

ASTRA CONCERTS 2011
Astra celebrates its sixtieth year
Across six concerts
And with many sixnesses!

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: JOHN McCAUGHEY

ASTRA

voices & instruments

ASTRA CONCERTS
THE ASTRA CHOIR
ASTRA PUBLICATIONS

ASTRA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY
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SINGLE TICKET PRICES: FULL \$30, CONC. \$15.
CONCESSION INCLUDES STUDENTS, LOW INCOME
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SUBSCRIPTION (20% DISCOUNT).
6 CONCERT PACKAGE: FULL \$140, CONC. \$70,
3 CONCERT PACKAGE: FULL \$70, CONC. \$35.

SUBSCRIPTION TICKETS ARE TRANSFERABLE.

PROGRAM DETAILS ARE CORRECT
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SALZER
FOUNDATION**

1 | 5pm Saturday 16 &
5pm Sunday 17 April
ELM STREET HALL
4 Elm Street, North Melbourne

FRANZ LISZT 200 – voices and multiple keyboards

Franz Liszt, VIA CRUCIS - 14 Stations of the Cross (1878)
piano, organ, harmonium and voices

with

Liszt, BEATITUDES (1859)

solo bass and choir

David Howell, APOCALYPSE (2006)

six solo voices and choir

first performance

Peter de Jager, NEW WORK (2011)

for piano, organ, harpsichord and celeste

first performance

Jerzy Kozłowski, bass

Kim Bastin, Peter Dumsday, Joy Lee and Sonya Lifschitz,

keyboards

The Astra Choir and soloists, conducted by **John McCaughey**

From the heart of the 19th century, Franz Liszt invented the most public and the most private forms of musical art for the twentieth – the international concert star who also used music as a vehicle of experiment and meditation. His 200th anniversary is the occasion for one of his most radical pieces, VIA CRUCIS – not performed or published until the 1920s. The fourteen Stations of the Cross are sketched in brief graphic images for keyboards and interpolated voices.

In the refurbished surroundings of Astra's former home at Elm Street Hall, Liszt's progressive music is heard alongside two new works from younger Melbourne composers – 6 solo voices in David Howell's *Apocalypse*, and multiple keyboards early and modern from Peter de Jager.

2 | 6pm Saturday 28 May &
6pm Sunday 29 May
ELEVENTH HOUR THEATRE
170 Leicester Street, Fitzroy

PIANO ALONE – a recital from six decades

Lawrence Whiffin, PIANO SONATA No.3 (2010)

first performance

with

Australian piano works from the six decades of Astra's history

Keith Humble, Helen Gifford, Warren Burt,

Mark Pollard, Marguerite Boland, Tom Henry

Michael Kieran Harvey, piano

The premiere of a large new work in the Australian piano repertoire is set against a spectrum of Australian piano music over the six decades of Astra's life – changing styles and times across a contemporary tradition whose recent decades have been stamped with the brilliance of pianist Michael Kieran Harvey.

3 | 5pm Sunday 12 June
CARMELITE CHURCH
cnr Richardson & Wright Streets, Middle Park

DOLOROSA / GAUDIOSA – choir, recorder, organ, electronics

Dan Dediú, STABAT MATER (1995)

ten madrigals for choir a cappella, after Gesualdo and Verdi

first complete performance

Carl Vine, THEY SHALL LAUGH AND SING (2008)

choir and organ

with

Steve Stelios Adam, ET DØGN - ONE DAY (2006)

solo recorders and computer

Anthony Briggs, SANCTUS (2006)

choir a cappella

Steve Stelios Adam and Michael Hewes, NEW WORKS (2011)

recorders, voices and electro-acoustic sound

first performance

Gesualdo, Verdi, Gombert, Stravinsky & Rautavaara

Marian motets

Genevieve Lacey, recorders

The Astra Choir and soloists conducted by **John McCaughey**

In one of Melbourne's most remarkable acoustic spaces, this concert brings together choral and solo voices with renowned recorder player Genevieve Lacey and two of Australia's leading electro-acoustic practitioners Steve Stelios Adam and Michael Hewes. The program expands outward from new Australian works to the world premiere of a striking large-scale work from the 1990s by Romania's leading composer Dan Dediú.

4 | 2pm Saturday 24 September
IWAKI AUDITORIUM
ABC Southbank

ANDREW BYRNE IN PROFILE – performance / broadcast for choir, percussion ensemble & solo piano

Andrew Byrne, WHISPERS AND CRIES (2008)
soloists, choir, percussion ensemble and keyboards

with
NEW WORKS (2011) for percussion ensemble and solo piano
first performance

Speak Percussion – Artistic director: **Eugene Ughetti**
Michael Kieran Harvey, *piano*

The Astra Choir and soloists conducted by **John McCaughey**

New works by New York-based Australian composer
Andrew Byrne are the focus of this concert / live
broadcast / recording project in collaboration with
ABC Classic FM.

5 | 6pm & 8pm Saturday 29 October
& 6pm Sunday 30 October
ELEVENTH HOUR THEATRE
170 Leicester Street, Fitzroy

DISRUPTIONS AND RELIEFS – six art-forms in 60 minutes

**music – dance – poetry – theatre – painting –
semaphorics**

The Astra Choir with many guests conducted by
John McCaughey

Art-forms can never be combined, but six of them
are thrown into reliefs, disruptions and neighbourly
relationships in 60 non-contingent minutes.

6 | 6pm Sunday 4 December
NORTHCOTE TOWN HALL
cnr High Street & Westbourne Grove, Northcote

60s CYCLES – voices from the seventh decade of life

Josquin des Prez at 60
JS Bach at 60
Johannes Brahms at 64
Arnold Schoenberg at 60
Iannis Xenakis at 63
Keith Humble at 61

with
Neil Kelly, CYCLE (2011)
choir, solo violin, celeste and percussion
commissioned for Astra's 60th year
first performance
Steve Hodgman, AT THE END OF THINGS (2011)
poem by Arthur Waite for solo bass, choir and
instruments
first performance

Miwako Abe *violin*
Jerzy Kozlowski *bass*
The Astra Choir, soloists and ensemble conducted
by **John McCaughey**

A spectrum of choral composers at age 60 and beyond
bring Astra's 60th year to an end, and provide a context
for two new choral creations.