

Matthew Steffen (bass) studied Double Bass and has toured and performed extensively as a member of ARIA award nominated band CODA and AFI award winning band Decoder Ring. He is currently a member of Jlm Moginie's (Midnight Oil) Electric Guitar Orchestra and The Number Four Band. He has recorded for artists such as Youth Group, Josh Pyke and Lenka as well as performing with artists Toby Martin, Sarah Blasko, Jack Ladder and Tim Ireland. Matthew has written and performed music for Sydney Dance Trio *the Fondue Set* and for Urban Theatre Projects works *Are We There Yet?* and *Life As We Know It*.

As Curator-Contemporary Music at Campbelltown Arts Centre between 2013 and 2019 Matthew curated and produced over 80 artist residencies, public performances and community events with a multi genre annual music program focused on supporting NSW and Australian based musicians to explore their practice and create new music while connecting to and inspiring the local community. Matthew continues to write, record and perform and is currently working as a freelance creative and cultural producer.

Bree van Reyk (Drums) is a drummer, percussionist, composer and sound artist who makes unconventional and tradition-challenging performance works. Her music resides in the intersection between contemporary classical, indie-rock and performance art and is equally warm-hearted, celebratory, and focussed on issues of equality.

Bree has been commissioned by Sydney Festival, Sydney Chamber Opera, Ensemble Offspring, Canberra International Music Festival, Marrugeku, Urban Theatre Projects, Performance Space, Sydney Dance Company, The Letter String Quartet, Shaun Parker Company, fashion designer Bianca Spender, AGNSW, GOMA and the MCA.

Her performance career includes tours and recordings with artists such as Gurrumul, Paul Kelly, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Synergy Percussion, Ensemble Offspring, Holly Throsby, Sarah Blasko, Marcus Whale, Laura Jean, Sally Seltmann, Toby Martin, Darren Hanlon, Grand Salvo, Katie Noonan, Oren Ambarchi + Martin Ng, and Anthony Paterras.

TÌNH KHÚC TỪ QUÊ HƯƠNG SONGS FROM HOME

DANG LAN & TOBY MARTIN



CASULA
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2021
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ARTS CENTRE

2021
SYD
FEST

SAT 23 JANUARY 2021

NOTE FROM LAN AND TOBY

We have been working on these songs together for the last two years. They started in a residency with Urban Theatre Projects in Bankstown, and then we moved on to regular sessions in Lan's house in Bass Hill. Through playing music, sharing meals and stories we got to know each other and each other's families. We played the Lunar New Year festival at the Phuoc Hue Temple in Wetherill Park, just before CoVID struck, and we are currently making an album of these songs with Bree and Steff.

The songs represent a meeting place between our two musical backgrounds. There are some much-loved Vietnamese folk songs here, reimagined and twisted into new shapes. And there are also new songs written by the two of us about Lan's journey to Australia, her experiences living in western Sydney, her family and her beliefs. These songs were written after lots of conversation and many cups of ginseng tea! Lyndal's wonderful images help to bring Lan's house, her life, and our relationship into the Powerhouse.

Thank you to Casula Powerhouse and Sydney Festival for supporting this show.

Hope you enjoy it!

THE SONGS

Ly Cay Da (*Ballad of the Banyan Tree*)

North Vietnamese folk song.
English translation by Dang Lan,
English Bridge by Toby Martin.

Mother by Dang Lan

Flowers in Hand by Dang Lan

Toi La Ai (*Who Am I?*) by Dang Lan and Toby Martin

Co La i Folk song English translation by Dang Lan

God's Will by Dang Lan and Toby Martin

When We Two Parted Poem by Lord Byron. Translation into Vietnamese by Quang Duy. Music by Dang Lan

Two Shoes Poem by Nguyen Trung Kien. Music by Dang Lan and Toby Martin

Qua Cau Gio Bay (*The Wind on the Bridge*) North Vietnamese folk song. English lyrics by Pham Duy.

THE ARTISTS

Dang Lan (Vocals, Dan Bau, Dan Tranh) is an accomplished musician, singer, actor, dancer and broadcaster, skilled in traditional Vietnamese music and theatre. She writes modern songs in English and Vietnamese, performs Vietnamese folk songs into English, and translates lyrics. She studied literature and philosophy in Saigon. She also studied traditional Vietnamese instruments, specialising in Dan Tranh (sixteen-string zither) as well as Dan Doc Huyen (monochord) and Sinh Tien (wood & coin clappers).

In Saigon, Dang Lan performed on television, in clubs and radio, singing and playing traditional instruments. She has also performed in USA, Canada and Noumea. Since coming to Australia, she has appeared regularly in concerts around Sydney and interstate. She still performs for the Vietnamese Community and at, multicultural festival events such as the Festival of Asian Music and Dance. She has recited poems for the Australian PEN club, performed in broadcasting for ABC, SBS Television, Channel 7 and has worked as a presenter and a singer on SBS radio from 1977-1990 and the Vietnamese programme on radio 2B FM.

Lyndal Irons (Photographer/Videographer) is a Sydney-based photographer and writer interested in parts of Australian society that are familiar, accessible, yet not often closely encountered. By recording social histories and building legacies using photographs and words, her work encourages curiosity and a deeper connection to daily environment. She is a member of Lumina Collective and her work has been exhibited in solo exhibitions at the State Library of New South Wales, the Australian Centre for Photography, and as part of the Elizabeth Street Gallery, the Sydney Life Photographic Competition, the National Portrait Prize, the Bowness Prize at the Monash Gallery of Art and Tweed Regional Gallery for the Olive Cotton Award for Portraiture.

Toby Martin (vocals, guitar) is a singer, songwriter and the frontman of the rock band Youth Group. Over the course of seven albums, Toby has established himself as a distinctive and adventurous songwriter, combining a plaintive melodic sensibility with finely observed and deeply felt lyrics. His most recent record *Songs From Northam Avenue* (2017) was commissioned by Urban Theatre Projects and inspired by the residents of a street in Bankstown and featured a group of musicians from a variety of cultural backgrounds. His most recent album with Youth Group *Australian Halloween* (2019) was one of ABC Double J's albums of the year. Toby is also a music historian and Lecturer in Contemporary Music at the University of Sydney.