

A woman's face is the central focus, looking directly at the camera. The background is a vertical striped pattern of yellow and black. The text is overlaid on this image.

JOJO COMPANY

THE

ATTRACTION

OF

OPPOSITES

2017



ANDREW O'CONNOR: BASS

RICHARD BLACK: TENOR

MARK DONNELLY: BARITONE

ANTONY PITTS: ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ANNA FRASER: SOPRANO

SUSANNAH LAWERGREN: SOPRANO

HANNAH FRASER: MEZZO SOPRANO

VOCALISATION IS ALL ABOUT
THE SOUND AND THE STORY.
THE SONG COMPANY OF
AUSTRALIA COMPRISES THE
CONTINENT'S LEADING VOCAL
ENSEMBLE, SINGING MUSIC OF
ALL TIMES AND PLACES.

Since the dawn of history, the human voice and the act of singing have been intrinsically linked with storytelling and the acquisition of culture. The Song Company belongs to a land whose first peoples used songlines and vocal music to pass knowledge and culture from generation to generation, and is proud to continue that tradition, in a unique way, sharing music from across western and non-western art traditions. From its beginnings in 1984 the ensemble's schedule has grown to include a mix of national and international touring, a subscription series in cities across

Australia, recording and broadcast projects, education activities, and special collaborative projects. The Song Company's repertoire covers vocal music from the 10th century to contemporary works, and is unique in its stylistic diversity. The Company remains at the forefront of contemporary vocal music through an extensive commissioning program and collaborations with artists and composers of the highest calibre from around the world. A longstanding commitment to education sees the ensemble perform regularly in schools throughout the country,

including bringing music workshops to children in regional and remote areas. From 2016 the ensemble has been led by the British composer, conductor, producer, and lecturer Antony Pitts, whose award-winning career has taken him from the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace and New College, Oxford, via the BBC, the Royal Academy of Music, and performances in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and the Berlin Philharmonie, to the forefront of the Australian music scene as Artistic Director of The Song Company.

2017 SEASON

THE ATTRACTION OF OPPOSITES

"The solid cannot be swept away as trivial and nor can trash be established as solid – it just does not happen."
(Cornelius Cardew, composer & dissident, after Confucius)

Welcome to our new season of thought-provoking music-making. With music made and moulded in Australia as well as sounds embedded in a shared global culture, we invite you to join us as we dare to reconcile the clash of cultures and worldviews in sublime and unique vocalisations – songs beyond words. At the heart of **The Attraction of Opposites** is our Subscription series of five mainstage concerts: **Accidental Plans** – a graphic reimagining of the life and death of experimental and Establishment-defying composer Cornelius Cardew; **Sticks & Stones** – a collaborative retelling of the stories of exile in the Levant and beyond; **Forward & Bach** – a reassessment of the musical effect of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation 500 years after Martin Luther's protest in 95 Theses; **Dreamers of the Day** – including a non-stop dreamstate chamber opera with four pianos on tape; and **Lully, Lulla** – a mediaeval narrative of the *Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*, source of the heartbreaking *Coventry Carol*. New pop-up programs include songs from the 1920s & 30s inspired by *The Great Gatsby* and P.G.Wodehouse's inimitable duo *Jeeves & Wooster*, and a whistlestop tour through vocal history, **The Arrow of Song**. In addition, 2017 sees major collaborations planned for Arvo Pärt's *St John Passion*, Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, and the Southern Hemisphere premiere of my oratorio-musical *Jerusalem-Yerushalayim*.

I am delighted to announce a new partnership with The Yellow House in Sydney where all the mainstage concerts in our 2017 season will receive a special Preview.

I do hope you can join me.



CONCERT ONE

ACCIDENTAL PLANS

—
THE SUNSET
NOT THE
DAWN...

IN COLLABORATION
WITH ADRIAN SELF

The extraordinary life and death of Cornelius Cardew in graphic scores and group improvisation.

Following Cardew's journey from bourgeois artistic revolutionary to post-Marxist populist, and finally his untimely demise in suspicious circumstances (having upset significant parts of the Establishment), this operetta-esque happening gives some hindsight to his turbulent times and upside-down thinking. Threads in the story created with designer and writer Adrian Self include Cardew's *Forrest Gump*-like involvement with major developments in 20th-century music, the trajectory of radical left-wing politics contemporaneous with the march of Reaganomics and the neocons, and the question: can popular music and culture can still change the world today?

