

## *About A Chorus of Women*

A Chorus of Women has been singing since 18 March 2003 when 150 women filled the Australian Parliament with a lament for the people of Iraq as the Federal Government announced that Australia was going to war. We continue to weave music, conversations and current affairs into the fabric of Australian life. We seek to connect heart and head to re-sound the role the Citizens' Chorus played in the ancient Greek theatre when democracy was new and vibrantly participative.

A Chorus of Women has given hundreds of public presentations of original music, drama, and civic conversations about the great issues of our time. Our repertoire has grown to more than 70 original songs and four major productions, and we have produced a songbook, three CDs and two DVDs.

We are a community group with no ongoing public funding. Donations to support our work are welcome (see [www.chorusofwomen.org](http://www.chorusofwomen.org)).

## *Thanks ...*

Special thanks to the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACC&C) where we are at home. Our residency provides rehearsal and performance venue spaces. Particular thanks to Stephen Pickard and Katherine Collins for their encouragement and support for all we do, and assistance with logistics.



***The chorus spirit is independent of any religious or political affiliation***

# PROGRAM

6.00 pm – In Concert

## Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Rt Rev'd Professor Stephen Pickard



## THE LAW OF REGENERATION

Introduced by Glenda Cloughley

### *Oracle of Laws*

*'ONEIRA' is the Greek word for dreams*

Oneira Oneira Oneira

Dreaming Dreaming Dreaming

*Glenda Cloughley (2004), excerpt from 'Oracle of Laws', A Chorus of Women's Websong*

### *She Spins*

Healing holding

Making moulding

Breaking binding

Weaving winding

She spins her web

softly silently

Hanging in space

catching scattered dreams

*Meg Rigby (2003), excerpt from A Chorus of Women's Websong*

### *Peace is the Nurture of Life*

Peace is not merely an absence of war

Peace is the nurture of human life

Yes peace is the nurture of life!

*Words Jane Addams, Nobel Peace Laureate, President 1915 International Congress of Women*

*Music Glenda Cloughley from A Passion for Peace premiered by A Chorus of Women in April 2015 to celebrate the centenary of the International Congress of Women held at The Hague in 1915 and the founding of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.*

## *The Web*

*Dedicated to Dorothy Cameron*

Grandmother spinning  
Spinning in moonlight  
Spinning at daybreak  
Spinning the thread

Grandmother singing  
Bountiful love songs  
Grandmother singing  
Songs for new babies

Dream up the crimson web  
Dream up the web of song

Grandmother spinning  
Spinning a red thread  
Spinning a blood cord  
Spinning the sacred web

Grandmother singing  
'Call to the singers'  
Grandmother singing  
'Sing up the songs'

Dream up the web of love  
Dream up the web of law

After the fire After all the death  
sorrow's black lace  
binds the grieving lovers

Then swell the green songs  
lovers' lays and lullabies  
Weaving women singing up renewal

Call to the spinners  
Wind the red rope  
Call to the weavers  
Bind the sacred knots

Call to the singers  
Re-sound the songs

Call to the dancers  
Re-bound the dance

We are the spinners  
We are the weavers  
We are the singers  
We are the dancers

Weave me in water  
Weave me in fire  
Weave me in wind  
And in clay

Bind me in tears  
Bind me in blood  
Bind me in longing and love.

Bind me  
Bind me in love

*Glenda Cloughley (2004), A Chorus of  
Women's Websong*

## **Oracle of Laws**

Singing  
Oneira Oneira Oneira

Green the regrowth that sprouts anew  
in the fire-black bush

Red is the thread of sorrow and love  
binding tomb and womb

Sing up the dream of the  
Web of Law Web of Life  
Oneira Oneira Oneira

*Glenda Cloughley (2004), excerpt from  
'Oracle of Laws', A Chorus of Women's  
Websong*

# REGENERATING HUMANITY

Introduced by Meg Rigby

## *Silence is the Rock*

Silence is the rock where I shall stand.  
Oh, when I strike it with my hand  
May the artesian waters spring  
from that dark source I long to find.

*Words from 'Silence' by Judith Wright (1955); Music Judith Clingan  
From A Chorus of Women's On The Edge of Silence, performed in Science Week (2007)*

## *I Am Ethos*

I am Ethos  
Though I do not speak to you in words  
I speak to you in other ways  
I am Ethos  
  
I am the spirit of this place  
I am the spirit of its people  
I am the original spirit  
I am the spirit of now  
  
I rise from the earth  
And I reach for the sun  
I bring together  
The old and the new  
  
In me there is no violence, no war  
In me there is only peace and reconciliation  
In this place I am the love and peace  
I am the beauty of this place  
I am the spirit of Canberra  
I am Ethos in the people  
  
I give you these things  
Every day and always  
I am Ethos

*Words spoken by Ethos to her sculptor Tom Bass in a dream (2005)  
Music Glenda Cloughley*

## ***A Recipe for Peace***

Take grain from the earth and add water  
Make by kneading to leaven with air  
Bake in fire Break and share  
Partake with your neighbour the blessing of bread

### ***Refrain***

*May you never be hungry  
May you never be thirsty  
I wish you health and a happy home  
My companion, may peace be with you*

Remember the making of bread like this  
Remember the making of peace like this  
Harmonies with friends and neighbours — and with strangers  
Bridging the borders of discord and fear

### ***Refrain***

Humble this cooking of bread and peace  
Human the circle from hearth to heart  
In longing, in hope, from hand to hand  
I give you the song of my dream and my prayer

### ***Refrain***

*Glenda Cloughley (2006); for Breaking Bread, Sharing Grief, two ceremonies initiated by A Chorus of Women in Civic Square, Canberra during the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah*



## **REGENERATING THE EARTH**

Introduced by Janet Salisbury

### ***Lament for Gaia***

Sorrow in the dry wind  
Longing cries in the soil and the streets  
No rain falls The land takes no seed  
Where are the Songs of Life?

