University of Adelaide

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Elder Conservatorium of Music

Portfolio of Compositions and Exegesis:

Composing for a Choral Spectrum

Submitted in fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of

Master of Music (MMus)

by

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A.2 Choral Music for Adults

2.1: Choral Music for Male Voices

2.2: Choral Music for Female Voices

2.3: Choral Music for Mixed Voices

2.4: Large Choral and Orchestral Work
2.1 Choral Music for Male Voices

2.11: The Orange Tree
2.11 The Orange Tree

For A Cappella ATTBaBaBB Choir

Duration: 3 minutes, 55 seconds

Words by C. J. Dennis, 1915

Music by Callie Wood, 2008
Composer’s Notes

This piece was inspired by John Shaw Neilson’s poem The Orange Tree which he wrote while weeding an orange orchard in Mildura.

Lyrics

*By John Shaw Neilson.

NOTE: This piece is included in the print copy of the thesis held in the University of Adelaide Library.


**Verses not included in the score.
2.2 Choral Music for Female Voices

2.21: Love’s Coming

2.22: Song of Rain
2.21 *Love’s Coming*

For SSA Women’s Voices and Harp

Duration: 4 minutes, 18 seconds

Words by John Shaw Neilson, 1934

Music by Callie Wood

2007
Composer’s Notes

*Love’s Coming* is a choral work which aims to reflect the delicacy and subtlety of John Shaw Neilson’s understated poem.

**Lyrics**

*By John Shaw Neilson, 1934.*

NOTE: This piece is included in the print copy of the thesis held in the University of Adelaide Library.

2.22 *A Song of Rain*

For SSA Women’s Voices and Piano

Duration: 6 minutes, 55 seconds

Poem by C. J. Dennis, 1915

Music by Callie Wood

2008
Composer’s Notes

*Song of Rain* was inspired by several years of drought resulting from a long *El Nino* weather cycle. The bone-dry summers and the brown dusty landscape seemed related to an internal creative drought. This piece was composed in celebration at the end of a creative drought. It was also composed as a kind of hopeful ‘rain dance.’

Lyrics

*By C. J. Dennis, 1915 (Excerpt)*

Because a little vagrant wind veered south from China Sea;
Or else, because a sun-spot stirred; and yet again, maybe
Because some idle god in play breathed on an errant cloud,
The heads of twice two million folk in gratitude are bowed.

Patter, patter… Booloomatta,
Adelaide and Oodnadatta,
Pepegoona, parched and dry
Laugh beneath a dripping sky.
Riverina’s thirsting plain
Knows the benison of rain.
Ararat and Arkaroola
Render thanks with Tantanoola
For the blessings they are gaining,
And it’s raining – raining – raining!

Because a heav’n-sent monsoon the mists before it drove;
Because things happened in the moon; or else because High Jove,
Unbending, played at waterman to please a laughing boy.
The hearts through all a continent are raised in grateful joy.

Weeps the sky at Wipipee
Far Farina’s folks are dippy
With sheer joy, while Ballarat
Shouts and flings aloft its hat.
Thirsty Thackaringa yells;
Taltabooka gladly tells
Of a season wet and windy;
Men rejoice on Murrindindie;
Kalioota’s ceased complaining;
For it’s raining – raining – raining!

Because a poor bush parson prayed an altruistic prayer,
Rich with unselfish fellow-love that Heaven counted rare;
And yet, mayhap, because one night a meteor was hurled
Across the everlasting blue, the luck was with our world.

On the wilds of Winininnie
Cattle low and horses whinny,
Frolicking with sheer delight.
From Beltana to The Bight,
In the Mallee’s sun-scorched towns,
In the sheds on Darling Downs,
In the huts at Yudnapinna,
Tents on Tidnacoordininna,
To the sky all heads are craning –
For it’s raining – raining – raining!

Because the breeze blew sou’-by-east across the China Sea;
Or else, because the thing was willed through all eternity
By gods that rule the rushing stars, or gods long aeons dead,
The earth is made to smile again, and living things are fed.

Song of Rain: Score

A Song of Rain

Text by C. J. Dennis (1876-1938)

Music by Callie Wood
veered south from China Sea;

Or else, because a

sun-spot stirred and yet again may be be-
cause some idle god in play

breathed on an errant cloud the

heads of two million
Laugh        Laugh        Ah
Laugh        Laugh        Riverina's
Laugh        Laugh        Riverina's

thirsting plain        Ararat and
thirsting plain knows the benison of rain Ararat and
thirsting plain knows the benison of rain Ararat and
Ar-ka-roo-la  Render thanks with Tan-ta- noo-la  For the bless-sings

they are gai ning  and it's rai ning, and it's rai ning, rai ning.

they are gai ning  and it's rai ning, rai ning, rai ning!

they are gai ning  and it's rai ning.
Mists before it drove;

Because things happened in the moon; or else, because
M.S.