Program

Includes excerpted works by Cardew:

Treatise

The Great Learning – Paragraph 7

Smash the Social Contract

Revolution is the Main Trend in the World Today

DATES:

Thurs 16 Feb 7pm
Yellow House Sydney
PREVIEW NIGHT

Fri 17 Feb 7pm
Street Theatre,
Canberra

Sat 18 Feb 3pm
Wollongong Art
Gallery

Mon 20 Feb 7.30pm
Deakin Edge,
Melbourne

Thurs 23 Feb 7pm
Newcastle
Conservatorium

Sat 25 Feb 7.30pm
Independent Theatre,
North Sydney

Fri 3 Mar 7pm
Richmond School
of Arts

CONCERT TWO

STICKS & STONES

—
ON THE ROAD
TO JERICHO...

WITH GUEST ARTIST
ODAY AL KHATIB

Voices of exile – music of refugees, migrants, and Displaced Persons.

Linked with the Road to Jericho project in the UK and the Middle East, and the work of Oday Al Khatib's ensemble Dal'Ouna, these culturally discordant but sonically delightful musical forces present audiences with both Western and non-Western repertoire in a program of an intimate and accessible nature, including evocative tunes from Ramallah.

Program

Arrangements by Ramzi Aburedwan

Passiontide polyphony including

Thomas Tallis *The Lamentations of Jeremiah*

DATES:

Fri 17 Mar 7pm
Yellow House Sydney
PREVIEW NIGHT

Sat 18 Mar 3pm
Blackheath Uniting
Church

Tues 21 Mar 7.30pm
The Crypt, St Mary's
Cathedral, Sydney

Thurs 23 Mar 2pm
Berry Uniting
Church Hall

Fri 24 Mar 7pm
Wesley Uniting
Church, Canberra

Sat 25 Mar 3pm
Wollongong Art
Gallery

Tues 28 Mar 7.30pm
Deakin Edge,
Melbourne

Thurs 30 Mar 7pm
Newcastle
Conservatorium

CONCERT THREE

FORWARD & BACH

—
MARTIN
LUTHER'S
LEGACY...

WITH GUEST ARTISTS
DANIEL YEADON (CELLO)
NEAL PERES DA COSTA (ORGAN)
TOBIAS COLE (COUNTERTENOR)
RICHARD BUTLER (TENOR)

From Bach to Batt-Rawden – new and old settings of *Ein feste Burg* and other well-known melodies.

Martin Luther's tunes have been the bedrock of the Northern European Protestant experience and the musical lifeblood of composers from before the great J.S.Bach to the present day. Continuing the Company's partnership with Daniel Yeadon and Neal Peres Da Costa, this program features three more Bach motets (whose texts also include Martin Luther's translation of the Psalms), interspersed with five new Australian settings of Luther's tunes, and recent completions of *The Orgelbüchlein Project* – celebrating 500 years of the Reformation chorale since that fateful Eve of All Saints, 31 October 1517.

Program includes

J.S.Bach:

Komm, Jesu, komm BWV229

Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden BWV230

Jesu, meine Freude BWV227

DATES:

Sat 10 June 3pm
Yellow House Sydney
PREVIEW

Sat 17 June 7.30pm
Independent Theatre,
North Sydney

Tues 13 June 7.30pm
Deakin Edge,
Melbourne

Thurs 22 June 7.30pm
St James' Church,
Sydney

Thurs 15 June 7pm
Newcastle Cathedral

Fri 23 June 7pm
Wesley Uniting
Church, Canberra

CONCERT FOUR

DREAMERS OF THE DAY

LIVING THE
DREAM...

A fantastical musical adventure exploring an *Inception*-like series of nested dreams.

From ambiguous start to surprising finish, this program sets out to fragment and distort the listener's experience of slowly waking from sleep, with the focus on changing perceptions of time – at times pulsing and pacy, at others hazy and elusive – with new arrangements of some iconic pieces of Classical music, culminating in a part-minimalist, part-improvisatory soundtrack of four pianos plus electronic and real percussion, a talking clock, and a twilight heroine on a kaleidoscopic ride through states of semi-consciousness, where the stretching of the harmonic rhythm of the final Contrapunctus from J.S.Bach's *Art of Fugue* portrays the fluidity of psychological time against the primordial relentlessness of the clock and Time itself.

