

Visual Story

The Consort of Melbourne Relaxed Performance

Access resources developed in partnership with Scope Australia

**MELBOURNE
RECITAL CENTRE**

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1. The Venue



This event will be held at Melbourne Recital Centre. It is the building on the corner of Sturt Street and Southbank Boulevard in Southbank. Many people say it looks like a beehive.



Are you coming to Melbourne by train?
Get off the train at Flinders Street Station. Go across St Kilda Road to the tram stop. Take a number 1 tram (going to South Melbourne Beach).

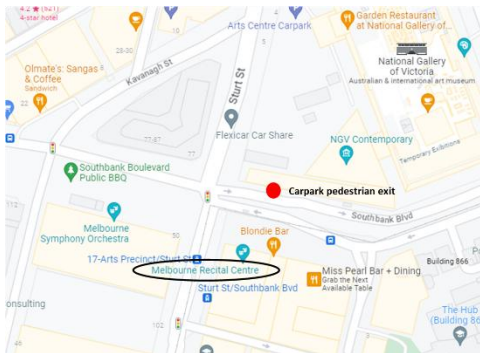


Get off the tram at accessible stop 17, right next to Melbourne Recital Centre (corner Sturt Street and Southbank Boulevard).

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Are you coming to Melbourne by car? The best place to park is at the Arts Centre Melbourne Car Park at the top of Sturt Street. For more information about parking costs [click here](#).



Once you have found a park, exit the underground carpark at Southbank Blvd and cross the road to Melbourne Recital Centre.

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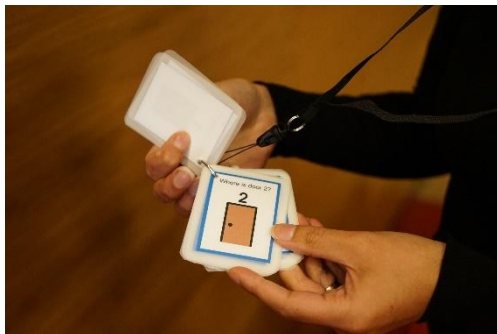


There is a main entrance to Melbourne Recital Centre on Southbank Boulevard.



Inside, the ground level foyer is partly carpeted, which makes it quieter. There is often music playing in the foyer through a speaker system.

Sometimes the foyer can be a busy and loud place depending on the number of people attending a concert.



If you have any questions whilst in the foyer, our Ushers carry picture cards with them. You can look through the picture cards and select the question you may want to ask. You can also print off the picture cards you want at home and bring them along with you. [Click here to see the picture cards.](#)



An important place in the foyer is the Box Office. Here you can collect or buy your ticket. The Box Office is open two hours before each performance. If you have access needs, please let us know when you're booking your tickets.



If you need help with asking questions at the Box Office, point to the sign in the photo.



Staff will show you a communication board to help. You can also [view or print out](#) this communication board before you arrive.

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This Relaxed Performance will be held in the Primrose Potter Salon, on the ground floor level of Melbourne Recital Centre.



There is just one door which leads into the Primrose Potter Salon from the foyer. You can sit anywhere you like in this venue.



To get into the Primrose Potter Salon, you have to go through a small room called the Sound Lock. This room is dark and keeps noise out of the concert venue.



Before you enter the Sound Lock an usher will scan your ticket. The scanning machine will beep.



Please bring along the things that help to keep you comfortable and calm. You can bring ear plugs, earmuffs, visors or a stimming toy.



Should you need them, you will find accessible toilets on each level of Melbourne Recital Centre. There are hand dryers in the accessible toilets that may make a loud noise.

2. The Musicians



This Relaxed Performance features *The Consort of Melbourne*, an ensemble of people singing.



The Consort of Melbourne is Melbourne's premier vocal ensemble, bringing together the city's finest chamber voices under the artistic direction of Steven Hodgson. Typically performing a capella (unaccompanied) with one singer per part, The Consort of Melbourne champions historic and contemporary repertoire, bringing 1000 years of vocal harmony to life with an intimacy and verve that leaves audiences spellbound.

3. The Repertoire



The voices will imitate the strumming of a lute

The first piece in the concert is called *Exultate Justi* and was written by Lodovico Grossi da Viadana. It is in Latin and translates to 'Rejoice, ye just'. This song is a celebration, and was often used in churches back in the 16th century. The lyrics tell us to give thanks by playing the harp and the lute and singing, and the composer uses fast flowing music to describe the harp, and a guitar strumming rhythm for the lute, which is like an early guitar. Can you hear these in the vocal lines?



A deer drinking from a stream

The next piece is by the composer Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina and is called *Sicut Cervus*. This piece is also in Latin from around the same time and the lyrics translates to 'Just like the deer longs after streams of water, my soul longs for god'. The composer uses long sustained lines to create a beautiful musical depiction of longing.

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A couple of drifting in a boat

To be Sung on the Water is the next piece in the concert and was written by Samuel Barber. Similar to the last piece about woodland streams, this one is also about water, but instead describes spending an afternoon in a boat on a gentle river with someone you love. The rhythms in the music paint a picture of gentle paddling - nothing rushed - a warm and lovely afternoon.