71

at wa-ter man to please a laugh

(8)

73

The hearts through all a

ing boy.
continent are raised in grateful joy

Weep Far Fari-nah's folks are dip-py
Weeps the sky at Wi-pi-pee... Far Fari-nah's folks are dip-py

mf  mf  mf
with sheer joy... while Bal-la-rat
Shouts and flings... aloft its hat

Thirsty Thac-karing-a... tells
Tal-ta-boo-ka... tells

Thirsty Thac-karing-a... tells
Tal-ta-boo-ka... tells
S. of a season wet and win-dy

M.S. of a season wet and win-dy;

M.S. Ka-ū-o-ta's ceased com plai-ning

f

f

S. For it's rain-ing, rain-ing, rain-ing!

M.S. For it's rain-ing, For it's rain-ing rain-ing rain-ing

M.S. Men re-joice For it's rain-ing rain-ing rain-ing
cause a poor bush parson prayed an altruistic

On the wilds of Wini-nin-nie cattle low and horses whinny.

prayer rich with unselfish fellow love that

frolicking with sheer delight from Bel-ta-na
heaven-counted rare; and yet, mayhap, because

to the Bight

In the Mallee's sun-scorched towns,

one night a meteor was hurled across the ever

In the sheds on Darling Downs... In the huts at

In the sheds on Darling Downs... In the huts at
last ing blue the luck was with our world

Yud-ra-pin-na, Tents on Tid-na-coor-di-nin-na To the sky all

heads... are cra-n ing For it’s rai-ning

heads are cra ning For it’s rai ning For it’s
For it's raining raining

Because the breeze blew

mp

p

f

mp

mf

mp
else, because the thing was willed. Through all e-

Echoing from hill to hill in the

Echoing echoing

Echoing

Eternity by gods that rule the rushing stars or

Lonely silent places

Lonely silent places
S.

145

M-S.

Men lift up their glad, wet faces

M-S.

Men rejoice!

147

M-S.

Men rejoice!

M-S.

Men rejoice! Their thanks asks
S. gain and

M-S. Rain! It's raining!

M-S. no explaining

S. living things are fed.

M-S. for it's raining, for it's raining!

M-S. for it's raining, for it's raining, raining, raining!
2.3 Choral Music for Mixed Voices

2.3.1: Mangoes
2.31 Mangoes

For SSAATBaB A Cappella Voices

Duration: 3 minutes, 28 seconds

Words by Richard Tipping, 1975

Music by Callie Wood

2008
Composer’s Notes

*Mangoes* is a rhythmically challenging piece inspired by Richard Tipping’s poem, *Mangoes*. The idea of incorporating tango rhythms into the piece to create a kind of mango tango was also quite appealing.

Lyrics

*By Richard Tipping, 1975*

NOTE: This piece is included in the print copy of the thesis held in the University of Adelaide Library.

2.4 Large Choral and Orchestral Work

2.41 Seven Summits (Prelude and First Movement)
2.41 Seven Summits (Prelude and First Movement)

For SSAAATBāB Voices and Orchestra

Duration: 18 minutes, 41 seconds

Words and Music by Callie Wood

2008
Composer’s Notes

Seven Summits was inspired by Brigitte Muir’s book *The Wind in My Hair* (1998, Penguin Books). Brigitte Muir was the first Australian to climb the Seven Summits, the highest mountain on each continent, and the first Australian woman to climb Mount Everest.

Each movement will represent one of the mountains that Brigitte climbed.
**Prelude: Denali**

*Prelude: Denali* was composed as an orchestral prelude to the larger choral work (in progress), *Seven Summits*. This piece was inspired by Brigitte Muir’s description of climbing Mt Denali. Mt Denali is the highest mountain in North America. Mt Denali, or Mt McKinley, is situated in Denali National Park in Alaska. Denali is the name given to the mountain by the indigenous people of that area and means ‘the high one.’

**Kilimanjaro Part 1: Freedom Song**

*Freedom Song* was inspired by a feeling of personal liberation and was composed as an affirmation. It was also inspired by Brigitte Muir’s description of the vibrant and colourful African town that she stayed in before making her ascent of Mt Kilimanjaro.

**Kilimanjaro Part 2: Uhuru Peak**

The text for this piece was inspired by Brigitte Muir’s description of the liberating experience of bathing in a mountain stream on Mt Kilimanjaro. The locals call Mt Kilimanjaro “Uhuru,” which means freedom. This piece is suitable for a large adult treble choir with orchestral accompaniment.

**Lyrics**

**Kilimanjaro Part 1: Freedom Song**

By Callie Wood, 2008

Rejoice now
For you are free
And alive with hope

It’s a hard road
Have hope!

You have strength
To climb the mountains
You see ahead

Rejoice now
For all your dreams
Lead to freedom.
Kilimanjaro Part 2: Uhuru Peak

By Callie Wood, 2008

clouds flutter round the peak
children playing hide and seek
fly me to the mountain

green depths confine me
I struggle through
this jungle
seeking Uhuru

I bathe in a stream of Uhuru
cleansed
I dance in thin air

thoughts drift like snow
crystallize into mountains
flow away
beneath my feet

I bow to the snow-blade summit
body bent
against wild currents
of snow

I rise early
solitary
the morning star
reflects dawn
Seven Summits (prelude and first movement): Score
Kilimanjaro Part 1: Freedom Song

By Callie Wood (2008)

Soprano

Allegretto

Rejoice now, for you are free and alive with hope.

Free and alive with hope.

Oh, rejoice now, for you are free and alive with hope.

For you are free and alive with hope.

Baritone

Rejoice now, for you are free and alive with hope.

Free and alive with hope.

Oh, rejoice now, for you are free and alive with hope.

For you are free and alive with hope.

Tenor

Rejoice now, for you are free and alive with hope.

Free and alive with hope.

Oh, rejoice now, for you are free and alive with hope.

For you are free and alive with hope.

Alto

Rejoice now, for you are free and alive with hope.

Free and alive with hope.

Oh, rejoice now, for you are free and alive with hope.

For you are free and alive with hope.

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Kilimanjaro Part 2: Uhuru Peak

Antarico

Allegretto

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