Program includes

Steve Reich *Clapping Music*

Stravinsky *Otche Nash'*

Handel (arr.) *Zadok the Priest*

J.S. Bach arr. W.Swingle *Sleepers, awake!*

J.S. Bach *The Art of Fugue / Contrapunctus XIX*

Antony Pitts *Anna's Rapid Eye Movement*

DATES:

Thurs 24 Aug 7pm

Yellow House Sydney
PREVIEW NIGHT
& 2018 SEASON
LAUNCH

Fri 25 Aug 7pm

Richmond School of Arts

Tues 29 Aug 2pm

Berry Uniting Church

Thurs 31 Aug 7pm

Newcastle
Conservatorium

Sat 2 Sept 7.30pm

Independent Theatre,
North Sydney

Mon 4 Sept 7.30pm

Utzon Room,
Sydney Opera House

Fri 8 Sept 7pm

Street Theatre,
Canberra

Sat 9 Sept 3pm

Wollongong Art Gallery

CONCERT FIVE

LULLY LULLA

ROCKING THE
CRADLE OF
HISTORY...***The Pageant Of The Shearmen And Tailors***
...it's beginning to sound a lot like Christmas.

A program set within the narrative framework of mediaeval English verse, with seasonal music old and new that touches both on the joy of a young mother giving birth to the King of the Ages, and on the hard-hitting realities of exile, refugee status, and the 'slaughter of the innocents'. The 'Coventry Carol' *Lully, lulla* is one of three songs (transcribed, arranged, or composed by Thomas Mawdycke in 1591) from the Shearmen and Tailors' Pageant and is justly famous for its chillingly evocative tale of Herod's rage. Woven into The Song Company's telling of the story are new Australian and English carols, as well as a *Gloria in excelsis* from the first part of the 15th century with upbeat syncopations and happy harmonies that could have been written yesterday.

Program includes

Australian folksong coll. Sally Sloane (arr.)
Christ was born in Bethlehem
Anonymous (15th century) *Alleluya – a nywe werke*
Basque carol (arr.) *The Angel Gabriel*
William Byrd (arr.) *A Carowle for Christmas Day*
(*An Earthly Tree A Heavenly Fruit*)
William Byrd *This day Christ was born*

DATES:

Fri 24 Nov 7pm
Yellow House Sydney
PREVIEW NIGHT

Sat 25 Nov 3pm
Blackheath Uniting
Church

Tues 28 Nov 7.30pm
Hobart Town Hall

Wed 29 Nov 7.30pm
Deakin Edge,
Melbourne

Thurs 30 Nov 7pm
Newcastle
Conservatorium

Sat 2 Dec 7.30pm
St James' Church,
Sydney

Tues 5 Dec 2pm
Berry Uniting Church
Hall

Thurs 7 Dec 7.30pm
The Cathedral of
St Stephen, Brisbane

Sat 9 Dec 7pm
Wesley Uniting Church,
Canberra

Sun 10 Dec 3pm
Wollongong Art Gallery



POP-UP CONCEPT A

JEEVES & WOOSTER VS THE GREAT GATSBY

POP-UP CONCERT B

THE ARROW OF SONG

“The exhilarating ripple of her voice was a wild tonic in the rain.”

An imagined episode from roaring New York inspired by P.G.Wodehouse’s inimitable duo Jeeves & Wooster – in disgraced exile from London – and F. Scott Fitzgerald’s Great Gatsby, demonstrating the fragile power of new money in the American Dream, with a selection from songs & readings from the 1920s & 30s (as featured in both film and TV series).

Sample Program

- Let’s Misbehave*
- Minnie the Moocher*
- Aint Misbehaving*
- Forty-Seven Ginger-Headed Sailors*
- The Daily Grind*
- A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*

A chronological program capturing the fascinating history of unaccompanied vocal music in a unique and entertaining timeline – from early chant to contemporary a cappella.

