

A VOICE FROM HEAVEN

QUEEN'S PHOENIX

World Premiere recording of new and old music

While singers and choirs were silenced during COVID-19 lockdowns, Sydney composer and singer, Brooke Shelley, devised a project for a group of singing colleagues when restrictions lifted. The project was to record music by Pierre de Manchicourt (c.1510–1564), a prolific and — in his day — highly regarded member of the so-called 'lost generation' of Franco-Flemish composers between Josquin des Prez and Orlande de Lassus, whose uniquely beautiful music fell into unjustified obscurity in the late sixteenth century and has only in recent decades been rediscovered and appreciated anew.

Inspired by her friend and singer Andrew Fysh, who is producing his own modern performing editions of Manchicourt's music under the title ReSolUt editions, Brooke approached Andrew to propose a selection of works to record.

Over the course of four days during the height of a hot and humid Sydney summer, Queen's Phoenix — eight of the finest ensemble singers in Australia, who have variously sung with each other over the years — gathered in a small College chapel to record a selection of Manchicourt's music and two new Australian works inspired by Manchicourt's motets.

The point of this project was not to over-produce a perfect audio recording: it was about bringing colleagues together after months of being prevented from singing (and consequently, from earning an income) and to immerse them in beautiful, stunning music from the sixteenth century — providing much-needed spiritual and emotional nourishment — and to be muses for new choral works by David Drury and Brooke Shelley. In addition to these two new Australian works, five of the ten Manchicourt motets presented in this release are world-premiere recordings.

This project is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW, and was recorded in St Paul's College Chapel, within the University of Sydney, by kind permission of the Warden and Chaplain.

It was recorded by Richard Hundy, mastered by Simon Gibson at Abbey Road Studios, and released on Indidem.

Available for digital download on iTunes and Amazon Music.

Contact: Brooke Shelley | indidem@resonaxis.com | +61 (0) 400 355 950

INDIDEM

