



CLOSE-UP

BECOMING

Beatrice



CHLOE LANKSHEAR, soprano
FRANCIS GREEP, piano

SAT 14 MAY, 3PM
Wesley Music Centre

SUN 15 MAY, 3PM
Mosman Art Gallery

THE
SONG
CO.

The Song Company

The Song Company belongs to a land whose first peoples have always used songlines and vocal music to pass knowledge and culture from one generation to another. We acknowledge and respect those traditions and are honoured to work together with Indigenous creative artists as part of our artistic mission. As Australia's national vocal ensemble, The Song Company is an elite chamber vocal ensemble demonstrating international excellence and bringing together the country's finest voices in innovative performances, artist development, educational outreach, and collaborative music-making – unique in its stylistic diversity with repertoire spanning the 9th century to today.

Led by Artistic Director Antony Pitts, The Song Company comprises eight Principal Artists and a consort of Ensemble and Associate Artists mentored by Associate Artistic Director Francis Greep. It is at the forefront of scholarly early music performance and of contemporary vocal music through an extensive commissioning program and cross-artform collaborations with artists of the highest calibre from across Australia and around the world.

Together we are reshaping the professional vocal landscape in Australia for today and the next generation.

BOARD

Louise Guy, Acting Chair
Elizabeth Grey
Antony Pitts
Paul Stanhope

THE SONG COMPANY TEAM

Antony Pitts, Artistic Director
Francis Greep, General Manager & Associate Artistic Director
Eva Frey, Marketing & Development Manager
Sarah Elise Thompson, Production Manager
Jane Diamond, Bookkeeper

PRINCIPAL ARTISTS

Roberta Diamond, Chloe Lankshear, Amy Moore, sopranos
Stephanie Dillon, Jessica O'Donoghue, mezzo-sopranos
Dan Walker, Koen van Stade, tenors
Thomas Flint, bass

2022 ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

Janine Harris, Ethan Taylor, Hayden Barrington

2022 ENSEMBLE ARTIST

Elias Wilson

2022 SONGCO APPRENTICES

Nicola Chau, Lily Harper, Adele Kozak, Elise Morton, sopranos
Cassandra Doyle, Stephanie Macindoe, Emma Warburton, altos
Alexander Caldwell, Alexander Gorbatov, David Lee, William Varga, tenors
Lincoln Law, Brendan McRae, Jesse van Proctor, basses

2022 GUEST ARTISTS

Hannah Fraser*, Sonya Holowell, Elizabeth Sheppard, Jenny Eriksson,
Robert Macfarlane, Jack Stephens, Christopher Richardson,
Paul Capsis, Gerard Willems, Thomas E.S. Kelly, Hylton Mowday,
Neville Williams-Boney

**Emerita Artist*



The Song Company is assisted by the NSW Government through Create NSW

The Song Company acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and we pay our respect to the Elders past, present and emerging

The Song Company Pty Ltd trading as The Song Company is a non-profit organisation registered as a company of limited guarantee
ABN 27 001 577 377

Becoming Beatrix

Beatrix Potter is one of the world's most influential children's authors to date, but her life was filled with more intrigue and genius than the books could ever allude to. A gifted illustrator and taxidermist, as well as conservationist and researcher, Potter devoted her life to the preservation and admiration of all things flora and fauna. With 23 books to her name, she also contributed over 4000 acres of land to the National Trust, and forged the way for other young women who sought an independent life at the beginning of the 20th Century. Chloe Lankshear and Francis Greep explore Potter's life in their program **Becoming Beatrix**, featuring works by Sally Whitwell, George Crumb, Robert Schumann, Elliot Carter, and Ross Edwards to create this sequential narration.