An image of Venice at night

The fourth piece in the concert is by Clara Schumann and is called *Abendfeier in Venedig* which is in German and translates to 'Evening celebration in Venice'. This piece paints a picture of the celebration in Venice - a picturesque city in Italy that famously seems to float on the water. In this piece you can hear church choirs wafting out of the big cathedrals, and bells ringing from the towers as the sun sets.



A shining star in the night sky

Next up is Luca Marenzio's *Dissi a l'amata mia lucida stella* which translates to 'I told my love, my shining star'. This very dramatic song was written in the Renaissance and is called a madrigal. At the time, this type of music was a popular form of entertainment - people would sing them with their friends at gatherings. Often they were about love - just like this one.



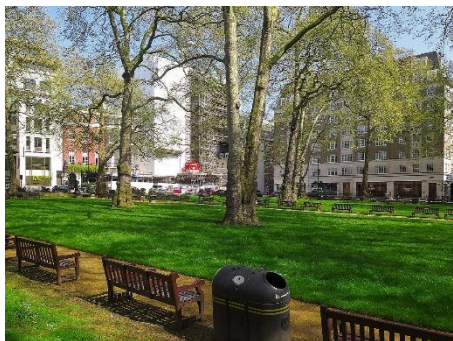
A swan on the water

The sixth piece in the concert is called *Il Bianco e Dolce Cigno* which translates to 'the white and sweet swan' and was written by Jacques Arcadelt. This is another madrigal which is about a white and beautiful swan, who only sings in its very last moments. However, this is a trick! The swan is really a symbol of love - with the main character saying he would die a thousand times just to experience love.



The nightingale is also known as
the songbird

A piece by Felix Mendelssohn is next in the concert. It's called *Die Nachtigall* which is German and translates to 'the Nightingale'. Following on from the last song which was about swans, this piece is about another famous bird - the Nightingale, whose beautiful song has captivated musicians and artists through time. In the piece, the Nightingale is returning for Spring but hasn't learnt anything new - so she will sing her old beloved songs, although we're not sad about it!



Berkeley Square in London

Next in the concert is a piece called *A nightingale sang in Berkeley Square* and was written by Manning Sherwing and Eric Maschwitz arr. Kirby Shaw. Another song about a nightingale, but in a completely different genre, this jazz classic describes an evening in London when even a nightingale, a bird normally heard only in the countryside, can be imagined singing in the heart of the city.



Blackbird on a branch

The ninth piece is called *Blackbird* by Paul McCartney and John Lennon arr. Kings Singers. Another song about a bird, this piece was famously sung by the Beatles! This is a hopeful song about resilience in the face of adversity. In this piece, one of our singers stops singing and starts whistling - just like a bird!



Sunset on a long day

Next up is a piece called *The Long Day Closes* and was written by Arthur Sullivan. This is a beautiful song describing finding rest at the end of a long day. Feel free to close your eyes to enjoy the soft, beautiful harmony and long, luxurious phrases.



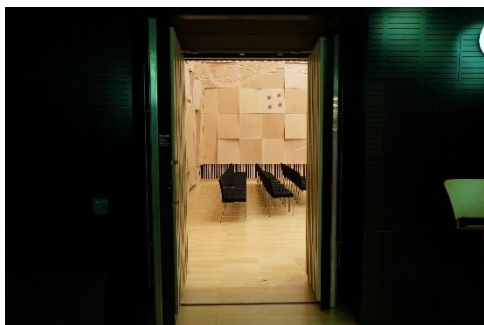
Drawing of goodnight sweetheart

The last song in the concert is called *Goodnight Sweetheart* and was written by three people - Ray Noble, Jimmy Campbell and Reg Connelly, but arranged by Deke Sharon. This is a fun, famous song from Britain, written back in 1931. Although it's not night-time, it's our way of saying thanks for listening so well, and goodbye for now!

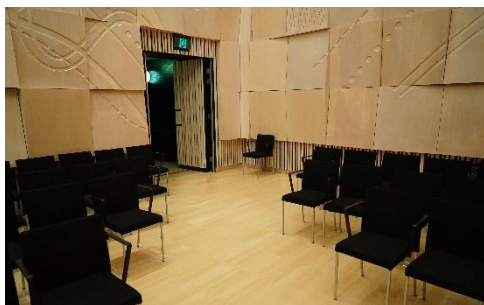
4. The Performance



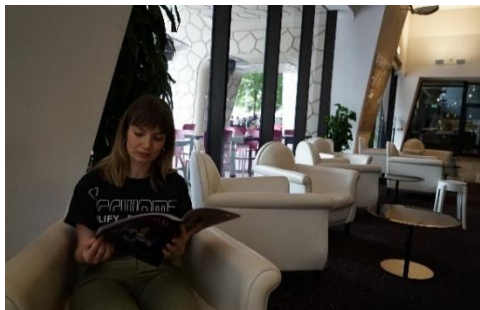
This Relaxed Performance will run for 45 minutes. There will be no interval. The house lights will remain on in the Primrose Potter Salon.



Doors to the Primrose Potter Salon will remain open for the duration of the performance.



The seating plan will include clear exit paths, more aisles and cushions on the floor.



A quiet space will be created in the ground level foyer for those who need a break.



The staff at Melbourne Recital Centre are looking forward to sharing music with you. We want you to enjoy every moment of your time with us. Please ask us if you need help or any other information.