

# Barry Jones & Friends Celebrate the Arts

3pm Sunday 10 October 2021



## A message from Mary Lou Jelbart Artistic Director

In Wikipedia, Dr. Barry Jones AC is described as a polymath, which then goes on to list “writer, teacher, lawyer, social activist, quiz champion and former politician”. But it doesn’t mention his passionate and deep knowledge of classical music, and great poetry, with particular love for Shakespeare, George Herbert, Wordsworth, William Blake, Matthew Arnold, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Gerard Manley Hopkins, C.V. Cavafy, W.B. Yeats and Samuel Beckett’s prose read as poetry.

Over a decade ago Barry read at a music and poetry evening at fortyfivedownstairs. This inspired the idea of having another such an evening a year or so later and celebrating Barry’s birthday at the same time. It was a brilliant event and such fun that it’s become an annual tradition which sells out as soon as it’s announced. The list of poets and readers is fascinating to see, reflecting Barry’s great range of interests as well as his many friends and admirers who range so widely across so many fields. We’ve had writers, actors, singers, politicians, former Prime Ministers, scientists, medical innovators and researchers.

Last year was a poignant event as it had to be presented to a virtual audience, looking on and participating through Zoom. But how appropriate for a former Minister for Science that it was able to be held with this fabulous innovation. The other benefit of course was that we didn’t have to constantly apologise because there was no room – Zoom meant no-one was turned away. And it still felt like a party, even though you had to provide your own champagne.

The other thing to let you know is that the proceeds of ticket sales for this event go towards Barry’s continuing and inspiring support of the arts. At this tremendously difficult time for the arts, Barry Jones is still the one who is giving gifts.

So for this, Barry, your 89<sup>th</sup> birthday, all of us say Happy Birthday, and thank you!

From your admirers at fortyfivedownstairs

Mary Lou

# PROGRAM

## **Julian Burnside**

Introduction

## **Peter Doherty**

Author unknown – *Vaccine poem*

## **Carrillo Gantner**

Lawrence Durrell – *Conon in Exile*

## **Max Gillies & Jillian Murray**

Gerard Manley Hopkins – *The Leaden Echo and The Golden Echo*

## **Malcolm Turnbull**

Victor Daley – *A Treat for The London Poor* (verses 1, 2 & 4)

## **Ralph Renard**

Simon Armitage – *You're Beautiful*

## **Arnold Zable**

Moishe Leib Halperin – *Weekend's Over*

## **Zoe Knighton**

J.S. Bach – Cello Suite No. 4 in E flat, BWV 1009, *Bourée 1 & 2*

## **Cate Kennedy**

Cate Kennedy – *8 x 10 Colour Photographs, \$16-50*

## **Susannah Chambers**

Joy Harjo – *Perhaps the World Ends Here*

## **Joan Grant**

Wisława Szymborska – *Borders*

## **Bob Carr**

Bob Carr – excerpt from *Run for Your Life*

## **Kevin Rudd**

Amanda Gorman – *The Hill We Climb*

## **Glyn Davis**

Leigh Hunt – *Jenny Kiss'd Me*

Andrea Cohen – *The Committee Weighs In*

## **Rachel Faggetter**

Shakespeare – *Sonnet 30*

## **Zoe Knighton**

J.S. Bach – Cello Suite No. 4 in E flat, BWV 1009, *Courante*

## **Barry Jones**

# END OF PROGRAM

## A brief note about each of the participants by Barry Jones

**Julian Burnside** has been a friend from 1998 and the initiator and driving force for these nine commemorative Poetry & Music events at fortyfivedownstairs. In 2014 I wrote: 'There are five words I choose to describe you: courageous, generous, analytical, eloquent and charismatic. You have much to give – but I wouldn't urge you to go into politics, which would break your heart'. I think I was right on the money.

**Peter Doherty** is an outstanding immunologist, winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1996, and a prolific writer. I have known Peter and Penny for 25 years. I think that our opinions on most issues have a high degree of convergence.

