

Remembering Glenda

Glenda Jean Cloughley

27 January 1952–21 September 2023



“Farewell song maker – full of love and life!”

Johanna McBride

Wednesday 13 December 2023 at 2pm
Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
Canberra

The Song of Glenda

Welcome

Danny Pratt

Invocation

Miriam Pickard with family and friends of Glenda

‘The Singing Hill’, music by Glenda (audio)

‘Remembering’ by Glenda, Judith Clingan soprano (audio)

Home Ground

Family stories from New Zealand and Canberra

‘Dark Moon Country’ by Danny Pratt

Weaving Human Relations

Academic studies, engagements and passions

Craig San Roque

Healing Through Relationship

Glenda’s Jungian practice

Sally Blake

‘Ubuntu’ by Johanna McBride

Mother Time

Passing on the Mantle

Miriam Pickard

'She Spins' by Meg Rigby

Her Voice

A musical meeting

Judith Clingan

'Lament', 2023 version, Parliament House, March 2023 (video)

Music by Judith Clingan, words by Glenda

Giving Voice

Friendship and making music in A Chorus of Women

Johanna McBride

'Christmas Music' (excerpt) from *The People's Passion*, and
'The Hymn to Gaia' and 'The Promise' from *The Gifts of the Furies*
both by Glenda

Passing On

Danny Pratt, Tony Pratt

'Alive Inside' by Danny Pratt

A Time for Reflection

Elizabeth Cameron Dalman

Farewell

'The Wellsprings' by Glenda

After the song, you are invited to place a flower at the 'wellsprings'



Glenda's family and friends warmly invite you to stay for refreshments.

The Gift of Music Today

The Music Makers

Danny Pratt

A Chorus of Women with friends Chris Latham,
Clara Tenniswood, Jenny Sawer, John Smiles, Maartje Sevenster

The Songs

'The Singing Hill' is a poem by Glenda's friend and mentor Dorothy Cameron (1917-2002). 'The chanting is beginning, the humming has begun' refers to women returning to Parliament House – the site of which is said by local First Nations women to be a women's place. A link to a video of the full story of the poem is on the Remembering Glenda webpage (see below).



'Remembering' was Glenda's first choral composition. It is an excerpt from the song 'By Molonglo Waters', which she composed for a ceremony in 2003 to remember people of Canberra affected by traumatic events such as the Bali bombings and the January 2003 bushfires.



'Dark Moon Country', writes Danny, 'was one of mum's favourite songs of mine. I can hear her in its bluesy lullaby. Amplifying calm. The lyrics and the sound are the essence of what I've learnt through her and her music. "It's easy cause you're MADE of LOVE"'



Glenda's gift of engaging deeply with all those she met, has helped many women 'find their voice' in singing, composing, writing, public speaking and more. **'Ubuntu'** by Johanna McBride and **'She Spins'** by Meg Rigby both emerged from this garden bed of encouragement. Ubuntu is the African philosophy that we are all interconnected: 'I am who I am because of you, We are who we are because of each other'. 'She Spins' also captures the essence of human caring and interconnection.



The 2023 version of **'Lament'** with words by Glenda and music by Judith Clingan, is the 20th anniversary version of the original 'Lament' – the song that started Chorus in 2003. The new version, sung by a 'People's Chorus' in Parliament House foyer in March 2023, turns lament to renewal through a commitment to 'the song of life'.



As preparations for the April 2015 Anzac centenary were ramping up, Glenda recognised the significance of another centenary due in the same month – that of the 1915 International Congress of Women – the only peace conference of WW1. She wrote the story into her community oratorio, *A Passion for Peace* (later renamed *The People's Passion*). The **'Christmas Music'** refers to Christmas 1914 when women from warring countries exchanged letters expressing their shared humanity and horror about the war. The excerpt today includes poignant words from the Australian suffragist and peace activist Vida Goldstein.



