

NSW Department of Education and Training presents



# Hunter Singers - *Au Revoir*

Final Concert before tour of England, Belgium & France



World Premiere of *Known Unto God* by Paul Jarman

*A new piece about the Australian soldiers of the Somme, 1916 - 1918*

*Commissioned by the Hunter Singers 2007*

Sunday 25 March, 2pm  
St Andrews Presbyterian Church



**Paul Jarman** is a widely acclaimed composer and performing artist who searches for and celebrates Australian culture and history through music. He finds inspiration in a variety of sources: ancient traditions, contemporary issues, migrant journeys and personal stories to explore the song lines of our vast landscape.

Paul has worked extensively throughout Australia, Europe, Asia, North America, the Middle East and the Pacific, with dance ensembles, theatre productions, choirs, orchestras and Aboriginal-Anglo Celtic performance groups. With Australia's own *Sirocco*, he has been a cultural ambassador for the Department of Foreign Affairs, performing in India, Pakistan, Nepal, Taiwan and across South East Asia.

Paul's work with Indigenous communities includes workshops and performances in the Pilbara, Kimberley and Arnhem Land. In 2003, as Musical Director of the Deadly Awards, he collaborated with Troy Cassar-Daley and Jimmy Little. Paul's group *Platypus* combines contemporary and traditional Indigenous song and dance with Australian/Celtic music.

The Centenary of Federation, The Year of the Outback, the Olympic Arts Festival and the Rugby World Cup are just some of the landmark events for which Paul has composed. He is, however, most well known for his choral music and original lyrics, having composed more than fifty major works for groups such as Gondwana Voices, the Sydney Children's Choir, the Woden Valley Youth Choir and, of course, the Hunter Singers. His song *Shackleton* is one of the most widely performed choral works in Australia.

In 2005, Paul's song cycle *Young Australians - Voices of Achievement* was recorded by Sing NSW and released by the ABC to critical acclaim. In the same year, *Island Heroes* - dedicated to the people of the Torres Strait - premiered to five full houses at the Sydney Opera House and *I Will Ride* received its international premiere at Jordan Hall in Boston. Paul performed with the PALS Children's Chorus and the Boston City Singers in this work.

Paul was composer-in-residence for the 2006 National Choral Fest, Hobart, where his piece, *Devil Run Wild*, written to highlight the crisis facing the Tasmanian Devil, received its premiere performance. He also wrote *Pemulwuy*, which Birralee Blokes sang in their winning ABC Classic FM Choir of the Year repertoire in 2006.

Paul has a busy year ahead of him. As well as his commission for the Hunter Singers, he is working with Coffs Harbour City Council, the South Australian Choral Program and the Bangarra Dance Company. Paul's body of work is a valuable document that explores the stories that have shaped our country. He is honoured to work with the Hunter Singers and Kim Sutherland for this event.



Members of the writing team at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

## Program Notes - 'Known Unto God'

On 14 April 2007 Paul Jarman and the Hunter Singers will join with family members under the Menin Gate in Ypres in front of visitors from all over the world and perform the European premiere of a piece that is dedicated to their ancestors who fell there.

The title of this new work, 'Known unto God', refers to the inscription etched into the crosses that were placed above the bodies of the fallen who were so terribly battered that they were no longer recognisable. Ironically, there are only rare accounts of dying men asking for God on the battlefields of the Somme - although the men did liken their muddy wasteland home, of blood, chemicals and gas, disease, rats, lice and rancid smells to Hell. In the grizzly business of war the notion of religion or any spiritual belief is challenged, and in the Great War Christians fought Christians.

It is hard to contemplate in these modern times the magnitude of Australia's loss in this war. One only has to visit any town, large or small, in Australia and read the list of names on the cenotaph to realise the impact on generations; women who lost their husbands and sons and children who never knew their fathers and brothers. Of the 324,000 men who served, some 61,700 perished; two thirds of these in the Somme. The wounded ran to 155,000 and by the 1930's another 60,000 had died from war related illnesses, not to mention the large number of gas victims, post war traumatic stress (shell shock), or the countless number of men who returned broken and bitter and lost their lives to alcoholism and violence.



