

MUSIC FULL OF PASSIONS, HUMOURS AND AFFECTIONS STILL SPEAKS ACROSS THE CENTURIES



Stephen Whittington, *The Advertiser*
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It was dust to dust moment.

Through the window behind the performers you could see a cloud of dust whipped up by a sudden gust as they played exquisite music redolent of an age long past, written for the pleasure of people long dead, people born to bloom and drop.

The stabbing dissonances and plaintive falling lines were a poignant evocation of lives lived and a culture that has all but withered away.

Miraculously though this precious music is still with us and in the hands of musicians who cherish it and have devoted their own lives to keeping it alive.

Bruce Dickey is a master of the cornetto – which is neither an ice cream – as it sounds – nor a bent recorder – as it looks – but a perfectly wonderful instrument that inhabits the penumbra between a brass and woodwind.

In the hands of Bruce Dickey it is an extraordinarily expressive instrument, which swoops and soars, and above all sings.

Pairing it with the beautiful and highly expressive voice of soprano Hana Blažíková was a marriage made in heaven.

Backed by the splendid Van Diemen's Band these two artists explored the byways of the Italian Baroque – composers whose names are scarcely remembered if at all, but were eminent in their time – with music full of the passions, humours and affections of the age, which nonetheless still speaks to us across the centuries.

It was a rare privilege to hear this fine combination of talents in an utterly absorbing program.

Van Diemen's Band with Hana Blažíková and Bruce Dickey
UKARIA
March 24