



# This is Australia

Text and music by Michael Winikoff

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# **This is Australia**

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## **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 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**  $\text{♩} = 70$  *f* *rit.*  $\text{♩} = 65 \text{ p}$

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

**Alto**  $\text{♩} = 70$  *f*  $\text{♩} = 65 \text{ p}$

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

**Men**  $\text{♩} = 70$  *f*  $\text{♩} = 65 \text{ p}$

This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia! mm

8

**S** —

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

**B**

14

**S** stark bare land - scapes do - tted with shrubs and gum-trees straight roads

**A** ne - ver, ne - ver end — stark bare land - scapes do - tted with

**B**

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** lea - ding to bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties *mf*

**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 *mf*

**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

**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

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      *f*

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

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

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

57      *f* = 65

S      —

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

B      mm

Tambourine

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  
Tm.

$\text{♩} = 70 \ p$

72

S stra - lia Au - stra - lia! *rit.*

A stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

B stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

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

S ah

A ah

B 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 vi-vid blue sky scor-ching sum-mer sun

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

86 *ff rit.*

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

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