

Visual Story

Bronzewing

Relaxed Performance

Access resources developed in partnership with Scope Australia

**MELBOURNE
RECITAL CENTRE**

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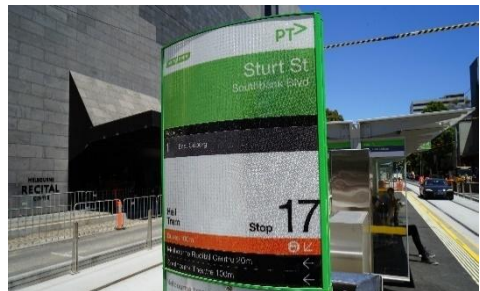
1. The Venue



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.

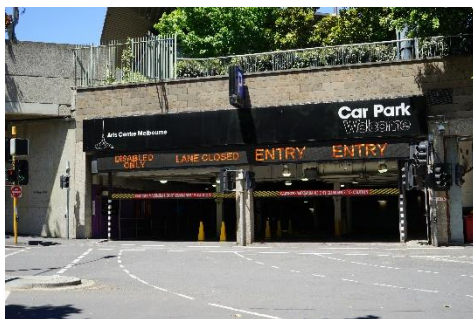


Are you coming to Melbourne by train?
Get off the train at Flinders Street Station. Go across St Kilda Road to the tram stop. Take a number 1 tram (going to South Melbourne Beach).

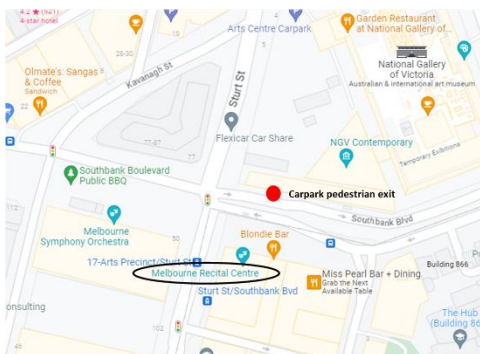


Get off the tram at stop 17, right next to Melbourne Recital Centre (corner Sturt Street and Southbank Boulevard).

MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE



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.

MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE

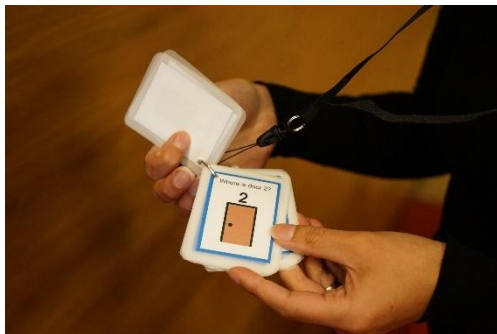


There is a main entrance to Melbourne Recital Centre on Southbank Boulevard.



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.

MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE



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 ensemble *Bronzewing*, and they play the following instruments:



vocals

viola

harpsichord



synthesizer



Bronzewing is a collaboration of two of Australia's leading baroque musicians Donald Nicolson (harpsichord/synths) and Katie Yap (violas/vocals). We combine old and new through collaborative composition, an unusual activity in the classical world. Our music draws on deep knowledge and experience of historically informed early music, combining it with a thoroughly contemporary Australian aesthetic, a love of our natural environment, and curiosity for new sounds and instruments.

3. The Repertoire



Hildegard von Bingen

The first piece in the concert is called *O dulcis electe* by the composer Hildegard von Bingen. She was a superstar in her time, almost 1000 years ago. Not only was she a composer, but also a mystic, philosopher, medical writer, and practitioner. This is one of her pieces written for the church, and arranged by Bronzewing. Katie plays the melody with her viola and Donald provides the harmony.



Diego Ortiz

The next piece was written by Diego Ortiz and is called *Recercada Segunda Doulce Memoire*. Diego, who lived 500 years after Hildegard, was a celebrated viola da gamba player (an instrument similar to a cello). He wrote a book of music themes, which musicians of the time embellished by dividing long notes into shorter ones and filling out slow melodies with runs, similar to what jazz musicians might do today. This piece was a very popular song of the time about lost love.