Frank Hurley's famous photo: *Infantry moving forward to take over the front at evening.*

All this for a war that took place on the other side of the world and ultimately filled the pockets of the arms manufacturers and satisfied the needs of warmongering military chiefs, keen to experiment with a new style of horrible weaponry. Most of these Generals and Colonels found this new age of warfare completely alien and sent a generation of their young men to a brutal and unnecessary slaughter.

57,000 Englishmen lost their lives during the first assault on German forces, bombarded by more than 2 million shells, and gunned down in the thousands by machine gun fire. Through ignorance and brash confidence, officers presumed that the Somme would last a matter of days; it lasted more than three years. Today, 90 years later, the Somme is remembered as one of England's darkest moments, and Northern France is still recovering.

In Australia however, the Somme was seldom mentioned until the last part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Many felt that there was no way to deal with such a loss of men, and the tragedy was too great to recall. Instead the stories were confined to the RSL and magazines like *Reveille*. How could a digger explain the horrors of the Somme to someone who hadn't been there?

This is the challenge that Paul Jarman and the writing team from the Hunter Singers faced: how could they capture and portray something of this unimaginable tragedy? The writing team visited the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, read about the war and collected family stories as a starting point for their work.

In November, the writing team of ten students spent a weekend with Paul sharing their research. Slowly, their experiences coalesced. The experience of the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial had been very moving, evoking the great suffering and loss of life in the war. One personal story had particular resonance: Annabel told the story of her great grandmother, Hannah, now 94. Hannah could remember how, as a little girl of six, she had met a stranger who approached her house and said: “You must be Hannah; I’m your father.” The sense of longing that Hannah must have felt for her father is captured by the solo voice in the work that sings, “Daddy, please come home.” The little girl, waiting for her father to return, is a metaphor for a lost generation.

Much of the shape of the piece was determined at the workshop. Paul then wrote the words and music and workshopped it with the choir. The work includes 29 spoken and sung quotes from soldiers, poets and writers of the time. The consequences of war are explored in “Fields of Glory shroud wasted lives” – a final prayer that seeks reconciliation with the past. The accompaniment comprises cornet (playing the Last Post), bass horn and percussion. The work concludes with the last line of *Waltzing Matilda*, sung as a prayer for the fallen.



Writing team for *Known Unto God*.

Back row: Cathy Clunies-Ross, Paul Jarman, Lachlan McGowan, Nathan Murphy, Sally Gould, Natalie Townsend, Ellenor Hayes  
Front row: Ashleigh Poole, Annabel Fleming, Sarah Clunies-Ross, Brendan Wiseman

Paul Jarman would like to acknowledge Les Carlyon, Will Davies and EPF Lynch for their books of inspiration and the many Australian and international, books, documents, songs, poems, artworks and web sites he studied during research.

This project has been a very moving experience for composer, chorister, parent and director. This special collaboration was crucial to the outcome of the work. One can only think of how special this generation of young Australians are, as they use their musical talents to show they care about peace and unity in this world by paying homage to the victims of war through song.



