

The Hedberg

The Hedberg is a state-of-the-art building that takes the University of Tasmania boldly into the creative future, giving music and creative arts students a world-class learning space and bringing students, staff, industry and community together.

As an incubator for place-based creative practice, research, partnerships and engagement, the Hedberg provides world-class spaces for collaborating, rehearsing, performing and recording.

Lunchtime Concert Series

Make the most of your lunchbreak and enjoy our series of free concerts at the Hedberg performed by students, staff and alumni of the School of Creative Arts and Media. Bringing exceptional music to the local community, all are welcome at these 50-minute recitals designed to provide space for contemplation in our acoustically renowned Ian Potter Recital Hall.

Cover image: Osborne Images



School of Creative
Arts and Media

College of Arts, Law
and Education

Lunchtime Concert

Foolish Songs of April – Maria Lurighi and Andrew Legg

22 April 2022

Foolish Songs of April

Maria Lurighi and Andrew Legg

Bringing exceptional music to the local community, this 50-minute recital is designed to provide space for contemplation at lunchtime.

Maria Lurighi and **Andrew Legg** have been making music together for over 20 years. Together they create beautiful and arresting musical soundscapes that both transverse and seek to honour the great music traditions of African America.

"When everything is fluid, and when nothing can be known with any certainty- Hold your own." Kae Tempest

Acknowledgement of Country

Today we are meeting on lutruwita (Tasmania) Aboriginal land, sea and waterways. We acknowledge, with deep respect the traditional owners of this land, the muwinina people, which we meet today.

The muwinina people belong to the oldest continuing culture in the world. They cared and protected Country for thousands of years. They knew this land, they lived on the land and they died on these lands. We honour them.

For the muwinina people, the area around nipaluna (Hobart) was their Country and they called Mount Wellington kunanyi.

We acknowledge that it is a privilege to stand on Country and walk in the footsteps of those before us. Beneath the mountain, among the gums and waterways that continue to run through the veins of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. We pay our respects to elders past and present and to the many Aboriginal people that did not make elder status and to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community that continue to care for Country.

We recognise a history of truth which acknowledges the impacts of invasion and colonisation upon Aboriginal people resulting in the forcible removal from their lands. Our Island is deeply unique, with spectacular landscapes with our cities and towns surrounded by bushland, wilderness, mountain ranges and beaches.

We stand for a future that profoundly respects and acknowledges Aboriginal perspectives, culture, language and history. And a continued effort to fight for Aboriginal justice and rights paving the way for a strong future.

For this concert in the beautiful new Hedberg Recital Hall, Maria and Andrew present a concert for piano and voice only, where they explore the connection between the voice and piano in the context of our place now in this world.

Featuring songs from across the classical/contemporary traditions, Maria and Andrew create a new and unique narrative, working with beautiful melodies and harmonies, reconstructing and deconstructing them, constantly exploring new and alternate meanings, perspectives, ideas. They weave poetry, prose and spoken word into and in between their music, questioning the traditional boundaries between lyric, text, and melody, attempting to forge new connections between these elements, all the while hoping to bring to light our feelings of isolation, rejection, inclusiveness, and love.

Maria Lurighi has over 45 years' experience as a singer and musician. Maria is in her 23rd year of teaching at the Conservatorium of Music and is currently the coordinator of voice. She has been the vocal coach for the Southern Gospel Choir since 2000, and for the past five years has worked closely with young Indigenous artists studying at UTAS. Maria has also been a company artist with Big hART having been a part of the music ensemble for Hipbone Sticking Out at the 2014 Melbourne Festival and Blue Angel for the 2015 Ten Days festival. Maria is a champion for new orchestral works for voice having been the featured artist for new commissions by David Young (Overheard at Inveresk), Constantine Koukios for Olympic Spirit with TSO and Let Freedom Ring by Andrew Legg. Maria worked as Business Development Manager for Ten Days on the Island from 2004 – 2009 and was a past Chair of the Individuals panel and a member of the arts advisory panel for Arts Tasmania. Maria was also a board member for TYO and worked as an assistant to the chair of AbaF Tasmania, Peter Althaus. She was the Business and Sales Manager for Domaine A from 2001 to 2010. Maria is currently on the board of Ten Days on the Island. Maria's passion for the development of young people in Tasmania remains at the front of her commitment to her life on the island.

Associate Professor Andrew Legg is the Coordinator of the National Sonic Research Facility at the University of Tasmania's School of Creative Arts and Media. He was born in Hobart in 1964, trained as a classical pianist, composer and educator but is best known for his work as a powerhouse gospel and soul pianist, steeped in the African American tradition and cultural practices of that community. Andrew was Director of the Conservatorium of Music until the end of 2017, where he and his team developed a world-leading, practice-led research higher degree/PhD program for UTAS. Andrew's research has focussed on the effects of the transculturalisation of African American gospel and soul music into Australian popular culture and contexts. Andrew has released many recordings over his substantial performance career and has worked with musicians such as Kristian Dentley (Take 6) and Myron Butler (Levi). In 2001 Andrew founded the iconic Southern Gospel Choir, whose debut CD Great Day was nominated for an ARIA in 2005.