

# The Sound of Silence: Remembrance Day Concert

Tuesday 11 November 11am, Salon

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre and  
Songmakers Australia

## ARTISTS

**Songmakers Australia**

**Merlyn Quaife** soprano

**Nicholas Dinopoulos** bass-baritone

**Andrea Katz** piano

## PROGRAM

*Please note: this concert will commence with one minute's silence.*

**Franz Liszt** (1811-1886)

*Über alle Gipfel ist Ruh*

**Gustav Mahler** (1860-1911)

*Das irdische Leben*

**Schumann** (1810-1856)

*Die beiden Grenadiere*

**Francis Poulenc** (1899-1963)

'C' from *Deux Poemes de Louis Aragon*

**Frederick Delius** (1862-1934)

*Chanson d'automne*

**Stuart Greenbaum** (1966-)

*Letters to the front*

**Ned Rorem** (1923-)

*The real war will never get in the books*

**John Lennon** (1940-1980) arr. Mark Jones

*Imagine*

**Eric Bogle** (1944-) arr. Calvin Bowman

*And the band played Waltzing Matilda*

**Paul Simon** (1941-) & **Art Garfunkel** (1941-) arr. Mark Jones

*The sound of silence*



## ABOUT THE MUSIC

'And so good-bye to the war. I know not how it may have been to others - to me the main interest is in the rank and file of the armies, both sides, and in those specimens amid the hospitals, and even the dead on the field. As so much of a race depends on how it faces death, and how it stands personal anguish and sickness. As, in the glints of emotions under emergencies, we get far profounder clues to the antique world than all its more formal history.' Walt Whitman.

As the sound of bombs and cannons resonate in parts of our world today, we reflect on the devastating and horrifying effects of war. From the Napoleonic Wars (*Die beiden Grenadiere*) through to Vietnam (*The Sound of Silence*) this collection of songs portrait not only the courage and misery of the soldiers but also the suffering of their families and loved ones back home.

Verlaine's poem, *Chanson d'automne*, was broadcast line after line as the signal for the onset of the Normandy invasion in 1944.

Melbourne composer Stuart Greenbaum writes about *Letters to the front*: Ross Baglin's text presents a series of four letters written during the First World War from a young Melbourne woman to her partner fighting the war in Europe. These reflect the life and events back home from the perspective of the woman waiting. These are framed by two 'virtual' letters from his gravesite in Fromelles, France in 1975, providing a more existential reflection gained six decades on.

No other song represents the Gallipoli landing more poignantly than Eric Bogle's *And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda*. We are privileged to have worked with Calvin Bowman and Mark Jones on the arrangements of this song and the iconic Simon and Garfunkel ballad *The Sound of Silence*.

Through the healing power of song we honour the sacrifice of millions of men and women that have suffered throughout human history, attempting to fulfil a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Unique in the musical landscape of Australia, **Songmakers Australia** brings together some of the country's leading singers and instrumentalists in a diverse repertoire comprising some of the pinnacles of chamber music.

Under the artistic patronage of Graham Johnson, founding director of the acclaimed London-based *Songmakers Almanac*, pianist **Andrea Katz** teams with soprano **Merlyn Quaife**, mezzo-soprano **Sally-Anne Russell** and bass-baritone **Nicholas Dinopoulos** in inspired programs that feature a dynamic interplay of song and chamber music.

Since their foundation in 2011, the ensemble has presented a yearly subscription series at the Melbourne Recital Centre, as part of the series *Local Heroes*. They enjoy numerous invitations to perform at leading festivals and recital series Australia-wide (Melbourne Festival, Art Gallery of NSW, Peninsula Summer Music Festival, Art Song Canberra and the Art Gallery of Ballarat) and they are regularly heard nationally in live-to-air broadcasts.

*For more information about Songmakers Australia, please visit [songmakersaustralia.com](http://songmakersaustralia.com)*

## ABOUT LOCAL HEROES

Songmakers Australia's final *Local Heroes* concert for 2014 commemorates Remembrance Day and launches Melbourne Recital Centre's 2015 *Local Heroes* program - a year-long tribute to the inspiring individuals who were affected by WWI and whose personal stories will be shared and celebrated with each *Local Heroes* concert of 2015. Please see our friendly front of house staff at the conclusion of the concert to receive a copy of the *Local Heroes 2015* brochure.



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