Songs of Emzara

Composed and Performed by ‘DANGEROUS SONG’ (Linsey Pollak & Lizzie O’Keefe)
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Dangerous Song is a 4 year long collaboration between musician Linsey Pollak and vocalist Lizzie O’Keefe. It combines the human voice with the sounds of endangered animals to create an intriguing and moving musical performance, and ultimately a new musical language.

Linsey plays a digital wind instrument controlling sounds of animals using live-looping technology. Lizzie OKeefe joins him, weaving her sublime voice in and out of the musical landscape of animal sounds in a series of original songs. This collaboration between Linsey and Lizzie takes us to a world of sound where the human and the animal combine. This sonic world is mirrored by the visual superimposition of the natural world onto the performers using projection.

Songs of Emzara is third in a series of multimedia performances created by Dangerous Song. It is their response to the current 6th Extinction Crisis and it’s a Song for the Planet.
The Performance

History often neglects ‘HerStory’, and the stories of The Great Flood were no exception. Indeed, it was Emzara who prophesied the Great Flood and saw the need for an Ark that could carry 2 members of as many species as possible to save them from certain extinction. But we know little of her story.

Emzara was a renowned singer and story teller. Even as a young child she was very self-possessed and was often found conversing with animals. This made people quite wary of her. Already at 4 years of age she rode wild horses and had no fear of any animal and they in turn had no fear of her. She communicated with animals through song and these songs were in turn passed on to her daughters, granddaughters and so on. These were the ‘Songs of Emzara’.

‘Songs of Emzara’ opens as a duet – between animal and human. The Indri Indri (a giant lemur from Madagascar) sings its plaintive song and Lizzie O’Keefe replies, singing with her captivating voice that sparkles over 4 octaves. The songs in this performance have been passed down through generations of women (animal whisperers) since the time of the Ark.

‘Songs of Emzara’ is a tribute to 16 of the species who at this moment struggle for their survival – the Indri Indri, the Black Crested Gibbon, Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo, the Humpback Whale, Blakiston’s Fish Owl, the Boorooolong Frog and the Blue throated Macaw ....to name a few. They are present through their voices (played by Linsey) and visually as projections onto the performers. They are the characters that will take Centre-stage, it is their voices that you will hear, voices that will touch your heart.
The Artists
Linsey Pollak - Lyrebird (Breath Controlled Animal Calls)

Linsey is well known all around Australia as a musician, instrument maker, composer, musical director and community music facilitator. He has toured his solo shows extensively in Europe, Nth America and Asia since 1996, recorded 33 albums (solo & with various groups) and performed at most major festivals around Australia where he has devised many large festival pieces such as “BimBamBoo!” (Woodford and Brisbane Festivals), “Sound Forest” (Qld Music Festival) and “The Dream of Zedkat Nabu” (APRA Performance of the Year - Queensland 2013).

Linsey has a reputation for making and playing instruments made from found objects such as rubber gloves and carrots, - his TED talk on Creativity (while making a carrot clarinet) has drummed up over 5 million views. He has spearheaded the Art of live-looping since 1990 developing solo shows such as “Knocking on Kevin’s Door”; “Playpen”; “The Art of Food”; “Making Jam”; “Cycology” and “Live & Loopy”.

www.linseypollak.com

Lizzie O’Keefe - Voice

Lizzie O’Keefe is a dynamic and commanding vocal artist and a versatile, innovative performer, based on the Sunshine Coat, Australia. Studying classical and jazz from an early age, Lizzie has developed a completely unique signature style with a wide vocal range, strong improvisational skills and enjoys experimenting with many different styles. Her sound has been described as haunting and beautiful in the same sentence. She has performed extensively throughout Australia, NZ, Indonesia and Europe, released 5 albums (Solo and various groups including Dangerous Song) whilst also featuring on albums with the Mitchell and Dewbury Band (Brighton), Jazzanova (Berlin), Razoof (Cologne) and Drumagick (Brazil).