Canberra | Sydney, May 2022

Chloe Lankshear, soprano

Francis Greep, piano

Recorded excerpts of *Beatrix Potter: Artist Storyteller And Countrywoman* by Judy Taylor
as read by Patricia Routledge

PROGRAM

Skylark (Christina Rossetti) Sally Whitwell
The Birds, Movement 1

Linnet (Christina Rossetti) Sally Whitwell
The Birds, Movement 3

Les Papillons (Pierre Jules Théophile Gautier) Claude Debussy
Le Rossignol des Lilas (Léopold Pauphin) Reynaldo Hahn
Er ist's (Eduard Mörike) Hugo Wolf

Seit ich ihn gesehen (Adelbert von Chamisso) Robert Schumann
Er, der Herrlichste von Allen (Adelbert von Chamisso) Robert Schumann
from *Frauenliebe und Leben*
Secret Love (Alice Peacock) Fain & Webster
from *Calamity Jane*

Nightingale (Christina Rossetti) Sally Whitwell
The Birds, Movement 2
Wind Elegy (Sara Teasdale) George Crumb
Let it be forgotten (Sara Teasdale) George Crumb

To a child (Judith Wright) Ross Edwards
from *5 Senses*

Warble for Lilac Time (Walt Whitman) Elliott Carter

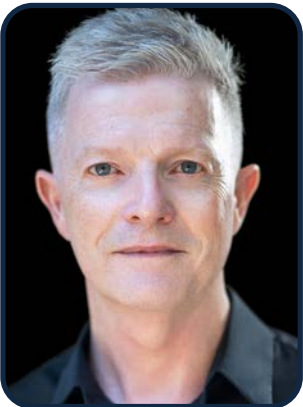
Nature the gentlest Mother (Emily Dickinson) Aaron Copland
from *12 Poems of Emily Dickinson*

Artists



CHLOE LANKSHEAR is an accomplished Sydney-based soprano who enjoys a varied career of performative mediums from operatic productions to classical contemporary recitals and commission premieres. Chloe has performed with Pinchgut Opera and State Opera South Australia, and has been a featured soloist with Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Bach Akademie Australia, and the Choir of St James', Kings Street. She is a Principal Artist in The Song Company.

In 2020 Chloe was an artist in Pinchgut Opera's Film *A Delicate Fire*, as well as their mini series of recorded madrigals, and also recorded a 'Behind Doors' concert with classical guitarist Heathcliffe Auchinachie at Phoenix Central Park Studio. In 2021 She premiered Paul Stanhope's *Requiem* at City Recital Hall, toured with Pinchgut Opera, and was a soloist with ACO in their 'Baroque Revelry' program. Coming in 2022, Chloe is a featured artist at Bendigo Chamber Festival and will make her solo debut with both Sydney and Canberra Symphony Orchestras.



FRANCIS GREEP is an innovator, leading organisation renewal in his professional environments. He is known for his collaborative, organisational and development skills and is sought out for his work as a vocal coach, recitalist, chorus master, continuo player and conductor. Francis has an international reputation for his ability to prepare singers across all classical musical styles and overseeing their continued vocal development through extensive knowledge of the repertoire, a deep understanding of vocal production, language fluency and performance psychology. His highly developed sense of empathy makes him an exceptional collaborative musician and an inspirational leader. He has performed across North and South America, Europe, New Zealand and Australia.

Partners



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Supporting our Melbourne Season



Artistic Partner
Thomas E.S. Kelly, Artistic Director

Texts & Translations

When a mounting skylark sings (Christina Rossetti)

When a mounting skylark sings
In the sunlit summer morn,
I know that heaven is up on high,
And on earth are fields of corn.
But when a nightingale sings
In the moonlit summer even,
I know not if earth is merely earth,
Only that heaven is heaven.

A Linnet in a Gilded Cage (Christina Rossetti)

A linnet in a gilded cage, -
A linnet on a bough, -
In frosty winter one might doubt
Which bird is luckier now.
But let the trees burst out in leaf,
And nests be on the bough,
Which linnet is the luckier bird,
Oh who could doubt it now?

Les papillons - Butterflies (Théophile Gautier, tr. F. Greep)

Butterflies the colour of snow
fly in swarms over the sea;
beautiful white butterflies, when might I
take the blue path of the air?

Do you know, O beauty of beauties,
my jet-eyed bayadère—
if they were to give me their wings,
say, do you know where I would go?

Without taking a single kiss from the roses,
I would traverse valleys and forests
to be at your half-closed lips,
flower of my soul, and I would die.

Le Rossignol des Lilas - The Nightingale in the Lilac (Léopold Dauphin, tr. F. Greep)

Oh first nightingale that appears
in the lilac beneath my window,
to recognise your voice is so sweet!
No song is like yours!

Faithful to the bonds of love,
Trill away, divine little being!
Oh first nightingale that appears
in the lilac beneath my window!

