

## Inspiration and joy: Clarence Valley Conservatorium welcomes Syzygy Ensemble 13 August 2017



Syzygy Ensemble: Robin Henry, Blair Harris, Leigh Harrold, Laila Engle and Jenny Khafagi

*“...such a joyous ride.”* – The Music Trust

On **Sunday, 13 August at 2pm**, the **Syzygy Ensemble** invites you to explore future classics at the **Clarence Valley Conservatorium**. Reward your curiosity and experience stunning music by some of Australia’s greatest composers. Presented in association with **Musica Viva Australia**, the afternoon begins with a **pre-concert talk at 1:30pm**.

Pronounced “SIZ-eh-gee”, the ensemble delights in demystifying new music. Flautist **Laila Engle**, clarinettist **Robin Henry**, pianist **Leigh Harrold**, violinist **Jenny Khafagi** and cellist **Blair Harris** have become the go-to group for top composers, renowned for their virtuosic and engaging performances.

“We’re thrilled to be playing in Grafton for the first time,” says flautist Laila Engle. “We’ve designed an introductory program to inspire music lovers with future classics. It’s a joy and privilege to share this music with new audiences.”

Based in Melbourne, Syzygy won first prize in the chamber music section of the Australian Concerto and Vocal Competition after just one year of performing together. Since then, they’ve been nominated for a Helpmann Award in 2012, and in 2014 were the recipient of the Melbourne Recital Centre’s Contemporary Masters Award. Last year they released their debut CD, ‘Making Signs’, containing specially commissioned works by renowned Australian composers.

For their Grafton concert, they’ve chosen an all-Australian program featuring Takuma Itoh, David Lang, Gordon Kerry, Theo Loevendy, Lachlan Skipworth, Harry Sdraulig and Brenton Broadstock.

“Takuma Itoh’s ‘Parallel Divergence’ sees us dive and swoop like a flock of starlings, while Lachlan Skipworth conjures up falling stars on a clear night sky,” says Engle. “And David Lang’s ‘Sweet Air’ captures a sense of weightless joy - a wonderful aural expression of a child’s experience of laughing gas at the dentist.”

**Syzygy will appear in Grafton for one concert only, on Sunday 13 August at 2pm at the Clarence Valley Conservatorium. For bookings, please see [www.cvcon.com.au](http://www.cvcon.com.au), call 02 6643 3555 or visit the Clarence Valley Conservatorium, 8 Villiers Street Grafton, NSW 2460. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 concession \$5 children.**

*Since its formation in 1945, the not-for-profit national arts company Musica Viva Australia has delivered quality music to regional and remote areas around the country, ensuring all music lovers can experience live performances no matter where they live.*

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