www.lizzieokeefe.com
See, Hear & Find Out More

Website: http://www.dangeroussong.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/dangeroussongproductions
Video: Reconnect
Video: Indri Indri
Video: Flash of Blue
Video: Olive Leaf
Music: https://dangeroussong.bandcamp.com/releases
Soundcloud: https://soundcloud.com/dangeroussong
Images: http://www.dangeroussong.com/#media-section

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dangeroussong
Onepagelink: http://onepagelink.com/dangeroussong
from “Songs of Emzara”

‘Songs of Emzara is a mesmerising performance that immerses audiences in a multi-sensory experience of hauntingly beautiful music and imagery. Songs of Emzara is the latest offering by Dangerous Song – the powerful duo of Linsey Pollak and Lizzie O'Keefe. Together they have created a unique and completely live musical form that translates the manipulated sounds of endangered or extinct animals into musical language and then combines them with vocals and projected imagery. The result is a unique, powerful and incredibly beautiful.

Songs of Emzara, is an immersive experience where the performers not only make use of imagery through innovative projections and lighting but have extended this to the surrounding landscape so that the audience is immersed by sound and visuals in a captivating way.

The interweaving of musical ideas between the two musicians was incredible to witness. Lizzie's beautiful vocals were at times otherworldly and combined with Linsey's amazing multilayered music (at times played on a uniquely created instrument using peacock feathers as midi triggers). This music contained real beauty that transported the listener. Balance of music alongside imagery is often difficult to achieve, but Songs of Emzara does just that – it is a multi-sensory experience that also addresses the nature of the world, the delicate balance of life and the plight of endangered species. It also speaks to the beauty, hope and the power that we hold. I would highly recommend this show for everyone. It is something unique to experience and will stay with you long after. – Sue Moxon

from “Dangerous Song - blue”

‘……… O'Keefe's luminous singing is often dappled with a profound sadness that humanises what have could have been an ecologically well-meant but rather academic exercise. Pollak, a creative force in Australia for 40 years, brings a dazzling breadth of imagination to bear in using these elements to create instantly engaging pieces, in which organic and more electronic sounds intermingle and dance like a school of tropical fish about O'Keefe’s yearning soprano. An element of drifting playfulness is even allowed to aerate the waters on the delightful Anemone. – John Shand (Sydney Morning Herald music review) ★★★★☆
‘... This performance, Dangerous Song Blue, shows what we are losing. I know this stuff already. It's terrible. It's so crushingly sad I can't bear to think about it. But tonight this awful knowledge is transformed. Art can do that. This performance about what is being lost is not a dark requiem, but a colourful embracing. If there's a crack in everything where the light gets in, that crack can also let the grief out. That crack is art. This art, here and now, does not deny the awful consequences of human ignorance, but rejoices in the wonder of what is. These artists have allowed my grief out, not as rage or depression, but as an exquisite melancholy expressed as a song, as a smile, as a tear. This performance honours ecosystems and species, gone and going, with a visual and sonic testimony to the glory of life. And it honours humanity, because humans can create art. It is the best thing we do. Without art, we are lost....’  

from “Dangerous Song - Black”

“By elevating this vexed and painful cause to this level, you seem to have evoked something more powerful than emotional or intellectual activity could do. ... If others even remotely feel what was evoked in me then what you have created could have a profound impact on a much wider audience spanning cultures and languages.” Audience Member - Stephen Alexander (April, 2015 World Premiere)

“I feel that this is one of the most powerfully emotive pieces of music (all the songs) I have ever heard.” Audience member – Wayne Petty (March, 2016)

“There is hope, perhaps, that such spellbinding depth and consummate sharing of this song of the earth, will change our human priorities back to a connection with this fragile world and all its inhabitants” - Tamsin Kerr, Director of the Cooroora Institute.

