



This is Australia

Text and music by Michael Winikoff

This page intentionally left blank.

This is Australia

Text and Music by Michael Winikoff

Forces:

Three part choir (S, A, Men)

Short female solo

Tambourine (optional)

Performance Notes

When I began working on my entry to the ROCS composition competition I struggled to find suitable text. Eventually I thought “Hang on, this is supposed to be an *Australian* composition, so why not write *about* Australia?”

From then, the text, and subsequently music, took shape fairly easily and quickly.

The piece is written for three parts for two reasons. Firstly, to create a light and stark texture, reflecting both the text and the Australian landscape. Secondly, to make the piece easier to perform with a small choir. Note that all men should sing the line marked “Men” (or “B”). Specifically, the alto line should only be sung by female altos (so that the tone blends well with the soprano line).

Tempo markings are approximate, with the precise tempi being left to the conductor’s discretion (based on the choir, acoustics, etc.)

The very first note of the piece (the high F) is optional for the men - if it’s too high to sing comfortably, leave it out and come in on the second note, please do not sing the F an octave down!

The section with the solo (bars 37-45) could alternatively be performed with the four parts sung by S1, S2, A and men; or even, as a last resort, SATB.

The tambourine can be omitted if one is not available, but obviously it would be preferable to obtain one! The tambourine player can (and should!) be taken from within the choir, probably one of the men.

The last section of the piece, from bar 78 onwards, should be one long slow build up, leading to the end of the piece. Note that in bars 81 and 87 there is no break between “is” and “Australia”.

In a few places the words are written in a non-standard way (e.g. “do-tted” instead of “dot-ted”, or “bu-stling” instead of “bust-ling”) in order to more clearly reflect the placement of consonants.

I hope that this piece manages to capture a little of that that is modern Australia, and that you enjoy performing and hearing it.

Michael Winikoff
Melbourne, Australia
May 2007

This is Australia

Dedicated to Leanne, for everything!

May 2007
duration approx. 5 minutes

Michael Winikoff
(text and music)

Soprano
This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!
f *rit.* *p* $\bullet = 65$

Alto
This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!
f *p*

Men
This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!
f *p* mm

8
S
A stark bare land - scapes do - tted with shrubs and gum-trees straight roads that seem to
B

14
S
A stark bare land - scapes do - tted with shrubs and gum-trees straight roads
B ne - ver, ne - ver end stark bare land - scapes do - tted with

21
S that seem to ne - ver, ne - ver end roads
A shrubs and gum-trees straight roads that seem to ne - ver, ne - ver end
B

27
S *mf* (twice as fast)
lea - ding to bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties
A to mm bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties
B to mm mm

32
S bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties
A bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties
B *mf* bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

37

Solo
 bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties, with

SA
 bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

B
 bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

40

Solo
 ma - ni - cured lawns de - spite the drought bu - sy bu - stling

SA
 bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

B
 bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

43

Solo
 ci - ties, with men in suits and ties bu - sy

SA
 bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

B
 bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

46

Sopranos
 bu-sy bu - stling ci-ties bu-sy bu - stling ci-ties bu-sy bu - stling ci-ties bu-sy bu - stling ci-ties

Altos
 bu-sy bu - stling ci-ties bu-sy bu - stling ci-ties bu-sy bu - stling ci-ties bu-sy bu - stling ci-ties

B
 bu-sy bu - stling ci-ties bu-sy bu - stling ci-ties bu-sy bu - stling ci-ties bu-sy bu - stling ci-ties

51 $\text{♩} = 70$ *f* *rit.*

S
 This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

A
 This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

B
 This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

57 $\text{♩} = 65$

S
 - - - - -

A
 nur - sery rhymes, from Eng - land food from Greece, from Greece

B
 - - - - -

Tambourine
 mm

60

S and I - ta - lian ca - fes and I - ta - lian ca - fes

A nur - sery rhymes, from Eng - land food from Greece, from Greece

B

Tm.

62

S wo - men wea - ring

A nur - sery rhymes, from Eng - land food from Greece, from Greece

B

Tm.

64

S head-scarves, and men with skull caps, and men with skull caps

A nur - sery rhymes, from Eng-land food from Greece, from Greece nur - sery rhymes, from Eng-land

B

Tm.

67

S wo - men wea - ring head - scarves, and men with

A food from Greece, from Greece from Greece, from Greece

B

Tm.

69

S skull caps. This is Au -

A food from Greece, from Greece from Greece. This is Au -

B This is Au -

Tm.

p = 70

72 *rit.*

S
stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

A
stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

B
stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

77 *p* = 55 *poco a poco cresc.*

S
ah

A
ah

B
mp
vi-vid blue sky scor-ching sum-mer sun this is Au-stra - lia this is Au-stra - lia

82 *poco a poco cresc.*

S

A
mf
vi-vid blue sky scor-ching sum-mer sun

B
mf
young, bold, and new young, bold, and new vi-vid blue sky scor-ching sum-mer sun

86 *ff rit.*

S

A
ff
this is Au-stra - lia this is Au-stra - lia young, bold, and new young, bold, and new

B
ff
this is Au-stra - lia this is Au-stra - lia young, bold, and new young, bold, and new