Night or morning, how
your hymn to love penetrates my heart!
Such ardour reawakens in me
the echo of my long-past Aprils,
Oh first nightingale that appears!

Er ist's - It's here! (Eduard Mörike, tr. F. Greep)

Spring lets its blue ribbon
Flutter through the air again;
Sweet, well-remembered scents
Roam knowingly across the land.

The violets, dreaming already
Will bloom soon.
Listen, a harp chord!
Spring, it is you, you that I've heard!

From *Frauenliebe und Leben* - A Woman's Love and Life (Adelbert von Chamisso, tr. K. Gee)

1. Ever since first seeing him
I think I must have gone blind;
Wherever I happen to look
I can only see him alone;
As if I'm daydreaming,
his image hovers in front of me,
rising up even from
the deepest darkness,
brighter and brighter still.

Everything else around me
is missing light and color,
I no longer have any desire
to play games with my sisters,
I would rather be weeping
all alone in my little room;
Ever since first seeing him,
I think I must have gone blind.

2. He, the most magnificent of them all,
how gentle and good he is!
Enchanting lips, luminous eyes,
an open mind, and strong courage!

Just like that bright and glorious star
in the deep blue heavens,
he is bright and glorious in my heaven,
illustrious, and so far above me.

Follow, follow your own path,
just to gaze upon your radiance--
just to humbly gaze upon it,
is to be both blissful and melancholy.

Don't bother to hear my quiet prayer,
dedicated solely to your happiness;
You don't need to know this irrelevant girl,
you sublime and glorious star!

Only the worthiest one of them all
should be made happy by your choice,
And I will bless that elevated one
a thousand times over.

Then I shall rejoice and weep,
blissful, I will be blissful then,
and if then my heart breaks:
Break, heart! Why does it matter?

Secret Love (Alice Peacock)

Once I had a secret love
That lived within the heart of me
All too soon my secret love
Became impatient to be free
So I told a friendly star
The way that dreamers often do
Just how wonderful you are
And why I am so in love with you
Now I shout it from the highest hills
Even told the golden daffodils
At last my heart's an open door
And my secret love's no secret anymore.

Dream Land (Christina Rossetti)

Where sunless rivers weep
 Their waves into the deep,
 She sleeps a charmed sleep:
 Awake her not.
 Led by a single star,
 She came from very far
 To seek where shadows are
 Her pleasant lot.

She left the rosy morn,
 She left the fields of corn,
 For twilight cold and lorn
 And water springs.
 Through sleep, as through a veil,
 She sees the sky look pale,
 And hears the nightingale
 That sadly sings.

Wind Elegy (Sara Teasdale)

Only the wind knows he is gone,
 Only the wind grieves,
 The sun shines, the fields are sown,
 Sparrows mate in the eaves;

But I heard the wind
 in the pines he planted
 And the hemlocks overhead,
 "His acres wake, for the year turns,
 But he is asleep," it said.

Let It Be Forgotten (Sara Teasdale)

Let it be forgotten, as a flower is forgotten,
 Forgotten as a fire that once was singing gold,
 Let it be forgotten for ever and ever,
 Time is a kind friend, he will make us old.

If anyone asks, say it was forgotten
 Long and long ago,
 As a flower, as a fire, as a hushed footfall
 In a long forgotten snow.

To a Child (Judith Wright)

When I was a child I saw
 a burning bird in a tree.
 I see became I am,
 I am became I see.

In winter dawns of frost
 the lamp swung in my hand.
 The battered moon on the slope
 lay like a dune of sand;

and in the trap at my feet
 the rabbit leapt and prayed,
 weeping blood, and crouched
 when the light shone on the blade.

The sudden sun lit up
 the webs from wire to wire;
 the white webs, the white dew,
 blazed with a holy fire.

Flame of light in the dew,
 flame of blood on the bush
 answered the whirling sun
 and the voice of the early thrush.

I think of this for you.
 I would not have you believe
 the world is empty of truth
 or that men must grieve,

but hear the song of the martyrs
 out of a bush of fire—
 'All is consumed with love;
 all is renewed with desire.'

