

UKARIA
Cultural Centre

Artists In Residence



QUARTET AND COUNTRY

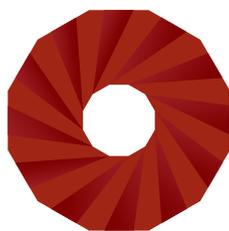
A commissioning initiative between UKARIA, the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival and the Australian String Quartet.

Quartet and Country is a program of commissions from indigenous musicians that seeks to find common ground between Western Art Music and the Songlines of this country. The string quartet stands at the apex of western cultural practice, and to have it play the music of our country - the songs that speak of every valley, hill and river - has the potential to become a powerful gesture of togetherness. Working in the idyllic retreat that is UKARIA - a place that is itself a consummate synthesis of nature and art - the indigenous composers will develop their works and then workshop their drafts with the Australian String Quartet. Each composer/performer may choose to sing with quartet, play their instrument with quartet, or simply write for quartet alone. Iain Grandage, Artistic Director of the Pt Fairy Spring Music Festival and leading composer/musician, is overseeing this project as mentor and collaborator.

In this initial phase, composers William Barton and Deborah Cheetham - both indigenous artists with a profound understanding of western music traditions, as well as deep connections to their indigenous heritage have been commissioned. Two younger artists - Jessie Lloyd and violinist Eric Murraway will observe the process with a view to writing quartets in future years.

The works by William and Deborah will be performed by the Australian String Quartet at the Pt Fairy Spring Music Festival in October 2016 and at the UKARIA Cultural Centre in 2017. Their works will be programmed alongside other contemporary Australian composers and European masterworks to contextualize their history.

This residency is phase one of a much larger project. Iain's vision is to create a body of work that gains its own momentum and becomes a recognizable element within Australia's musical landscape. Each year he hopes to invite a male and female composer, reflecting both sides of the gender division that is common in traditional Indigenous ceremonial practice. He hopes to release a CD of the collected commissions in 4 to 5 years with a view that an entire concert could be mounted of Quartet and Country commissions.



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Key creative personnel in residence at the UKARIA Cultural Centre July 2016.

Deborah Cheetham AO Indigenous Composer / Performer

William Barton Indigenous Composer / Performer

Iain Grandage Collaborator on compositional elements

Jessie Lloyd Mentored composer

Eric Murrawuy Mentored composer

Australian String Quartet Performers

This project is generously supported by the **Klein Family Foundation**.