

### EUMERALLA: A WAR REQUIEM FOR PEACE



Photo: Laura Manariti

**Benjamin Northey** conductor  
**Deborah Cheetham AO** soprano (Yorta Yorta)  
**Linda Barcan** mezzo soprano  
**Don Bemrose** baritone (Gungarri)  
**MSO Chorus**  
**Dhungala Children's Choir**  
**The Consort of Melbourne**  
 Featuring Masters students from  
**Melbourne Conservatorium of Music**  
 and young talent from **Melbourne Youth Orchestras**

A highlight of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's 9<sup>th</sup> annual Education Week, *Eumeralla: a war requiem for peace*, had its symphonic premiere on Saturday 15 June at Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne. The MSO's Education Week attracted some 10,000 people through an extensive program of activities and performances for children and adults.

Written and composed by acclaimed Yorta Yorta soprano, and composer, Deborah Cheetham AO, *Eumeralla: a war requiem for peace* is sung entirely in the dialects of the Gunditjmara people and is written in the form of a traditional requiem. The work tells the story of the Eumeralla Resistance War (1840–1863) that took place in southwest Victoria.

The concert also featured 19 original paintings by Gunditjmara artist, Thomas Day, commissioned by Short Black Opera, lending a visual telling of the Eumeralla story. In addition, the MSO presented Deborah Cheetham AO, conductor Benjamin Northey and language expert Vicki Couzens in conversation on Tuesday 4 June.

<b>In-conversation</b>	250 audience (1063 online audience)
<b>First Nations Program Briefing</b> (government stakeholders and donors)	200 audience
<b>Sold out performance</b>	2,350 audience

#### REVIEWS

“Congratulations to the MSO for your respectful and gifted collaboration in bringing this important work to life... the MSO is to be applauded for its understanding, foresight and will to commit to make real this outstanding contribution.”

– In-conversation audience member

“[the standing ovation] signalled a willingness to continue the journey of reconciliation in which *Eumeralla: A war requiem for peace* represents a significant step.”

– Tony Way, Limelight Magazine

“This was one of the most moving performances I have ever heard.”

– 2019 First time subscriber

 **\$35** ALL TICKETS

 **60%** FIRST TIME TICKET BUYERS

 **85** INTERSTATE VISITORS

★★★★★ LIMELIGHT MAGAZINE

★★★★★ THE AGE

 **ABC CLASSIC RADIO BROADCAST**  
13 July 2019



*Eumeralla: a war requiem for peace* has been made possible with the help of Gunditjmara language custodian Vicki Couzens and linguist Kris Eira. Presented in collaboration with Short Black Opera.

# MUSICAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The first project of its kind in Australia, the MSO, in partnership with Deborah Cheetham AO and Short Black Opera, will develop a Musical Acknowledgement of Country for languages from across all 11 official language groups as identified by the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages.

Upon completion of the project, the MSO will gift sheet music, an MSO recording and Language Guides back to each community. With the permission of the local indigenous collaborators, the Musical Acknowledgments of Country will be freely available for use by schools, community ensembles and local venues.

*“ This is a highly nuanced project... certain to become a template for all major orchestras in Australia. ”*

– Deborah Cheetham AO



## COLLABORATION WITH MELBOURNE MUSEUM'S RIVER OF LANGUAGE EXHIBITION (29 June – 16 October 2019)



TOURING DESTINATION	LANGUAGE MSO WILL PERFORM	ON COUNTRY PREMIERE
● Ballarat	Wadawurrung	4 Oct 2019
● Bendigo	Dja Dja Wurrung	4 Nov 2019
● Hamilton	Gunditjmara	6 Nov 2019
● Horsham	Jardwadjali	5 Nov 2019
● Mildura	Ladjiladji	2020
● Shepparton	Yorta Yorta	3 Oct 2019
● Port Fairy	Gunditjmara	Late 2019
● Wangaratta	Bangerang & Way Wurru	2 Oct 2019
● Warragul	Ganai Kurnai	14 Sept 2019
● Warrnambool	Gunditjmara	7 Nov 2019
● Melbourne	Boon Wurrung	Feb 2020

### — STAGE 1 January – June 2019

#### CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION

Work with recognised Traditional Owner groups, individual language custodians and communities to make a translation of their Acknowledgement of Country text.

### — STAGE 2 May – July 2019

#### WORKSHOPS & DEVELOPMENT

Deliver on-Country workshops with indigenous communities to develop a musical framework for the text.

### — STAGE 3 August – September 2019

#### COMPOSITION

Deborah Cheetham AO will develop the musical composition to accompany each text.

### — STAGE 4 September 2019 and beyond

#### PRESENTATION

Eight on-Country premieres during the MSO's regional tour and in Melbourne at the MSO's Sidney Myer Free Concert Series in February 2020.

This project is proudly supported by:



This project has received grant funding from the Commonwealth Government through the Australian National Commission for UNESCO