

cosmosis

A photograph of a tree branch with many thin, bare branches against a light sky. The main branch is thick and dark, running horizontally across the middle of the frame. Numerous thinner, more delicate branches extend upwards and downwards from it, some ending in small clusters of buds or leaves. The background is a pale, overcast sky.

dean frenkel



This album is dedicated to diversity.

cosmosis

This album is a collaborative exploration of Dean Frenkel's throat singing with a 29 piece childrens choir, guitar and mandolin, with Australian birds and thumb piano, with contemporary piano, in duet with a vibraphone, and with a female vocal duo in song format.

Dean Frenkel's main style is 'harmonic' or 'overtone' singing. It is part of a large collection of throat singing techniques, practised by a minimum of 20 cultures. These include people

from Mongolia, Siberia (Eskimos), Canada (Inuits), Tuva, Tibet, Japan (Tendai Buddhist sect), Norway (Saamis), Nagaland, Africa (Xhosa, Wagogo and Biaka tribes), Taiwan (three tribes) and Papua New Guinea (Huli tribe). Throat singing is at least 14,000 years old. The traditions of its acoustic practice are so old that the technology of recorded throat music represents

less than 1% of the time it has been practiced.

Cosmosis is a hybrid of 'osmosis' and 'cosmos', which refers to the process of connecting with the environment. It is not para-natural, but a natural process. 'Osmosis' describes the alchemy of two entities influencing change on each other, and 'cosmos' refers to the earth and the many layers of space above it. Space is a significant factor with harmonics, both the recording and listening space. The resonance of a listening space can be brought to life when the volume is set at right levels.

Many aspects of the cosmosis theme is explored through the different pieces, from *Call of the Birds* and *Geological*

Time, to the vertical space of *Stratos*. The common thread is throat singing, which atmospherically blends with the sound. *Deer River* is the translation of 'Buyan Gol', which according to Mongolian legend, is the place where people heard harmonics for the first time. *Mia Mia* means artists refuge in one of Australia's many Aboriginal languages, and is inspired by Colin McKinnon.

Call of the Birds includes an archival collection of native Australian birds recorded by Andrew Skeoch and Sarah Koschak, from the Listening Earth label. These recordings can be accessed by contacting cooe@listeningearth.com.au. Andrew also a pivotal throat singing pioneer in southern Australia.

We hear Australian birds from the following species on this track: Kookaburras, magpies, bush curlews, fuscous honeyeaters, superb fairy-wrens, swift parrots, willie wagtail, noisy friarbird, grey-crowned babbler, grey thrush, pied butcherbirds, turquoise parrots, restless flycatchers, pied currawongs, white-winged choughs, striped honeyeaters, rainbow bee-eaters, white-throated gerygone, white-browed babbler, painted button-quail, thornbills, weebills, jacky winter, sacred kingfisher, olive-backed oriole, rufous whistler.

artists

A special feature of this album is the appearance of Betty Trevers, who performs the calling of the birds ritual on Track 4. She can be heard singing on the opening minute and a half of the track, then again at the end. On the release of this album, Betty was turning 82, making her, perhaps the oldest person to debut as a recording artist. Having begun as a pupil two years beforehand, she has developed into one of very few Australians who can sing harmonic scales.

Another of the album's features is the Bendigo Youth Choir, possibly the world's only children's choir who can all sing harmonics.

Their visionary Director, Valerie Broad OAM, has been nurturing this skill since 1999. Choir members are:

Aliki Watson-Jones
Elysia Young
Emily Johnstone
Kristina Murray
Kristy Holt
Bianca Kelly
Roesha Harrison
Jessica Curnow
Michelle Blume
Cathleen Rosier
Hannah Bowes
Melody Boyle
Rechelle Shuttleworth



Edwin Spark
Eleanor Farrington
Tiffany Harms
Jennifer Hamilton
Ashleigh Fawcus
Zoe Drummond
Olivia Jacobs
Kayla Kelly
Rachel Culvenor
Joanna Holman
Aidan Lloyd
Jemma Saegenschnitter
Naomi Harrison
Melanie Rosier
Anna Holt
Amy Spark

Fortyfour Sunsets is Linda Laasi and Mia Shaw, who, only months before this recording contributed their vocals to the soundtrack of the film, Jindabyne,



with Australian music legend Paul Kelly. They were credited as 'Soteria Bell'. Vibraphone player Ariel Valent, from Invention in Time, played on *Alchemy*, and *Land of Waves*, with the Bendigo Youth Choir. Last, and would deservedly be first, is the contribution by Australia's foremost composer, Peter Sculthorpe, who enthusiastically supported the initiative of combining throat singing with his compositions.

dean frenkel

Dean Frenkel is a harmonic singer, author, and Guinness world record holder. Author of 'The 8th Natural Wonder', a book about throat singing, performer with Melbourne ensemble 'Aajinta', and recording artist with Move Records. He has been a throat singing participant in the 'Physics of the Didgeridoo' lectures around Australia, and has presented at conferences - Australian National Association of Teachers of Singing, The International Voice Symposium and The International Holistic Health Conference. He has published projects of poetry-posters on trams; 'Moving Words' and 'Art on the Met', Directed and performed 'A Poet's History of Australia' - released by ABC. Has appeared twice on Enough Rope with Andrew Denton, and broke the world record on the program. He has also been a guest on The Today Show, Stateline and across the spectrum of ABC Radio stations from JJJ to Classic FM.