# Program

Compere: Stewart McGowan

## Hunter Singers

Conductor: *Kim Sutherland*

Accompanist: *Deirdre Ditton*

Sea of Berries ..... Paul Jarman

Shackleton ..... Paul Jarman

Soloist: Ashleigh Poole

Volta do mar Largo ..... Paul Jarman

Instruments: Paul Jarman, Kim Sutherland, Brendan Wiseman



## Hunter Kids Sing

Conductor: *Natasha Ryan*

Accompanist: *Deirdre Ditton*

The Long White Sails ..... Paul Jarman

The Seagull ..... Stephen Leek

## Hunter Singers

Sanctus ..... Stephen Leek

Agnus Dei ..... Stephen Leek

Ave Verum Corpus ..... W.A. Mozart

Psalm 23 ..... Howard Goodall

Erev Shel Shoshanim ..... Jack Klebanow

Take These Wings ..... Don Besig

## INTERVAL

## Hunter Singers

Gaudete ..... Stephen Hatfield

Shumayela..... Traditional African

Sipiri..... Traditional African

O Sifuni Mungu..... Maddux, McCall, Mulongoy & Mukalay arr. Emerson

Soloists: Nathan Murphy, Ellenor Hayes, Andrea Adams

Percussion: Elliott Walker, Lachlan McGowan, Emma Watts

*Au Revoir*..... John Mather, Regional Director Hunter/Central Coast

Introduction to new work..... Paul Jarman, composer of *Known Unto God*

Known Unto God WORLD PREMIERE..... Paul Jarman

Instruments: Ellenor Hayes, Paul Jarman, Natasha Ryan

# Known Unto God

By Paul Jarman

Waiting, watching, hoping, praying,  
Someday you're coming home.

Brother for brother, mate for mate,  
No one thought it would come to this.  
Someone's father, someone's son,  
The dead lay side by side.

Cry for mother, cry in vain,  
She will never hear your plea.  
Someone's husband, broken heart,  
Distant dreams, dying screams.

A generation disappears.

Daddy, please come home.

Fields of glory shroud wasted lives,  
Where Christian fought Christian and few survived.  
Above their remains carved into a cross,  
The same three words, 'Known unto God'.

'Known unto God' but fighting for King.  
'Known unto God' and dying in vain.  
'Known unto God' who art in Heaven.  
'Known unto God' and blown straight to hell.

We will never know who they were,  
We'll never really know.  
We will never know who they were.

We can only try to care.



# Quotes

We were marooned in a frozen desert. There was not a sign of life on the horizon and a thousand signs of death.  
*Wilfred Owen 1917*

When we started firing we just had to load and reload. They went down in their hundreds. You didn't have to aim. We just fired into them. *German soldier 1915*

Patriots always talk of dying for their country, and never killing for their country. *Bertrand Russell*

Our hands are earth, our bodies clay and our eyes pools of rain. *Erich Remarque*

We had to remove the piles of enemy bodies from before our trenches, so as to get a clear field of fire against new waves of assault. *Paul von Hindenburg 1917*

His bones are mingled with the filth which they scatter to the four winds. *Gerhard Gutler*

The cries of the wounded had much diminished now, and as we staggered down the road, the reason was only too apparent, for the water was right over the tops of the shell-holes. *Captain Edward Vaughan, 1917*

The dead were stretched out on one side, one on top of each other six feet high. I can never describe that faint sickening, horrible smell. *Captain Leecham 1916*

Our minds were so numbed that we no longer had any scruples about the whole thing. *Otto Hahn*

No-man's land under snow is like the face of the moon: chaotic, crater ridden, uninhabitable, awful, the abode of madness. *Wilfred Owen 1917*

Independent thinking is not encouraged in a professional army. It is a form of mutiny. Obedience is the supreme virtue. *British Prime Minister Lloyd George*

Anyone who says he enjoys this kind of thing is either a liar or a madman. *Captain Harry Yoxall*

To fight, you must be brutal and ruthless, and the spirit of ruthless brutality will enter into the very fibre of our national life. *President Woodrow Wilson*

We were not making war against Germany, we were being ordered about in the King's war with Germany.  
*HG Wells 1914*

This is the end and beginning of an age. *HG Wells 1916*

The safest thing to be said is that nobody knew how much a decoration was worth except the man who received it.  
*Siegfried Sassoon, poet*

Yesterday I visited the battlefield of last year. It was if the souls of the dead soldiers had come to haunt the spot where so many fell. *British Officer 1919*

Two armies that fight each other is like one large army that commits suicide. *Henri Barbusse 1915*

If my own son can best serve England at this juncture by giving his life for her, I would not lift one finger to bring him home. *Mrs Berridge 1914*

Abstract words such as glory, honour, courage, hallow were obscene. *Ernest Hemingway 1929*

We're telling lies; we know we're telling lies; we don't tell the public the truth, that we're losing more officers than the Germans. *Rothermere, journalist*

Only the dead have seen the end of war. *Santayana*

In war time the word patriotism means suppression of truth. *Siegfried Sassoon, poet*