“Dangerous Song is sublime - "meditative", "magnificent" and "sacred" were words spoken by so many. ... This is the most poignant, delicate and exceptionally beautiful work of art - a magical, empathetic, absorption into nature.... this is genuinely world class.” Audience member - Jacqueline Twigg

“This event was not about the musician's or singer's technique, though both were masterful, or the audience as mere spectators. This experience was a joint exploration of our relationship with the natural world. The power of the merging of the human and animal cries had a visceral effect on all of us. Looking around at one time I could see that many of us had closed our eyes and moved into a meditative state to live for that moment totally present to the music. - Jude Pippen PhD - Artworker
Full Show

Music and projection experience. No narration during the performance however opportunity for questions and discussions post show.

Audience Profile

Music lovers, theatre regulars, festival goers, environmentalists and science lovers Aged 13 and up

Production Details

Performance duration – 60 minutes (no interval)
Bump in: 3 hours (ideally completed 2 hours prior show start)
Bump out: 1 hour

Example bump in Schedule

Arrive - 1pm
Bump in - 2pm – 5pm
Show starts - 7pm
Show ends - 8pm
Bump out - 8.30pm – 9.30pm

Maximum number of performances per week

10 performances per week (2 per day) with a minimum break of one hour between performances.

Venue Specification

- Blackout-able space required
- Minimum Stage size 8m wide x 5m deep x 4m high
- Raised stage (minimum 80cm plus) or flat floor with tiered seating
- Ideal capacity - 100 – 300
## Licensing Agreement
Not applicable – copyright rests with performer

## Personnel
The touring party consists of three people
- Linsey Pollak – Performer
- Lizzie O’Keefe – Performer
- Paul Shillito – Production/lighting technician

## Venue to supply

### CREW
- Unloader, where possible – Approx 7 pieces (70kgs.)
- Audio Technician for set up and performance
- FOH

### AV AND LIGHTING
- House lighting and 4 profiles plus extra channel to control booth lighting.
- Where available, 2 short throw front projector (set up on stage floor in front of scrim – 3000 lumen minimum). If not available we can supply.

### AUDIO
“Dangerous Song” requires a high quality PA with full range speakers and high quality monitor speakers (setup as side fill). The venue should provide:
- 2 high quality side-fill monitor speakers
- 7 x DIs
- Power on stage

### DRESSING ROOM AND RIDER
- Small room to act as dressing room and vocal warm up space
- Access to boiling water and tea cups
- We travel with our own reusable water bottles, in order to cut down on the unnecessary waste and environmental damage caused by disposable bottles. Please ensure that jugs or refilling stations with water are made available for us to use.
Dangerous Song company will supply

- Scrim / screen (1.5m wide x 1.5m deep x 2 m high) which surrounds 1 performer with free-standing frame.
- Step ladder and frame for large dress which doubles as a projector screen.
- 2 Projectors (where not provided by venue) / laptop
- Musical Instruments / sound processors
- Micro low level lighting set up and operated by our technician
**Concert Version**

Music experience without projection. Linsey and Lizzie introduce each piece and discuss the themes.

**Audience Profile**

Music lovers, theatre regulars, festival goers, environmentalists and science lovers Aged 16 and up

**Production Details**

Performance duration – 60 minutes (no interval)
Bump in: 1 hour (ideally completed 1 hour prior show start)
Bump out: 30 minutes

**Example bump in Schedule**

- Arrive - 5pm
- Bump in - 5pm – 6pm
- Show starts - 7pm
- Show ends - 8pm
- Bump out - 8.30pm – 9pm

**Maximum number of performances per week**

10 performances per week (2 per day) with a minimum break of one hour between performances.

**Venue Specification**

Very flexible – however a minimum staging area of 5m wide x 2m deep is desirable

**Licensing Agreement**

Not applicable – copyright rests with performer

**Personnel**

The touring party consists of two people

- Linsey Pollak – Performer
- Lizzie O’Keefe – Performer
### Venue to supply

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<td>• 1 x vocal microphone and boom stand</td>
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<td>• 1 x black boom microphone stand</td>
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