European magpie

The third song in the concert is called *Magpie* by a folk and rock musician called David Dodds. The lyrics to this song come from a very old nursery rhyme that is based on the old English belief that the number of magpies you'd see would tell an omen:

"One for sorrow, two for joy, three for a girl and four for a boy, five for silver, six for gold, seven for a secret never told."

During this song, you will hear a huge range of sounds from the synthesizers, building to the end.



Dancing in the 1500s

The next two pieces were also written by Diego Ortiz. *Recercada Quarta sobre tenores Italianos* is written over repeating bass lines, called ground basses which often formed the basis of dance music. Dancing was an important part of everyday life, especially in the court, and as they didn't have recordings, the music was always performed live. This piece is lively but elegant, with a fun line for the viola.



Renaissance musicians

The next piece by Diego Ortiz is called *Recercada Settima sobre tenores Italianos*. You might recognise it as Greensleeves - they are both built over this ground bass, the Romanesca. In the Bronzewing arrangement of this tune, Donald plays the straight ground bass and its harmonisation, allowing Katie to improvise over the top.



An image of the barricade

The sixth piece in the concert is called *Les Barricades Misterieuses* - or in English, *The Mysterious Barricades*. It is one of Francois Couperin's most well-known pieces today. Its hypnotic, constant movement and its strange title have captured people's imaginations over the years – no one knows exactly what these barricades are. Similar to the previous piece, it uses a variation of the Romanesca in the bass - see if you can hear it!



Painting of Isabella Leonarda

Sonata Duodecima is the next piece in the concert and it was written by Isabella Leonarda. This sonata, for solo violin and continuo, is believed to be the first ever solo sonata to be written by a woman. It's divided into seven sections, of which you'll hear three - beginning with a dramatic opening, filled with quickly changing emotions. The 'Aria' that follows is insistent and rhythmic, and the final section, a 'Veloce', is a lyrical dance, with phrases that are played loud and then soft - like echoes. It finishes without fanfare, almost dissolving into the air.



Hands of prayer

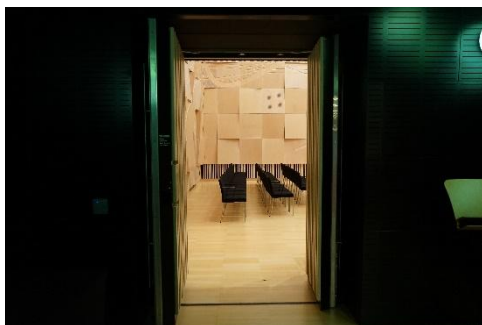
The last piece in the concert is called *Prayer* and was written by Tasmanian folk musician Teri Young. The lyrics describe the pull of water to humans, and the prayer is for acceptance. In this song, Bronzewing will teach you the melody to the chorus, or to hum the drone note that holds the whole piece together - so everyone can sing this prayer together.

"Ever I'm walking to the water. Would you let me get older and older and let me see wider, and soften my desires. Ever I'm walking to the water. Would you let me get older and older and let me get lighter, and soften my desires."

4. The Performance



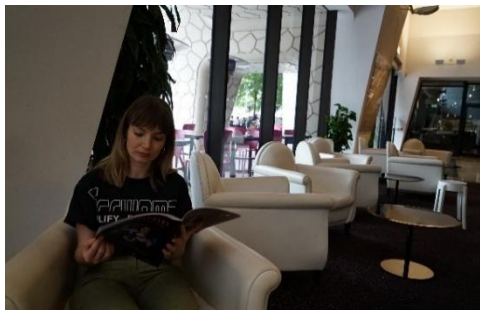
This Relaxed Performance will run for 45 minutes. There will be no interval. The house lights will remain on in the Primrose Potter Salon.



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.