

ECLECTIC MIX OF SOUL, GOSPEL, AND COUNTRY MUSIC



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Melanie Walters, *The Advertiser*
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Emma Donovan is a vocalist with great range and versatility, and her concert at UKARIA encompassed an eclectic mix of soul, gospel, and country music.

Joined by Iain Grandage on cello and piano and Mick Meagher on electric bass, Donovan had selected a deeply personal program drawn from various projects she has been involved with. The concert opened with *Worrall Creek*, a song in Gunbaingirr language written by Donovan's great grandmother, followed by a powerful rendition of *Aboriginal Woman* with very effective drone-like accompaniment from the cello and bass with digital delay.



Rounding out the first half of the program were songs associated with the Black Arm Band project (which both Donovan and Grandage had been involved with), including songs by Ruby Hunter in Ngarrindjeri language and a track from the film *The Tracker* by Archie Roach.

The second half opened with a work for solo cello and prerecorded sounds composed and performed by Grandage entitled *Inma Kutju*.

This work was developed in collaboration with members of the Tjuntjuntjarra community, who had been removed from their land for the Maralinga nuclear tests.

This was an intense work, with the cello alternating between persistent rhythmic ostinatos and sustained high notes and harmonics, while the prerecorded track featured clips of *Emu Song*, a songline performed by Pitjantjatjara elders and sounds of the nuclear tests.

Also on the program were two rather sweet-sounding country songs by Donovan's grandfather, and a couple of tracks from the album *Dawn* by Melbourne band The Putbacks.

Emma Donovan with Iain Grandage and Mick Meagher
UKARIA Cultural Centre
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