

# Quartet and Country

*7-11 August 2017*



*A commissioning initiative between UKARIA, the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival and the Australian String Quartet.*

**Key creative personnel in residence at the UKARIA Cultural Centre:**

**Stephen Pigram** Indigenous Composer / Performer  
**Lou Bennett** Indigenous Composer / Performer  
**Iain Grandage** Collaborator on compositional elements  
**Australian String Quartet** Performers

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

From the first waves of indigenous settlement 60,000 years ago to the later tides of migrants, contemporary Australian culture is an accumulation of histories and interweaving stories - one that revels in its extraordinary diversity yet still reveals our shared humanity.

So it is that UKARIA again supports the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival's 'Quartet and Country' series of commissions – one that honours this country's first inhabitants, and seeks to find common ground between Western Art Music and the Songlines of this country. These commissions were rapturously received at both the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival in 2016, and Adelaide Festival in 2017, and the program will in 2017 feature newly commissioned works from Lou Bennett and Stephen Pigram.

Yorta Yorta / Dja Dja Wurrung woman Lou Bennett, a much loved member of Tiddas, will be using the residency at UKARIA to write a story of ancient cultural practices – a story that will leave audiences deeply moved and looking upon the world anew.

*"When I speak in my language it tastes like honey, it feels good."*  
- **Lou Bennett**

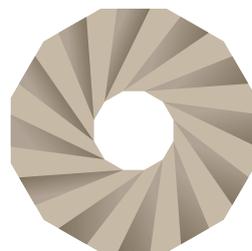
Stephen Pigram's new work explores his relationship to his Grandmother's country ('Buru' in Yawuru language), and the multi-cultural influences of his hometown of Broome.

*"Country's in my veins. With blood I write my name, I'll sing a song to say what I can see"*  
- **Stephen Pigram (from 'Mimi')**

Working in the idyllic retreat that is UKARIA - a place that is itself a consummate synthesis of nature and art - the composers will collaborate with me and members of the Australian String Quartet.

Iain Grandage  
Artistic Director  
Port Fairy Spring Music Festival 2017

This project is generously supported by the **UKARIA Foundation**.



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