world record

On 19 March 2005 Dean Frenkel officially broke the world record for the longest continuous vocal note on 'Enough Rope with Andrew Denton'. Before his attempt, Irishman David

THROAT SINGER SMASHES GUINNESS RECORD



Andrew Denton (left) celebrates with Dean Frenkel after the singer smashed the world record for the longest vocal note. Photo: ABC TV

MELBOURNE throat (harmonic) singer Dean Frenkel sang his way into the history books on national television this week. Appearing on ABC TV's *Enough Rope*, hosted by Andrew Denton, Frenkel was attempting to beat the Guinness world record for the longest continuous vocal note. Frenkel, 40, impressed the audience by

holding on for an astonishing 56.92 seconds, smashing the previous record of 29.03 seconds. "It was still short of my personal best," Frenkel told the *AJN* after his history-making TV appearance. While the record still requires confirmation by the Guinness governing body in the UK, it is expected to be formally approved this month.

McFettridge held the world record with 29.03 seconds. Dean's official time of 57 seconds was a significant improvement on this. The purpose was to highlight the bounds of throat singing, and news of this was widely reported, as far away as the Mongolian News and Vancouver Star.

short film

When Dean Frenkel suggested to Martin Wright the idea of filming clouds and adapting them to his piece *Stratos*, he did not expect Martin to embrace it. But over the following month, Martin applied his attention to using time-lapse photography as he created a highly compatible short film of clouds to complement the music. The video will play on your computer. The artist would like to thank all contributors to this album. Special thanks to those who were highly supportive; Val Broad, Judy McDonald, Martin Wright, Peter Sculthorpe, Andrew Skeoch, Linda Laasi, Mia Shaw and Simon Bailey.

Press clipping courtesy of the Australian Jewish News. Bendigo Youth Choir was recorded at the Capital Theatre, Bendigo. The album was recorded and edited at Move Records studio by Vaughan McAlley. Martin Wright recorded the Bendigo Youth Choir and did the final mastering.

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1 Stratos 4'45" composed by Dean Frenkel

with Bendigo Youth Choir

2 Weeping Camel 1'43" originally *Concerto for Guitar* (first movement)

composed by Sylvius Leopold Weiss.

with Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra and a brilliant anonymous guitarist *

3 Maast 5'26" composed by Mia Shaw and Linda Laasi.

Adapted from an Estonian poem by Juta Puust. Performed with Fortyfour Sunsets, including Anita Quayle | cello, Mia Shaw | violin.

4 Call of the Birds 7'33" composed by Dean Frenkel

with Betty Trevers | harmonic singing, Linda Laasi | thumb piano and Australian Birds.

5 Geological Time 7'17" composed by Dean Frenkel

with Bendigo Youth Choir.

6 Wagogo Plains 2'16" originally *Morning Song* composed by Peter Sculthorpe

Performed with Max Cooke and Darryl Coote †

7 Eleven XI 3'51" composed by Linda Laasi and Mia Shaw

with Fortyfour Sunsets and Linda Laasi | thumb piano – Original track recorded at Thirty Mill Studios, produced by Simon Bailey

8 Alchemy 3'11" composed by Ariel Valent and Dean Frenkel

with Ariel Valent | vibraphone

9 Wild Western Ocean 1'47" originally *Sea Chant* composed by Peter Sculthorpe

Performed with Peter Sculthorpe †

10 Mia Mia 3'01" composed by Dean Frenkel and Linda Laasi

with FortyFour Sunsets.

11 Deer River 1'38" originally *Concerto for Guitar* (fourth movement)

composed by Sylvius Leopold Weiss

with Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra and a brilliant anonymous guitarist *

12 11.59 pm 6'54" originally *Nocturnal*, composed by Peter Sculthorpe †

with Robert Chamberlain

13 Land of Waves 4'23" composed by Dean Frenkel

with Bendigo Youth Choir featuring Cathleen Rosier, Ariel Valent | vibraphone and Dean Frenkel | didgeridoo

14 Astralis Waltz 1'29" originally *Left Bank Waltz* composed by Peter Sculthorpe

Performed with Peter Sculthorpe †

* original from CD Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra | Move Records MD 3159

† original from CD Peter Sculthorpe Piano Music | Move Records MD 3031

Isn't it amazing what people can do with their voices ... amazing sounds ... a euphoric soundscape."

(Philip Adams, Late Night Live, ABC Radio National)

"get outta here!"

(Afternoon Show with Mel and Charlie, Triple J)

"a very special talent"

(Andrew Denton, Enough Rope, ABC)

"it is Frenkel's haunting, otherworldly vocals that will lull you into a state of meditation, sleep or blissful calm. At last, something of merit in the New Age section. * * * * (4 stars)"

(Stephen McKenzie, Melbourne Weekly)

BONUS

This CD includes a bonus short film of the first track "Stratos". The video can be played on any recent Mac or PC with Quicktime (available at quicktime.com).

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