Sample Program

- Plainchant*
- Anonymous*
- Hildegard of Bingen*
- Magister Pérotin*
- Alfonso X el Sabio*
- Guillaume Dufay*
- Thomas Tallis*
- Claudio Monteverdi*
- J.S.Bach*
- Johannes Brahms*
- Gospel*
- John Cage*
- Manhattan Transfer*
- Waltzing Matilda*

SPECIAL PROJECTS

AN ORATORIO FOR OUR TIMES: JERUSALEM-YERUSHALAYIM

A cross between Handel’s *Messiah*, Bernstein’s *Chichester Psalms*, and 80s rock anthems: this is an oratorio-musical that tells, simply but powerfully, the Old Testament story of Jerusalem – to audiences familiar with both great classical oratorios and popular musicals, and regardless of denomination or religious background, cultural perspective or political viewpoint. The libretto is in modern English but uses the ancient Hebrew names for familiar Biblical characters and places in the Middle East, such as Avraham for Abraham. The story of the city is told through twelve windows or snapshots in which Jerusalem is either the subject or the background; mirroring the four quarters of Jerusalem’s Old City in four sections of three movements each. The music – by The Song Company’s Artistic Director, Antony Pitts – is both new and upbeat, and has strong historical echoes including familiar Western musical references such as Tallis’s *Lamentations*, Purcell’s *My Beloved Spake*, Handel’s *Zadok the Priest*, and Parry’s *I was glad* – as well as various resonances from far outside the classical canon.

MAY 2017 #JerusalemOratorio

ARVO PÄRT: PASSIO

A mesmeric modern masterpiece made justly famous in the Hilliard Ensemble’s premiere recording and the award-winning #1 album by TONUS PEREGRINUS.

In collaboration with St Mary’s Cathedral Choir Sydney.

MARCH 2017 #ArvoPart

MONTEVERDI: VESPERS

To celebrate Monteverdi’s 450th anniversary, a glorious polychoral performance of the 1610 Vespers setting which Monteverdi published in the same volume as the *Missa In illo tempore* featured in the critically-acclaimed *In Tempore Paschali*.

In collaboration with St Mary’s Cathedral Choir Sydney and Orchestra of the Antipodes.

SEPTEMBER 2017 #Monteverdi450

BOOKING INFORMATION

How to Book

Visit song.company/subscribe to select the concerts you wish to add to your subscription package. To request a booking form please email mail@song.company or phone 02 8272 9500.

Subscribe & Save

Subscribe and Save

By purchasing a subscription, you directly contribute to the work of The Song Company all year round and receive a range of benefits for your support:

- Secure your seats for the 2017 season at a reduced rate

- Be the first to purchase tickets to Pop-up and special projects
- Rewards for referring friends to The Song Company
- Invitations to subscriber-only events and open rehearsals
- Offers and discounts from other arts organisations
- Renewing subscribers each year receive an extra 10% discount.

To take advantage of these offers, purchase your subscription prior to 31 October 2016.

Subscription prices (listed per concert)

Capital City Locations

Full \$60 / Concession \$55

All other Locations

Full \$55 / Concession \$50

Single tickets

Single tickets for mainstage concerts will be available after 1 November 2016.

To purchase single tickets visit song.company/buy or phone 02 8272 9500.

Single ticket mainstage prices

Capital City Locations

Full \$65 / Concession \$60 / Under 30 \$40

All other Locations

Full \$60 / Concession \$55 / Under 30 \$30

Single tickets to **Dreamers of the Day** in the Utzon Room will be for sale through the Sydney Opera House: sydneyoperahouse.com or phone (02) 9250 7777.

Pop-up performances

Sign up to our exclusive subscriber mailing-list to hear about dates and venues first!

Special Projects

Subscribers will receive priority access to premium seating at these events.

Use your voice!

Help us spread the word about the unique and unmatched work of The Song Company – visit song.company/share

- Request a *free* souvenir edition of our brochure to be sent to someone you know who will love what we do.
- Turn your friends into first-time subscribers and you'll both receive an additional discount on your 2018 renewal.
- Like us on Facebook and share our posts with your friends: facebook.com/songcompany

Use your voice!