So marched into captivity all that was left of the 2nd company of the 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiment: two officers and 12 men.  
*Gefreiter Heinemann 1916*

I believe that the war is being deliberately prolonged by those who have the power to end it. *Siegfried Sassoon, poet 1917*

The brutality and inhumanity of war stood in great contrast to what I had heard and read about as a youth. *Spengler 1916*

Men go to their deaths with curses on their lips and religion is never mentioned or thought of. *Private J Bowles 1916*

There were many words that you could not stand to hear and finally only the names and places had dignity.  
*Ernest Hemingway*

This is a war to end all wars. *President Woodrow Wilson*

**Hunter Singers** was established in 1989 as the Hunter Region Department of Education Choir by founding Music Director, Kim Sutherland. Now in its 18th year, Hunter Singers has commissioned many works, and is preparing for its 6th overseas tour.

School of Performing Arts Symphony Orchestra, the University of Newcastle Chamber Choir and The Australian Voices. Some members of Hunter Singers were also involved in a recording project with Daniel Johns and Paul Mac from The Dissociatives.

Hunter Singers has performed with many outstanding artists including Afro Moses, Barry Manilow, Rhonda Burchmore, Newtown High

Hunter Singers has released three compact discs - *Kondalilla* (2005), *Hunter Singers: Carols and Songs* (1996) and *Hunter Singers: 10 Years* (2000).

Lyndon Buckley  
Simon Jasper  
Alexander Long  
Adam Martin  
Lachlan McGowan  
Jacob Moran  
Nathan Murphy  
Emile Noronha

Lachlan Peacock  
Elliott Walker  
Brendan Wiseman  
Andrea Adams  
Alice Bloomfield  
Maddy Clayden  
Cathy Clunies-Ross  
Sarah Clunies-Ross

Beth Fisher  
Annabel Fleming  
Anya Gore  
Zali Gore  
Sally Gould  
Ellenor Hayes  
Ashleigh Henry  
Isabella Hingston

Jenna Matthews  
Penelope McDonald  
Candice Minto  
Ashlee Murphy  
Kathryn Notley  
Kate Paterson  
Ellie Patrick  
Jessica Paul

Danica Philpott-Robinson  
Ashleigh Poole  
Emma Poole  
Samantha Ryan  
Natalie Townsend  
Stephanie Tuyl  
Ella Waight  
Emma Watts

**Hunter Kids Sing** was formed earlier this year for students in years 4-6 in government schools in the Hunter region. The group is affiliated with Sing NSW and conducted by Natasha Ryan with assistance from Nathan Faulkner and Ellenor

Hayes. Hunter Kids Sing will participate in the Sing NSW concert in the Sydney Opera House in August and the Hunter Singers concert in November. Today's concert will see the group's first public performance.

Tash Ahmed  
Madeleine Anderson  
Ella Cannon  
Amy Charlton  
Billy Cooksley

Emily Curtis  
Jack Dunlap  
Emma Elsley  
Siobhan Hull  
Madelin Lang

Madeleine Lantry  
Richard Maddever  
Ruby Makinson-Michalak  
Helena McFarlane  
Katja McFarlane

Jordan McGregor-Wilson  
Samantha McMellon  
Christopher McMellon  
Lachlan Richardson  
Jackson Seymour

Tahnee Stephenson  
Madeline Tregenza  
Imogen Tregenza  
Rhiannon Williams

## Next Hunter Singers Auditions

Tuesday 1 May, 6.30pm  
St Andrews Presbyterian Church  
Phone 4945 2467 for an application form

## Acknowledgments

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Maitland Toyota  
East Maitland Rotary Club  
Toronto RSL  
Libby Dickeson - 2NURFM

Hunter Singers Music Director & Hunter Kids Sing Artistic Director - Kim Sutherland  
Committee - Therese de Jong, Deirdre Ditton, Jane Hayes, Stewart McGowan, Natasha Ryan, Jan Townsend, Lynda Wiseman  
Hunter Kids Sing committee - Deirdre Ditton, Nathan Faulkner, Ellenor Hayes, Natasha Ryan

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