**Carrillo Gantner** is a Renaissance man – actor and director, festival director, essayist, philanthropist, China expert. In 1986, as Minister for Science, I spent days with Carrillo in China when he was our cultural counsellor, and I hope the experience was mutually rewarding.

**Max Gillies** has been an outstanding contributor to these Poetry & Music events. I first saw him perform Beckett in 1968, but we did not meet until the 1980s and only became friends and confidantes in the 21st Century. His gift for character analysis is exceptional.

**Jillian Murray** has given outstanding performances at fortyfivedownstairs including *The Year of Magical Thinking* (Joan Didion) and *L'amante anglaise* (Marguerite Duras) and has read Burns, Dickinson, Cate Kennedy and Tyutchev at our Poetry & Music events.

**Malcolm Turnbull**, Australia's 29th Prime Minister, has an exceptional range of skills. I came to know him well at the 1998 Constitutional Convention of the Republic and I regret that we did not overlap in the House of Representatives. Robert Hughes, Lucy Turnbull's uncle, was a mutual friend.

**Ralph Renard** is a Melbourne lawyer, with a specialised practice in representing artists and writers, and we have known each other for about 65 years (he still looks youthful). He and his wife Ruth are both passionate connoisseurs and collectors and used to be travellers.

**Arnold Zable** is a poet with a passionate commitment to causes, very active in PEN. We had a mutual friend in Bono Weiner, a Holocaust survivor and Bundist in Melbourne and so we go back more than 50 years.

**Zoe Knighton** is an exceptionally gifted cellist, the muse of the Flinders Quartet, a splendid interpreter of Bach and a frequent performer at the Poetry & Music events. I think we first met in about 2000.

**Cate Kennedy** is a poet, short story writer and teacher, born in England but educated here. She has been published in *The New Yorker* and has won numerous awards. She writes with great passion and economy.

**Susannah Chambers** is a publisher, editor and writer, author of three books, and – to declare an interest – the daughter of Rachel Faggetter and mother of our grandson Emlyn Stringer. We first met in 1990. She has helped to humanise me.

**Joan Grant**, New York born, is a distinguished writer and teacher who has lived and worked in China and India. She has an exceptional range - poetry, books for children, criticism, cultural history.

**Bob Carr** comes from an era when New South Wales Labor politicians read books, used long sentences and never wore high-vis vests. His passions include Marcus Aurelius, American political history, Thomas Mann and the environment.

**Kevin Rudd**, a mystery guest in 2020, gives an encore. He has given exceptionally good advice to Scott Morrison on a number of issues. He is a very gifted writer.

**Glyn Davis** was Vice Chancellor of Melbourne University for 14 years, and now heads the Paul Ramsay Foundation. We first met in 1998 when he was Director-General of the Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet. I was stunned by his introduction of me at a literary festival when his analysis was disturbingly profound. His time management is extraordinary. If I send him some material by email, I usually receive a considered reply within 30 minutes. Sometimes, there may be a delay of a few hours, plus an apology: 'We are in Alaska'.

fortyfivedownstairs acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land upon which we gather to share art and performance, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future.

Since 2002 fortyfivedownstairs, a not-for-profit organisation, has offered an evocative urban space and a personalised service to an eclectic mix of artists for theatre, visual arts, forum, music and dance. We rely on the generous support of our patrons for our survival. Tax deductible donations to the fortyfivedownstairs Drive to Survive can be made [here](#).

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** Mary Lou Jelbart

**VENUE MANAGER** Philippa Jelbart

**PRODUCTION & OPERATIONS MANAGER** Andy Turner

**CREATIVE PRODUCER** Cameron Lukey

**THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR** Katy Turbitt

**GALLERY MANAGER** Briar Holt

**GALLERY ASSISTANT** Livia Kenney

**FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER** David Kemp

**FRONT OF HOUSE** Oliver Bailey, Benjamin Colley, Sabrina Day, Janette Hoe, Lochie Laffin-Vines, Dylan Lines, James Masden Smith, Emma Rossignol

**VOLUNTEERS** Thank you to our wonderful volunteer team without whom we would not survive.