'The Hymn to Gaia' and **'The Promise'** are the closing choruses of Glenda's first major choral work, *The Gifts of the Furies*, which is a contemporary retelling of the Greek tragedy the *Oresteia* by Aeschylus about what happens when humans put their laws above the laws of nature. The story has a happy ending when the people learn to revere the Earth (Gaia) and give their promise to future generations to 'turn the tide to harmony'.



Danny's song **'Alive Inside'** is 'about being with mum now. Noticing I can reach down through the grief and grab my connection to her. Being with and holding the feeling of her. Which is just the same as it ever was. She gave me this strength. She was so alive inside. As she continues to be.'



The Wellsprings

Inspired in part by the Tao Te Ching verse below, Glenda wrote the first version of the 'The Wellsprings' for a 2019 performance of *The People's Passion*. It is her expression of the ongoing cycles of life, love and care that are found in communities everywhere. She continued to work on the text and music of this song in her final months. This song we sing today is her final version.



*The Spirit of the Valley never dies.
It is the root of all Heaven and Earth,
The mother of the 10,000 things.
Going far away, it returns.
Frail, frail it is,
Hardly existing.
But touch it. It will never run dry.*

Tao Te Ching (Daodejing) by Lao Tzu, Verse 6



Remembering Glenda webpage

This webpage has more tributes, stories from Glenda's life, recordings and more, including the story of the statue of *Ethos* in Civic Square – Canberra's first public artwork – and other interesting tales.

[www.chorusofwomen.org/About/Remembering Glenda](http://www.chorusofwomen.org/About/Remembering%20Glenda)



Farewell to the Yurt

On mid-February 2023, knowing that her health was declining, Glenda needed to close her practice as a Jungian analyst and psychotherapist, which she ran from the beautiful Yurt in her back garden. Glenda's own account of the ceremony she conducted to close the practice is on the webpage.

The Change Agency and the Temenos group

Also on the webpage, Marguerite Castello, a great friend of Glenda and Tony, has written about the heady days of the 1980s and 90s when Glenda and Tony ran The Change Agency and a group of friends coalesced around production of a journal, *Temenos*, an Australian Jungian and Cultural Review.



Tributes

These are some extracts from the many tributes that have been received. The full collection is on the [Remembering Glenda webpage](#).

I had the pleasure of meeting Glenda some years ago when she organised a ceremony of stories and songs to celebrate the spirit of the Canberra community. The memory of so many Canberrans gathered in Civic Square being moved by Glenda's words of love and peace sung by A Chorus of Women is one that has stuck with me over the last decade.

Katy Gallagher (Senator for the ACT)



Farewell, Glenda. You are a unique woman of striking yet quiet authority; of strength and gentleness; of vision and principled wisdom. *Matthew Nogrady*



...you have been a beacon of light, wisdom and humour. You brought great gifts to the world, most importantly joy to everyone and everything you touched.

Your relentless pursuit of peace and harmony truly lit many candles.

Ellen Hansen



She delighted in me, you know, always mindfully present, positive, curious and encouraging. She was patient with me like a big sister. *Toni Hassan*



Glenda was so very thoughtful and creative. She was a wonderful role model for younger women. I'm so grateful that she was part of my life, although mostly at a distance. I loved walking down the hill on the eve of ANZAC day years ago to the strains of the Chorus of Women. Glenda made so many good things happen.

Deep respect and gratitude for her rich life, which enhanced so many others' lives. *Jo Vallentine (former WA senator)*



Hers is not just a legacy. Glenda's work in poetry and music brings forth the collective maternal spirit held by all women. In this, her work is spiritual and enduring and generative. Life filled. There are no words to fill the space between her being with us and her parting. *A friend (anon)*



Glenda with her mother Winnie, and sister and brother, Sue and Peter

At home in Canberra with the family



Glenda and Tony with granddaughter Sienna



Glenda's family would like to share our love and gratitude with our wonderful community who have shown their strength and care through it all



Daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, friend, healer, prophetic storyteller, weaver of dreams

"It's all in the music" Glenda Cloughley, September 2023