



This is Australia

Text and music by Michael Winikoff

Performance Notes

When I began working on my entry to the ROCS composition competition I struggled to find suitable text. Eventually I thought “Hang on, this is supposed to be an *Australian* composition, so why not write *about* Australia?”

From then, the text, and subsequently music, took shape fairly easily and quickly.

The piece was originally written for three parts in order to create a light and stark texture, reflecting text and the Australian landscape, but also to make the piece easier to perform with a small choir.

In revising the piece for a larger choir I’ve re-voiced it for SATB, and eliminated the tambourine (which would struggle to be heard above a larger choir), giving its part to the bass section.

Tempo markings are approximate, with the precise tempi being left to the conductor’s discretion (based on the choir, acoustics, etc.)

The section with the solo/semi (bars 37-45) should be done with soloist(s) drawn from within the choir. It could alternatively be performed with the semi-chorus simply being the first sopranos, with second sopranos taking the choir soprano part.

At the conductor’s discretion, a percussion instrument may be given the rhythm in bars 57-70. In this case the basses should simply double the tenor part.

The last section of the piece, from bar 78 onwards, should be one long slow build up, leading to the end of the piece. Note that in bars 81 and 87 there is no break between “is” and “Australia”.

In a few places the words are written in a non-standard way (e.g. “do-tted” instead of “dot-ted”, or “bu-stling” instead of “bust-ling”) in order to more clearly reflect the placement of consonants.

I hope that this piece manages to capture a little of that that is modern Australia, and that you enjoy performing and hearing it.

Michael Winikoff
Melbourne, Australia
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Scoring:
SATB choir
Short female solo or semi-chorus

This is Australia

Dedicated to Leanne, for everything!

$\text{♩} = 70$
f

Soprano
This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia! *rit.*

Alto
This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

Tenor
This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

Bass
Au - stra - lia!

7 $\text{♩} = 65$
p

S
stark bare land - scapes do - tted with shrubs and gum-trees straight roads

A
stark bare land - scapes do - tted with shrubs and gum-trees straight roads

T
stark bare land - scapes do - tted with shrubs and gum-trees straight roads

B
stark bare land - scapes do - tted with shrubs and gum-trees straight roads

13

S
stark bare land - scapes do - tted with

A
that seem to ne - ver, ne-ver end stark bare

T
that seem to ne - ver, ne-ver end stark bare

B
that seem to ne - ver, ne-ver end stark bare

19

S
shrubs and gum-trees straight roads that seem to ne - ver, ne-ver end

A
land - scapes do - tted with shrubs and gum-trees straight roads that seem to

T
land - scapes do - tted with shrubs and gum-trees straight roads that seem to

B
land - scapes do - tted with shrubs and gum-trees straight roads that seem to

24

mf $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ (twice as fast)

S roads lea - ding to bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

A ne - ver, ne - ver end to mm

T to mm

B to mm

29

mf

S bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

A bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

T mm bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

B

33

mf

S bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

A bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

T bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

B bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

37

Solo/Semi

SA bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

TB bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

40

Solo/Semi

SA ma - ni - cured lawns de - spite the drought bu - sy bu - stling

TB bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

43

Solo/Semi

ci - ties, with men in suits and ties bu - sy

SA

bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

TB

bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

46

Soprano

bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

Alto

bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

Tenor

bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

Bass

bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties

49

$\text{♩} = 70$

f

S

bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au -

A

bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au -

T

bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au -

B

bu - sy bu - stling ci - ties This is Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au -

54

rit.

$\text{♩} = 65$

S

stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

A

stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

T

stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia! mm

B

stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia! dm dm dm dm dm

58

S

and I - ta - lian ca - fes

A

nur - sery rhymes, from Eng - land food from Greece, from Greece nur - sery rhymes, from Eng - land

T

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

B

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

61

S and I-ta-lian ca-fes wo-men wea-ring

A food from Greece, from Greece nur-sery rhymes, from Eng-land food from Greece, from Greece

T

B dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

64

S head-scarves, and men with skull caps, and men with skull caps

A nur-sery rhymes, from Eng-land food from Greece, from Greece nur-sery rhymes, from Eng-land

T

B dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

67

S wo-men wea-ring head-scarves, and men with

A food from Greece, from Greece from Greece, from Greece

T

B dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

69

S skull caps. This is Au-stra-lia Au-

A food from Greece, from Greece from Greece. This is Au-stra-lia Au-

T This is Au-stra-lia Au-

B dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

$\text{♩} = 70$ *p*

73

rit.

p = 55

S
stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia! ah

A
stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia! ah

T
8
stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia Au - stra - lia!

B
Au - stra - lia!

78

poco a poco cresc.

mp

S
vi-vid blue sky scor-ching sum-mer sun this is Au-stra - lia this is Au-stra - lia

A
vi-vid blue sky scor-ching sum-mer sun this is Au-stra - lia this is Au-stra - lia

T
8
vi-vid blue sky scor-ching sum-mer sun this is Au-stra - lia this is Au-stra - lia

B
vi-vid blue sky scor-ching sum-mer sun this is Au-stra - lia this is Au-stra - lia

82

poco a poco cresc.

mf

S
young, bold, and new young, bold, and new ah

A
young, bold, and new young, bold, and new ah

T
8
young, bold, and new young, bold, and new ah

B
young, bold, and new young, bold, and new ah

86

ff rit.

S
this is Au-stra - lia this is Au - stra - lia young, bold, and new young, bold, and new

A
this is Au-stra - lia this is Au - stra - lia young, bold, and new young, bold, and new

T
8
this is Au-stra - lia this is Au - stra - lia ah

B
this is Au-stra - lia this is Au - stra - lia ah