line  
Opportunity comes once in a lifetime

## 5. Negotiations

O'Flurry was flustered by this rude intrusion  
She spoke to the visitors in great confusion  
"Mr. Grinder and Mr McSmarmy kind sir  
I don't think I quite understand, it's a blur!"  
Smarmy stepped forward. He tried to look cool,  
As if he were lounging around by his pool  
"I promise you riches like that of my "hoes",  
Bright bling on your fingers, gold rings on your toes"  
"Oh I see," said O'Flurry, rolling her eyes,  
Sounded like all he was offering were lies.  
"Well, what if I don't wish to live in your way?"

I would be quite happy if things were to stay  
The way they are now. I'm quite comfortable here  
And it's so inappropriate, the way that you leer!"

A shining arc suddenly appeared in the sky  
Smarmy, he just couldn't figure out why  
It was fired from the end of O'Flurry's magic wand  
Narrowly missing the fern's curling frond  
And hitting its target, a perfect bullseye  
Mister Garrulous Grinder let out a cry  
He fell to the ground. He lumbered. He stumbled.  
He groaned and he moaned. He let out a grumble.  
"She's got me right in the axle, I'm doomed!  
Through the dark tunnel, there's light in the gloom"

## 6. Epilogue

And at the front door of O'Flurry's sweet bower  
The once ominous monster lost his great power.  
And that MC Smarmy? He backed away fast.  
Who knew that fairies could produce such a blast?  
The forest restored to its rich, verdant glory  
But this is by no means the end of the story.  
Ladies and gents, yes the moral is clear  
Our planet is precious. Year after year  
You must work to ensure generations to come  
Understand how to live with each other as one.

## ANASTASIA PAHOS, *The Sseucle Song Cycle*

This song cycle intended for children's chorus, violin, French horn, and piano. This song cycle, intended for children's chorus, violin, French horn, and piano, is made up of a trilogy of pieces entitled 'The Aquarium in the Picnic Basket', 'The Secret in the Box', and 'The Quest in the Answer'.

The text is inspired by writings by Theodor Seuss Geisel – more commonly known as Dr. Seuss – and the musical material both incorporates and is inspired by exercises and compositions developed during weekly sessions with the Espresso Kids Choir earlier this year. Special thanks to Sofia Robinson for the chorus text and melody in 'The Secret in the Box', and Elina DeRosnay for her lovely lyrics! As the song cycle progresses, there is a gradual yet perceivable shift from nonsensical communication to deeper underlying concepts, which may intrigue and captivate listeners of all ages.

### The Aquarium in the Picnic Basket

One trout, two trout, green trout, blue trout.  
And chips!  
Red herring.  
Smelly jellyfish breath.

### The Secret in the Box

Climb into your secret box,  
The box with the balloon.  
Pull the strings and make them tight,  
Then you'll begin to move.  
Brush your nails on red-tiled roofs,  
Wave at passers by.

Drink the clouds and taste the sky.  
Float into the blue.

Where fires go out and floods  
disappear,  
Where earthquakes stop trembling  
and we forget fear.

All the wonderful places you'll go!  
Oh, the wonderful places to go!  
Go by air balloon or boat.  
Take your brain and imagination.

Talk to, touch the, heal the birds,  
See their colours bright.

Sit among broccoli treetops tall,  
Converse with them till night.  
Steal the secrets of the wind,  
Embrace the light of the moon.  
Ponder on the edge of midnight,  
An eternity found by few.

Why are my questions so complicated,

And why are their answers so simple?  
I'll just take my time,  
there's no need to rush.  
Simply take my thread and my thimble.

### **BENJAMIN BURTON** *Now There's A Thought*

Some days might just seem to crawl;  
they sprawl a tall and galling wall.  
You feel too small to climb at all; you  
feel like you will fall, fall, fall.

I know I have felt this way; I never  
know quite where to stay,  
Or which way's what and who's to say  
after such a tiresome day?

The clock, it seems to lock, the second  
hand has met a block.

