

barbican



Classical Music

Concert programme



Spinifex Gum

Sun 6 Oct 6.00pm

Hall

Important information



When does the concert start and finish?

The concert begins at 6.00pm and finishes at about 7.30pm, with no interval.



I'm running late!

Latecomers will be admitted if there is a suitable break in the performance.



Please ...

Switch any watch alarms and mobile phones to silent during the performance.



Please don't ...

Take photos or recordings during the performance – save it for the curtain call.



Use a hearing aid?

Please use our induction loop – just switch your hearing aid to T setting on entering the hall.



Need a break?

You can leave at any time and be readmitted if there is a suitable break in the performance, or during the interval.



Looking for refreshments?

Bars are located on Levels -1, G and 1.



Looking for the toilets?

The nearest toilets, including accessible toilets, are located on Levels -1, G and 2.



Carrying bags and coats?

Drop them off at our free cloak room on Level -1.

Spinifex Gum

Sun 6 Oct 6.00pm, Hall

Marliya

Gondwana Voices

Lyn Williams artistic director
& founder

Farnham Youth Choir

Royal Scottish National

Orchestra Youth Chorus

Deborah Brown choreographer

Mark Myers sound

Music by Felix Riebl and Ollie McGill

**Yindjibarndi language and story shared by
Michael Woodley**

Lyn Williams *Acknowledgement of Country*

Felix Riebl & Ollie McGill *Spinifex Gum*

Wandangarli

Mine Steal Tender Ore

Yurala

Felix Riebl, Ollie McGill & Quayle *Battle Cry*

Felix Riebl & Ollie McGill *Sisters*

Lang Interlude

Ghosts Whisper

Felix Riebl, Ollie McGill & Michael Woodley

Ganalili

**Felix Riebl, Ollie McGill, Michael Woodley
& Emma Donovan** *Take This Silence*

Felix Riebl & Ollie McGill *Voice Treaty Truth
Now*

Neil Murray *My Island Home*

Felix Riebl & Ollie McGill *Gawarliwarli*

Ms Dhu

Felix Riebl, Briggs & Ollie McGill *Locked Up*

Briggs, Gurrumul & Everett Smith *The
Children Came Back*

Felix Riebl & Ollie McGill *Marliya*

There is no interval

Produced by the Barbican

Programme produced by Harriet Smith

All information correct at time of printing

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An all-indigenous female youth choir from North East Australia with dance, visuals, plus a visceral song-cycle about ancestry and stewardship. The result? The dazzling phenomenon that is *Spinifex Gum*.

Part protest, part celebration, *Spinifex Gum* is a uniquely modern Australian song-cycle created by Felix Riebl (a founding member of the Australian jazz/funk band The Cat Empire) featuring the award-winning all-female ensemble, Marliya – an ensemble of Aboriginal and Torres Strait teenage singers, conducted by Lyn Williams.

Composed and arranged by Felix Riebl and Ollie McGill, the music is part political and part aspirational, exploring a mix of hard-hitting issues, with choreography by acclaimed First Nations artist Deborah Brown. The show has created a trailblazing pop-choir genre to confront the challenging political and environmental reality of contemporary Australia. *Spinifex Gum* addresses issues from the social disparity present in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, to land rights, disproportionate incarceration and deaths in custody. In a compelling blend of harmony and protest, English and First Nations languages, Marliya's vibrant young voices, disarm, inspire, and speak to us in a way that no individual voice can.

In 2022 *Spinifex Gum* took on a new dimension, with the arrival of a symphonic version, with orchestrations by Ross Irwin. The orchestral version was premiered by Marliya with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and has since been performed by the Adelaide and Sydney Symphony orchestras. This symphonic version allowed for a large treble choir to join Marliya throughout the show, enabling opportunity for other young people to give their voice to the show's issues.







Lyn Williams

Lyn Williams is widely regarded as one of the finest conductors of choirs around the world. For over 30 years she has harnessed the incredible power of young voices through her world-renowned ensembles: the Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana Voices, the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and Marliya.

She has dedicated her career to new music and her ability to forge innovative and meaningful collaborations is widely recognised. She continues to foster strong relationships with First Nations artists across Australia, bringing together cultural custodians and composers to create new works which preserve and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island languages and cultures.

In 2019 Lyn Williams was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia and earlier this year received the Richard Gill Award for Distinguished Services to Australian Music.

Felix Riebl

Felix Riebl is best known as the co-founder, band leader and principal songwriter of internationally acclaimed band The Cat Empire, known for its creation of multi-platinum albums and performances on the world's leading stages. On the local stage from his home in Melbourne/Naarm, he is a singer, songwriter and composer who has released two solo albums and composed music for films and major festivals and ceremonies.

In 2015 he, alongside fellow Cat Empire band member Ollie McGill, created the award-winning show *Spinifex Gum*. As key collaborators, songwriters, beats-makers, composers, instrumentalists and creative directors, they have led the charge in musical storytelling with the *Spinifex Gum* show and recordings seeing the duo engage with the Yindjibarndi community of Western Australia.

