



DIRECTORS NOTE

Growing up in the 70s in Australia my musical universe was somewhat parochial. 'World Music' was not a tab in the record bin and the music of our many immigrant cultures was largely ignored by the mainstream.

In the last thirty years there has been a proliferation of music-making workshops and classes available to the public. We are spoilt for choice, and able to learn African drumming or ukulele or recorder or Irish music or choral singing...and much more.

Today Australia has come of age and properly celebrates the music going on in its own backyard. This concert features some of our local champions of the weekly rehearsal, gathering, workshop or class, now proudly centre stage at the new Hamer Hall alongside The Bombay Royale, a unique hybrid act that could only have evolved on these shores.

For today's concert I have composed a grand Finale employing everyone. It freely quotes materials from the first half and centres on a song called 'Bele Mama' which was a brushfire in community singing across the globe a few years ago – and there is a part for you, the audience. The aim is *not* 'audience participation' (which always makes me want to run for the exit or dissolve into the seat). Your part is integral and you'll be making the sounds audiences make: laughing and clapping and murmuring – all treated as part of an extended sonic palette.

Don't worry, it's easy – Julia will show you what to do.

I hope you enjoy the experience.

P.S. A big thank you to the creative team, and to Patrick Cronin in particular; their work has been invaluable.

GL 5 Sep 2012