Our ancestors tell that when Earth's child  
Her beloved creation is stolen and raped  
The bountiful Earth withers with grief  
So rain does not fall and the land takes no seed

When the laws of harmony are broken  
and discord shouts down the Songs of Life  
Hear the Earth, the ancestors teach  
Her lament is the start of renewal

Waiting and wailing in the wells of grief  
Dreaming of Gaia – And the songs returning

*Words and Music by Glenda Cloughley, inspired by the 'Homeric Hymn to Demeter' (c. 800BCE); from Songs to the Earth and premiered at For Love of the World, an Interfaith call to action on climate change hosted at ACC&C (2006); later included in The Gifts of the Furies, Glenda's major work about climate change, which has been performed several times by A Chorus of Women (2008–12)*

## ***The Promise***

Gaia!

We, your people We sing our promise  
to turn the tide to harmony  
of the mortal law of people and cities  
and the immortal law of Earth and Sky

Gaia!

We are the voice of our children's hope  
We are the trust of creatures and plants  
O, We the singers We the dreamers  
will never tire of telling you your gifts

*Words and Music by Glenda Cloughley, The Gifts of the Furies (2008–12)*

## ***The Hymn to Gaia***

Gaia! I will sing to the mother of all

Gaia! I will praise the source of all

Whoever is of the land and sea

The many who fly in the sky

Gaia! All are nourished from your wealth

Gaia! Out of your treasures come children and fruit

You grant birth and death The law of life

Food-giving land Thriving herds

Houses filled with good things

Gaia! Your kindly blessings give happiness

Gaia! Order and beauty spring from you

The city you honour enjoys good laws

The children play merry with fresh-budding joy  
The maidens dance in the flowering fields

Greetings

Mother of gods and wife of the starry sky

Gaia! I will remember you in another song

*Glenda Cloughley, Songs to the Earth (2006); The Gifts of the Furies (2008–12)*

*Lyric from a translation by Jill Hayman of 'The Homeric Hymn to the Earth', c.500BCE*



## FINALE

### *The Tree of Life*

Introduced by Judith Clingan AM

Spiritus Sanctus

Vivificans vita

movens omnia

Holy spirit Spirit holy

Quickener Life giver

You move all things

All things living

You got a right

I got a right

We all got a right to the Tree of Life

Esperamus

*'Spiritus Sanctus' words and melody by Hildegard of Bingen (12<sup>th</sup> century), translated and arranged by Judith Clingan; 'The Tree of Life' words and melody from Afro-American song, arranged by Judith Clingan; 'Esperamus' (let us hope) by Judith Clingan; for A Chorus of Women's New Songs for Remembering concert, and Ceremony of Memory commemorating the first anniversary of the Bali bombing, National Museum of Australia (2003)*



## 7.00 pm – In Celebration

Please join us for our end-of-year celebratory supper and drinks — with some enlivening, brewing, reviewing and reviving conversations!

A donation would be appreciated to cover costs.

# A Chorus of Women today

Alanna McLean, Barbara Sutherland, Cassie Schilg, Fay D'Elmaine, Honey Nelson, Gill Christie, Glenda Cloughley, Helen Cory, Jackie Stepanas, Janet Salisbury, Johanna McBride, Judith Clingan, Kate Champion, Kaveri Chakrabarty, Meg Rigby, Merilyn Jenkins, Sarah Stitt, Sue Armstrong, Tanya Mark, Valerie Albrecht

## Instrumentalists

FLUTE Jodie Petrov

GITAR Meg Rigby, Cassie Schilg, Glenda Cloughley

PERCUSSION Judith Clingan, Meg Rigby, Miriam Pickard

PIANO AND KEYBOARD Johanna McBride

## Musical direction

Johanna McBride with Judith Clingan, assisted by Meg Rigby



## Event development and management

Fay D'Elmaine, Glenda Cloughley, Janet Salisbury, Johanna McBride, Meg Rigby, Sarah Stitt

## Front of house

Debbie Cameron, Jan Perry, Von Tobin

## Graphic design

Helen Ferguson, artspirit

## **'Demain' (Tomorrow) — film screening**

A French documentary film showing transformative and empowering solutions in the face of climate change, creating a new narrative and imagination for the future. This film is a 'gift', which SEE-Change and A Chorus of Women, with the support of the ANU Film group, are sharing with the Canberra community.

Those who have already seen this film have been blown away by the positive energy and hope that it brings. It is 'Regeneration' in action!

**All are welcome, but you must book as seats will run out. A gold coin donation will be welcome to help cover costs. See you there!**

**When:** 6.30 for 7pm on Thursday 8 December 2016

**Where:** Coombs Theatre at ANU, Fellows Road, ACTON

**Book your seats at EVENTBRITE**

[www.eventbrite.com.au/e/demain-film-screening-tickets-29469815010](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/demain-film-screening-tickets-29469815010)  
(or follow the link from A Chorus of Women's website)