

HIStory Program Notes and Blurb

1. Sea Picture

Sea Picture No.2 - Dawn Sime

Sea Fever - John Masefield

<https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/explore/collection/work/80459/>



Never turn your back on the sea. This piece of folk wisdom acknowledges the sea's ever-changing nature, where it can turn from gentle and placid to darkening, fierce, and violent quickly and without warning. Dawn Sime's *Sea Picture No.2* strikingly captures its moiling, thunderous character. Yet as you take it in, you discover small places of calm and light within the turmoil. Likewise, John Masefield's *Sea Fever* can be simultaneously melancholy and fanatical, obsessive and reverent. This is the sea I've tried to evince in my song.

2. Bebop

Birdland - Dick Watkins

Goodbye - Adrian Mitchell

<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection/works/66.2005/>



The bright, angular intricacies of Dick Watkins' *Birdland* evoke the vitality and spontaneity of Jazz in the eponymous New York night club. My song *Bebop* is an exuberant romp, echoing the energy of Watkins' painting, and celebrating (and borrowing from!) the music of Charlie "Bird" Parker.

3. At Dusk

Still glides the stream, and shall for ever glide - Arthur Streeton

At Dusk - Henry Kendall

<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection/works/859/>



For me, the sun setting over an Australian bush landscape invites a moment to stop, breathe, and enjoy your own thoughts. Together, the expansive softness of the light in Arthur Streeton's artwork, and the deeply personal lyric from Henry Kendall's poem, seem to elicit a similar moment of calm introspection. In *At Dusk* I'm trying to conjure that same feeling of stillness and reflection.

Short Blurb

Kevin Barker has worked in a wide variety of genres, from contemporary classical through jazz and popular music. An affinity with landscape and the natural world permeates his music, alongside a striving to understand and place the human soul within this realm.