To book tickets to our 2017 subscription series visit:

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Partner with us

Partner with us

Being a philanthropic partner connects you in a meaningful way to The Song Company by supporting an area of particular interest to you. Philanthropic partners play a vital role in sustaining and developing The Song Company and nurturing the creativity of our

artists and collaborators. For more information on how you can designate your support to one of the following areas: General Partners, Commissioning Partners, Artist Support Partners, Regional Program Partners, Special Project Partners, and how to join the Artistic Director's Table; and to discover how your support assists in that area, visit song.company/partner

The Song Company is an endorsed charitable institution, Deductible Gift Recipient. Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax-deductible.

Acknowledgements

The Song Company would like to thank all our generous sponsors and donors for their ongoing support and gratefully acknowledge the vital role each plays in continued development.

The Song Company receives part of its annual funding from Government sources, with the balance made up from performance income, individual donations and sponsorship. Corporate and private support is critical to our ongoing artistic growth.

Please consider making a gift to support the work of The Song Company. Alternatively to discuss how The Song Company may be an opportunity for your company to reach a compatible audience, contact our office on (02) 8272 9500.

Patron His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales, and Mrs Linda Hurley

Government Funding Partners

The Song Company Pty Ltd is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and the NSW Government through Arts NSW.



Enquiries

For any enquiries please call **The Song Company (02) 8272 9500** or visit www.song.company

This brochure is correct at time of printing September 2016. Artists and programmes are subject to change without notice.

FOLLOW US ON



2017 SEASON

- AT A GLANCE -

FEB-MARCH

CONCERT ONE: ACCIDENTAL PLANS

Thurs 16 Feb 7pm
Yellow House Sydney
PREVIEW NIGHT

Fri 17 Feb 7pm
Street Theatre, Canberra

Sat 18 Feb 3pm
Wollongong Art Gallery

Mon 20 Feb 7.30pm
Deakin Edge, Melbourne

Thurs 23 Feb 7pm
Newcastle Conservatorium

Sat 25 Feb 7.30pm
Independent Theatre,
North Sydney

Fri 3 Mar 7pm
Richmond School of Arts

MARCH

CONCERT TWO: STICKS & STONES

Fri 17 March 7pm
Yellow House Sydney
PREVIEW NIGHT

Sat 18 March 3pm
Blackheath Uniting Church

Tues 21 March 7.30pm
The Crypt, St Mary's
Cathedral, Sydney

Thurs 23 March 2pm
Berry Uniting Church Hall

Fri 24 March 7pm
Wesley Uniting Church,
Canberra

Sat 25 March 3pm
Wollongong Art Gallery

Tues 28 March 7.30pm
Deakin Edge, Melbourne

Thurs 30 March 7pm
Newcastle Conservatorium

JUNE

CONCERT THREE: FORWARD & BACH

Sat 10 June 3pm
Yellow House Sydney
PREVIEW

Tues 13 June 7.30pm
Deakin Edge, Melbourne

Thurs 15 June 7pm
Newcastle Cathedral

Sat 17 June 7.30pm
Independent Theatre,
North Sydney

Thurs 22 June 7.30pm
St James' Church, Sydney

Fri 23 June 7pm
Wesley Uniting Church,
Canberra

AUG-SEPT

CONCERT FOUR: DREAMERS OF THE DAY

Thurs 24 Aug 7pm
Yellow House Sydney
PREVIEW NIGHT & 2018
SEASON LAUNCH

Fri 25 Aug 7pm
Richmond School of Arts

Tues 29 Aug 2pm
Berry Uniting Church

Thurs 31 Aug 7pm
Newcastle Conservatorium

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Independent Theatre,
North Sydney

Mon 4 Sept 7.30pm
Utzon Room,
Sydney Opera House

Fri 8 Sept 7pm
Street Theatre, Canberra

Sat 9 Sept 3pm
Wollongong Art Gallery

NOV-DEC

CONCERT FIVE: LULLY LULLA

Fri 24 Nov 7pm
Yellow House Sydney
PREVIEW NIGHT

Sat 25 Nov 3pm
Blackheath Uniting Church

Tues 28 Nov 7.30pm
Hobart Town Hall

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Brisbane

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Canberra

Sun 10 Dec 3pm
Wollongong Art Gallery

ARVO PÄRT: PASSIO

March 2017

AN ORATORIO FOR OUR TIMES: JERUSALEM-YERUSHALAYIM

May 2017

MONTEVERDI: VESPERS

September 2017

SPECIAL PROJECTS