Across all his projects there is a thread that ties all three together and that's a sense of community, collaboration and respect for the craft. In his most recent work, he celebrates the wonder and obscurities of life by shining a light on the interplay of insular domestic moments and very public international events, all presented with joy and exuberance.

Deborah Brown

Deborah Brown is a director, choreographer and award-winning dancer. She spent 15 years as a Senior Artist at Bangarra Dance Theatre, where she created works including the short dance film *dive* in 2013 and *IBIS* for Bangarra's national tour of lore in 2015. She won the 2013 Helpmann Award, Best Female Dancer in a Dance or Physical Theatre Production, Terrain She has created *hide* for Campbelltown Arts Centre and has choreographed and collaborated on *Spinifex Gum*.

She was assistant director on STC's *The Long Forgotten Dream*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Wonangatta* and Belvoir's *Winyanboga Yurringa*.

Deborah Brown has a Masters in Screen Directing from the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS). Her film *Bala* has featured at film festivals around the globe and is currently screening on ABC iView. She has directed for the new NITV children's series *Barrumbi Kids*, released in 2022.

Michael Woodley

Michael Woodley is the CEO of the Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC), a Registered Native Title Body Corporate, and co-founder of the Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation (JGAC), Yindjibarndi's language and cultural recording organisation, as well as being a Yindjibarndi spokesperson, Bindarra Law carrier and community leader.

He has been a leader for more than a decade in the Yindjibarndi community, and more generally in the community of Roebourne. Prior to that he undertook training through Rio Tinto's Aboriginal Training and Liaison (ATAL) division, and from 2002 to 2011 took YAC from a small organisation to a thriving enterprise involving archiving, publishing, digital media, television broadcasting, media training, cultural consultancy and advocacy. In 2007 he was appointed CEO of YAC, where his responsibilities included heritage management, policy and research services and retaining professional legal and anthropological services to strengthen Yindjibarndi's position in being a leader in Native Title development, self-determination and sustainability.

Through culture, community and commerce, Michael Woodley is advancing change through real partnerships and long-term commitments.

Marliya

Marliya is a group of young Indigenous singers whose music goes straight to the heart. Led by Lyn Williams, Marliya has performed the acclaimed show *Spinifex Gum* across Australia, from the outback in Roebourne to the Sydney Opera House concert hall.

Marliya was first formed from members of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, based in Cairns, to perform *Spinifex Gum* by Felix Riebl.

Marliya has performed *Spinifex* at every major Australian arts festival, and has had repeat invitations to BluesFest Byron Bay and the Woodford Folk Festival. In 2019 Marliya toured nationally, from the Garma Festival in Central Australia to Parliament House in Canberra and *Spinifex Gum* was nominated for Best New Australian Work at the Helpmann Awards.

Marliya has performed the orchestral version of *Spinifex Gum* with the Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide Symphony orchestras.

In January this year the Sydney Festival invited Marliya to perform the Vigil at Barangaroo Reserve, including the premiere of a new song 'Listen now' by Steve Francis with choreography by Stephen Page.

Marliya has released three albums *Spinifex Gum* (2017), *Sisters* (2019) and *Ganalilli* (2023) as well as *Live at the Sydney Opera House*.

Marliya

Zariah Biehler
Jayleana Brutton
Kaya Durante
Emily Iverach
Kimberley Jackson
Grace Miller
Tiarna-Rae Mills
Kiyani Namok-Majid
Kyleja Namok-Majid
Ziva Osborne-James
Stephanie Paul
Jaala Sadler
Annika Seden
Georgiana Thomas-Peddell
Ashleigh Ung
Taylah Ung
Sara Van Gelderen

Gondwana Voices

Founded by Lyn Williams in 1997, Gondwana Voices is Australia's national children's choir for treble singers aged 10-17. The choristers of Gondwana Voices come from all over Australia, from the cities, the suburbs and the bush. They are auditioned annually and come together for intensive seasons to perform riveting and challenging music. The choir regularly performs with the country's leading ensembles and has built a reputation for performances of outstanding musicianship.

The choir tours nationally and internationally and has taken part in international choral festivals including the World Symposium on Choral Music, Rotterdam; America Cantat, Mexico City; Polyfolia, Normandy; and Festival 500, Newfoundland. In 2007 Gondwana Voices was the first Australian children's choir to perform at the BBC Proms.

In 2019 Gondwana Voices was invited to perform Brett Dean's *Vexations and Devotions* with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra under Vladimir Jurowski at the Berlin Philharmonie. In 2023 it was Ensemble-in-Residence with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, performing Britten's *War Requiem* and Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Chief Conductor Jaime Martin.

Following tonight's performance of *Spinifex Gum* with Marliya, Gondwana Voices will perform at La Madeleine in Paris and then collaborate with two leading Spanish choirs – Leioa Kantika Korala in Bilbao and Veus Cor Infantil Amics de la Unió in Granollers.

