

for Airena Nakamura and Dianne Finnegan

Guluu

for Violin and Magpie

Guluu (or Australian Magpie in the First Nations Gamilaroi language from Northern NSW) is one of Australia's most well-known songbirds with an array of complex vocalisations. This piece is based on some of those patterns.

“According to the Mandalbingu people, a long time ago the sky was very close to the Earth and it was dark. Everyone had to crawl about the earth in darkness. The intelligent magpies decided that if they worked together they could raise the sky upwards to create more room for all. They did this by lifting the sky upwards by using long sticks. As they pushed the sky even higher it suddenly split open to usher in the first sunrise. The blanket of darkness broke up into fragments and drifted away as clouds. The magpies burst into song and from that time onwards they have greeted the sunrise with their warbling song.” - (Ragbir Bhathal, Aboriginal Astronomy)

KEYNA WILKINS

1. And the Magpies Burst Into Song

(with magpie sounds obtained with permission from Wild Ambience: <https://wildambience.com/website>)

Peaceful

Play the following units of notes in free time, in between and overlapping magpie calls of soundtrack. Fragments can be played in any order and improvised on. The violin represents a lizard coming from under a rock and watching the magpie.

Violin

Commence Track

Magpie Track

mf Sul G harmonics - expressive glissando up to the highest harmonic, roughly following the contours. approx. 30 seconds.

4

f

p

mf

9

mp

f

ff

(whole movement approx. 3 mins duration)

