

# Sonic Sites

Ensemble Offspring

BUNDANON

PROGRAM



Ensemble Offspring are assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body and the NSW Government through Create NSW. We would also like to thank the Bundanon Trust for their support.

We work and play on Gadigal land.

[ensembleoffspring.com](http://ensembleoffspring.com)

# PROGRAM

**Brenda Gifford** – *Djingiyaa Dew* (choir, ensemble) (2021) **WP**

**Amanda Cole** – *Flowers, Birds* (choir, SYO) (2020) **WP**

**Bree van Reyk** – *dream, amazing, peaceful dream* (choir, ensemble, video) (2020) **WP**

**Nardi Simpson** – *Of Stars and Birds* (flute, clarinet & vibraphone) (2020)

**Tristan Coelho** – *The Waterfall Speaks to Us* (choir, SYO, ensemble) (2020) **WP**

**Damian Barbeler** – *Calling Up the Trees* (SYO, ensemble, video) (2020) **WP**



**Claire Edwardes** (percussion)

**Lamorna Nightingale** (flutes)

**Jason Noble** (clarinets)

**Alice Chance** (conductor)

**Samuel James** (visuals)

**Jacob Morris** (language custodian)

**Shoalhaven Youth Orchestra**

**Nowra East Primary School Choir**

**Katandra Choir**

# PROGRAM NOTES

**Brenda Gifford** – *Djingiyaa Dew* (choir, ensemble) (2021) **WP**

Text: **Dhurga Language**

Sourced in consultation with Uncle Jacob

Djingiyaa gabun bana

**Amanda Cole** – *Flowers, Birds* (choir, ensemble) (2021) **WP**

Text: **Flowers, Birds**

By Nicole (Y6, North Nowra Public School, 2018)

green, peaceful, beautiful

the grass and leaves are so green and the sound is beautiful and peaceful  
the budjanlali yanggum is as peaceful as meditation music.

gambalali run away from danger

~

green, peaceful, beautiful

the grass and leaves are so green and the sound is beautiful and peaceful  
the birds singing is as peaceful as meditation music.

flowers run away from danger

**Bree van Reyk** – *dream, amazing, peaceful dream* (choir, ensemble, video)  
(2020) **WP**

**Text 1: Dream, Amazing, Peaceful**

By Lilly (Y3, North Nowra Public School, 2018)

dream, amazing, peaceful

peaceful is a quiet moment with colours like a galaxy

dream is where your body shuts down and relaxes like you are floating

amazing is where you see something like lights and it is amazing

The garaban grow white patches like naandtha grow hair

~

dream, amazing, peaceful

peaceful is a quiet moment with colours like a galaxy

dream is where your body shuts down and relaxes like you are floating

amazing is where you see something like lights and it is amazing

the rocks grow white patches like I grow hair

**Text 2: Bundanon Trip**

By Tahlia (Y3, North Nowra Public School, 2018)

peaceful, colourful, relaxing

beautiful like my mina

the bawa makes you feel happy

the mossy garaban are a map, they show us where to go

~

peaceful, colourful, relaxing

beautiful like my mother

the bush makes you feel happy

the mossy rocks are a map, they show us where to go

**Nardi Simpson** – *Of Stars and Birds* (flute, clarinet & vibraphone) (2020)

Program note by the composer:

*Of Stars and Birds* was written after an invitation to contribute to Ensemble Offspring's birdsong collection. As a new composer in the earliest development stages of my craft, I worried how my work would stand alongside the pieces of experienced, accomplished composers who had already contributed to this series. As an Aboriginal musician with limited music theory, I also worried if I could create something of a standard suitable for the ensemble and its project partners. In times like this I look to culture to provide guidance. I quickly realised Yuwaalaraay knowledge, connection and relationship to birds equalled the complexity and detail of advanced musical theory, compositional practice and creative conception. So I worked hard to imbue this piece with the things I know well, cultural concepts and knowledge, enabling a transformation away from a commissioned composition and into an extension of my own lived and practiced cultural experience.

*Of Stars and Birds* developed then from a significant Yuwaalaraay story ending in the creation of the southern cross but traversing the enormity of land, lore, death and rebirth. Birds weave this story into our dreaming cosmos, the conventional limitations of earth, sky, death, day, life and night dissolving and creating its own universe of existence- a bit like my compositional craft, a mixture of traditions and teachings, an extension of the storytelling and songmaking of Australia's First People's and the explorations and expressions of a new composer at the beginning of an exciting musical journey.



**Tristan Coelho** – *The Waterfall Speaks to Us* (choir, SYO, ensemble) (2020)  
**WP**

**Text 1: My Calm Journey**

By Tayha (Y6, North Nowra Public School, 2018)

peaceful, green, grateful

it's so peaceful and quiet you can only hear the animals  
the breeze does not roar  
it's calm.  
you feel so grateful to be there  
it's so green there's so much life.

the bunya is so spikey just like a pineapple, they are like armour  
for their bunbal when the bunbal starts to shake, fall down to attack,  
the budjan yangum ngubudli lullabies,  
nyulaan yangum sorrows to their lost ones and  
gum to each other

~

peaceful, green, grateful

it's so peaceful and quiet you can only hear the animals  
the breeze does not roar  
it's calm.  
you feel so grateful to be there  
it's so green there's so much life.

the fruit is so spikey just like a pineapple, they are like armour  
for their tree when the tree starts to shake, fall down to attack,  
the birds sing loving lullabies,  
they sing sorrows to their lost ones and  
talk to each other

## Text 2: **Bush**

By Nate (Y5, North Nowra Public School, 2018)

beautiful, calming, colourful

there was bawa surrounding yindi and the calming  
gurgama blowing the leaves around  
the garaban were hard like concrete and cold  
as snow, the budjanlali were like mediation music  
the waterfall gum to nyulaan

~

beautiful, calming, colourful

there was bush surrounding you and the calming  
wind blowing the leaves around  
the rocks were hard like concrete and cold  
as snow, the birds were like mediation music  
the waterfall speaks to us

**Damian Barbeler**– *Calling Up the Trees* (SYO, ensemble, video) (2020) **WP**

Program note by the composer:

This work was originally commissioned for an outdoor event at night amongst trees. The idea then was to "call up" the ghosts of trees that had been cut down in the past. If this were actually possible it would be a terrifying thing to see. And so the work is extremely loud, aggressive and at times tortured in its character. In this semi-theatrical context the Trio of flute, contrabass clarinet and vibraphone are the summoners. The orchestra who are scattered around spacially in the bush or across an empty paddock are the sounds of the wakening voices of the dead trees.