Gondwana Voices

Milla Baddock
Ehryn Bala
Arlie Bragg
Etta Buggy Axton
Ling Butler
HeidiCampbell
Rachel Carpenter
Teya Catterall
Jolene Corpus
James Emmett
Grace Endres-Blakeney
Sienna Flannery
Maddie Fletcher
Genevieve Gan
Freyja Gray
Sonya Gussak
Maya Hersch
Zoë Humberstone
Amber Jarman
Yuhansa Jayakody
Cassidy Jensen
Bryn Lymburner
Anna McAweaney
Bessie Mizrahi Davies
James Morris
Juliette Pfeil
Tessa Pocock
Reva Shinde
India Smith
Joseph Tighe
Nathan Veitch
Grace Veitch
Ebbeny Williams-Cherry
Erin Winsbury
Allyson Wu

Gondwana Choirs Staff

Artistic Director & Founder

Lyn Williams AM

Associate Artistic Director

Sam Allchurch

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Matt Lambe

Marliya Tour Manager

Rachel Whealy

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Giulian Favrin

Tour Doctor and Supervisor

Kaylene Ferguson

Gondwana Voices Supervisors

Penny Flannery

Rebecca Cherry

Farnham Youth Choir

Farnham Youth Choir, under the artistic direction of Patrick Barrett, is one of the the UK's leading youth choirs. Young singers can join its Training Choir from the age of seven before moving through the Junior Choir and onto the Senior Choir around the time they move to secondary school. FYC offers exceptional performance opportunities across a broad repertoire of music and undertakes annual tours both in the UK and abroad, performing at many prestigious UK venues, including the Royal Festival Hall, Cadogan Hall and the Menuhin Hall, and further afield in Notre Dame, Paris, the Vatican and the Town Hall, Auckland.

In addition, FYC regularly commissions and records new music. The choir recently commissioned a short piece from the newly appointed Master of the King's Music, Errollyn Wallen and will premiere it this season. The choir has achieved notable success at international competitions over its 40-year history, most recently winning two gold medals at the World Choir Games in Auckland in July 2024.

Farnham Youth Choir

Yaroslava Andreiuk
Bea Atkinson
Isobel Austwick
Ned Austwick
Lucy Callaghan
Lola Coxon
Emilia Draycott
Yunying Fang
Jasper Fimowicz
Amelie Frewer
Sakura Fukushima-Choularton
Ben Haines-West
Sophia Hagelin
Imogen Henderson
Grace Kay
Elissa Key
Evelyn Keys
Ruby Marshall
Bogdans Melnikova
Beatrice Moler-Butcher
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Liam Noel-Read
Annabelle Paintin
Charlie Paintin
Claire Poon
Nayan Ranade-Hide
Elizabeth Roberts
Anise Robinson
Hannah Ruthven
Astrid Scholar
Kitty Smith
Joshua Soden
Imogen Sowden
Amy Todd
Chloe Todd
Eleanor Wain
Iris Ward
Max Wilson

Royal Scottish National Orchestra Youth Chorus

The RSNO Youth Chorus is one of the leading children and youth choirs in the UK. Formed in 1978 by Jean Kidd, the Youth Chorus is currently led by director Patrick Barrett and boasts over 400 members aged 7 to 18. It has built up an enviable reputation singing under some of the world's most distinguished conductors and appearing on radio and television.

RSNO Youth Chorus members sing regularly with Scotland's National Orchestra in major concert halls and festivals throughout the country, and in 2021 performed at COP26 in Glasgow. The Youth Chorus has also sung at BBC concerts and regularly appears at the Edinburgh International Festival.

The RSNO Youth Chorus is kindly supported by the Rowena Alison Goffin Charitable Trust, W A Cargill Fund and W M Mann Foundation

RSNO Youth Chorus

Aariyana Akram
Lucy Arbuckle
Max Biankin
Rowie Bryce
Valentina Campanella
Rosa Caughie
Alannah Clancy
Fiona Climie
Rachel Cook
Alma Correal-Jarrett
Bea Courtial
Evie Diamond
Emilia Ewer
Jessica Ewer
Jennifer Friels
Joëly Gardiner-Clark



Louisa Greenhill
Rebecca Greig
Thea Heinrich
Hope Henderson
Eilidh Hughes
Izzy Hughes
Connie Hunter
Advay Kadwe
Charlotte Leathem
Diana Lizer
Cara MacKay
Eilidh McIntyre
Nuala-Maria McKnight
Aimee Morton
Kate Mosley
Sarah Oliver
Olivia Osborne
Leila Osmond
Lily Overton
Jessica May Payne
Katie Rourke
Ana Ryburn Thomson
Amy Sanderson
Ekavira Singh
Stella Sorensen
Jodie Sumpter
Jude Tait
Aicha Thiam
Joe Thunder
Anshi Vanga
Summer Wang
Nerea Winchester

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**The Golden Stool, or the story
of Nana Yaa Asantewaa**
Mon 14 Oct, Hall



© Curtis Brown

Huang Ruo's M. Butterfly
Fri 25 Oct, Hall



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