Warble for Lilac Time (Walt Whitman)

Warble me now for joy of lilac-time, (returning in reminiscence,)
 Sort me O tongue and lips for Nature's sake, souvenirs of earliest summer,
 Gather the welcome signs, (as children with pebbles or stringing shells,)
 Put in April and May, the hylas croaking in the ponds, the elastic air,
 Bees, butterflies, the sparrow with its simple notes,
 Blue-bird and darting swallow, nor forget the high-hole flashing his golden wings,
 The tranquil sunny haze, the clinging smoke, the vapor,
 Shimmer of waters with fish in them, the cerulean above,
 All that is jocund and sparkling, the brooks running,
 The maple woods, the crisp February days and the sugar-making,
 The robin where he hops, bright-eyed, brown-breasted,
 With musical clear call at sunrise, and again at sunset,
 Or flitting among the trees of the apple-orchard, building the nest of his mate,
 The melted snow of March, the willow sending forth its yellow-green sprouts,
 For spring-time is here! the summer is here! and what is this in it and from it?
 Thou, soul, unloosen'd—the restlessness after I know not what;
 Come, let us lag here no longer, let us be up and away!
 O if one could but fly like a bird!
 O to escape, to sail forth as in a ship!
 To glide with thee O soul, o'er all, in all, as a ship o'er the waters;
 Gathering these hints, the preludes, the blue sky, the grass, the morning drops of dew,
 The lilac-scent, the bushes with dark green heart-shaped leaves,
 Wood-violets, the little delicate pale blossoms called innocence,
 Samples and sorts not for themselves alone, but for their atmosphere,
 To grace the bush I love—to sing with the birds,
 A warble for joy of lilac-time, returning in reminiscence.

Nature, the gentlest mother (Emily Dickinson)

Nature, the gentlest mother
 Impatient of no child,
 The feeblest or the waywardest,—
 Her admonition mild
 In forest and the hill by traveller is heard,
 Restraining rampant squirrel
 Or too impetuous bird.
 How fair her conversation,
 A summer afternoon,—
 Her household, her assembly;
 And when the sun goes down
 Her voice among the aisles
 Incites the timid prayer
 Of the minutest cricket,
 The most unworthy flower.
 When all the children sleep
 She turns as long away
 As will suffice to light her lamps;
 Then, bending from the sky,
 With infinite affection and infiniter care,
 Her golden finger on her lip,
 Wills silence everywhere.

Support Artist Development



DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF AUSTRALIAN VOCAL TALENT

New in 2022, The Song Company's Apprentice Program sees emerging talent from around the country being mentored by the nation's leading professional vocal ensemble in intensive workshops, rehearsals, masterclasses and performances.

Apprentices also work alongside the company's Principal Artists, who transfer their extensive performance experience that has been gained "on the job" to them. This exchange positively impacts the vocal health and skill development of the Apprentices, who take this learned experience back to their own communities and grow their community's cultural capital.

Apprentices add to The Song Company's capacity to perform large-scale works, such as Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem*; perform in the company's new Underground early music series; and help us reach a wider audience.

To start a conversation about supporting this exciting new initiative from The Song Company, contact Francis Greep
francis.greep@song.company (02) 9156 2781

Supporters

Thank you to our donors who have given so generously during the uncertain times of 2021/22. Consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us create music that will live on in your imagination forever at

[the.song.company/support-us](https://www.songcompany.com.au/support-us)

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please see our website

Coming Up

Close-Up
Jessica O'Donoghue
Antony Pitts and guests

Immerse yourself
in a world where opera,
art and medieval music
intertwine with
jazz, pop and cabaret.

24 & 25 June, Sydney

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DRY MY
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Paul Capsis
Francis Greep

Witness this extraordinary
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ARMS OF
Love

FRI 26 AUG, 7PM
Cell Block Theatre, Darlinghurst
SAT 27 AUG, 3PM
The Neilson, Pier 2/3 Walsh Bay
FRI 2 SEP, 7PM
Ainslie Arts Centre, Ainslie

SONGS FROM THE
Heart

THU 29 SEP, 7PM
Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle
FRI 7 OCT, 7PM
Cell Block Theatre, Darlinghurst
SAT 8 OCT, 3PM
Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong
SUN 9 OCT, 3PM
Cell Block Theatre, Darlinghurst



Scan code to see our full Event Calendar

Info & Tickets: the.song.company (02) 9156 2781