



# This is Australia

Text and music by Michael Winikoff

## 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 was originally written for three parts in order to create a light and stark texture, reflecting text and the Australian landscape, but also to make the piece easier to perform with a small choir.

In revising the piece for a larger choir I’ve re-voiced it for SATB, and eliminated the tambourine (which would struggle to be heard above a larger choir), giving its part to the bass section.

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

The section with the solo/semi (bars 37-45) should be done with soloist(s) drawn from within the choir. It could alternatively be performed with the semi-chorus simply being the first sopranos, with second sopranos taking the choir soprano part.

At the conductor’s discretion, a percussion instrument may be given the rhythm in bars 57-70. In this case the basses should simply double the tenor part.

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  
September 2007

Scoring:  
SATB choir  
Short female solo or semi-chorus

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May 2007, revised September 2007  
duration approx. 5 minutes

*Dedicated to Leanne, for everything!*

Michael Winikoff  
(text and music)

1 *f* *rit.*

Soprano: This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

Alto: This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

Tenor: *f* This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

Bass: This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

7 *p*

S: -

A: *p* stark bare land - scapes do - tted with shrubs and gum-trees straight roads

T: *p* mm

B: *p* mm

13

S: - stark bare land - scapes do - tted with

A: stark bare

T: mm

B: mm

19

S: shrubs and gum-trees straight roads that seem to ne - ver, ne - ver end

A: stark bare

T: mm

B: mm

24

S: roads lea - ding to bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties  
 A: ne - ver, ne - ver end to mm  
 T: to mm  
 B: to mm

*mf*  
 $\text{J} = \text{J} \text{ (twice as fast)}$

29

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  
 T: mm bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties  
 B:

33

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  
 T: 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

*mf*

37

Solo/Semi: 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  
 TB: bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

40

Solo/Semi: 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  
 TB: bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties





73

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

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

T stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia! ah

B Au - stra - lia!

rit. *p* = 55

78 *poco a poco cresc.*

S

A

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

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

*mp*

82 *poco a poco cresc.*

S

A

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

B young, bold, and new young, bold, and new ah

*mf*

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

86 *ff rit.*

S

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

T

B this is Au-stra - lia this is Au - stra - lia ah

*ff*

young, bold, and new young, bold, and new

*ff*