The ticks tick but the tocks won't tock;  
a sick and thick and prickly clock.

Now there's a thought! I think I know,  
one way the day won't go so slow.

It might take all the time we've got,  
but we've agreed that that's a lot.

### **TOM KNAPP** *Food for Thought*

There would be very few adults who  
have not read "Green Eggs and Ham"  
by Dr Seuss either as a child or as a  
parent. As well as a fun learning aid,  
it has something for everyone in its  
messages. So I sought to first capture  
some observations on the impact of  
the storyline on its readers, secondly  
consider what can I learn about myself  
(or indeed, you, about yourself) from a  
mere 50 words and, finally and briefly,  
a hint that the storyline has broader  
community implications.

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## **LEICHHARDT ESPRESSO CHORUS**

Leichhardt Espresso Chorus is a non-auditioned community choir of over 80 singers, which has for the past 16 years been fostering new Australian choral music by an extensive program of commissions, partnerships and collaborations with outstanding Australian composers and musicians. Their rehearsal home and regular concert venue is The Forum Cultural Centre on Norton Street, Leichhardt. The LEC was founded and is led by Artistic Director Michelle Leonard. The Chorus includes a chamber choir, Ristretto, and Espresso Kids choirs, and is currently accompanied by Benjamin Burton.

The LEC continues to redefine the capacity of community choirs and is the inaugural winner of the National Music in Communities Award. It has co-produced the annual Carols on Norton series of events in Leichhardt for the past 11 years and is proud to continue mentoring, commissioning and performing with the children's choirs of Moorambilla

Voices in North Western NSW, where they have been choir in residence since its inception.

The Chorus also presents works in traditional repertoire. It has appeared in large events ranging from the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Sydney in 2010 to the Sydney Festival at the Opera House, and often invites the community to join them in weekends of music, starting with Handel's Messiah in 2012 in Marrickville Town Hall.

## **SUPPORTING AUSTRALIAN COMPOSERS**

The LEC has a tax-deductible, gift-giving program to help support a program of commissioning new music from emerging and established composers. If you would like to contribute, or for information about our activities, to join the Leichhardt Espresso Chorus, or to become a Friend of the choir, see [www.espressochorus.com.au](http://www.espressochorus.com.au) or on Facebook at Leichhardt-Espresso-Chorus.

### **SOPRANO**

Melinda Beck\*  
Penelope Chapple  
Liane Clarke\*  
Mieke Cohen  
Shae Fleming\*  
Kathy Green\*  
Annette Hagerman  
Barbara Hearne  
Jasmin Islam  
Gwyn Jones  
Ene Juurma  
Jeanne Kinninmont\*  
Renée Mahoney  
Elaine Moore

Alexandra Mowday  
Larisa Okhrimenko  
Patricia Pearse  
Elizabeth Pike  
Susan Quine  
Jan Ramus  
Michelle Rollins  
Pat Veenendaal  
Janet Widmer  
Rosemary Williams  
Bo Xu

### **ALTO**

Nic Beard  
Therese Berrigan\*

Debby Cramer  
Georgie Cropper\*  
Jane Erwin  
Cecile Guilloux  
Bev Jan  
Chieme Keniry  
Helen Kerr-Rubicek  
Lisa Maffina  
Jennifer Matkevich  
Susan McCarthy\*  
Corinne Mesana  
Pepe Newton\*  
Diane Paul  
Caroline Pugh\*  
Glenda Stone

Kate Wade  
Lindie Ward  
Jo Watts-James  
Janet Wills\*  
Crista Wocadlo\*

### **TENOR**

David Allen  
Rod Bartrop  
David Bernard  
John Carter  
Rhys Hardwick Jones\*  
Tom Knapp\*  
Damien Kuan\*  
Tim Littlejohn

### **BASS**

Nigel Cadogan  
Jim Fleming\*  
Richard Goodman\*  
Allen Harroothunian  
Chris Robinson\*  
Adam Smith  
Tim Smyth  
Mike Webb  
Graham Williams

\* Also in Ristretto