

Australian Music Series — MDA030

'Australia' Hymn

For the Opening of Australia's First Parliament
Melbourne - 1901

Charles Kenningham
Hull, 1860 – Maryborough, 1925

Edited by
Richard Divall

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Introduction

On 9 May 1901, In the Melbourne Exhibition Buildings in Carlton, the son of King Edward VII, HRH The Duke of York (later King George V), inaugurated the Official Opening of Australia's first Parliament. The event was captured in the iconic painting of the Duke's proclamation and speech by the Australian painter Tom Roberts (1856-1931), a painting that now hangs in the entry to the Main Committee Rooms in the New Parliament House of Australia in Canberra. The painting was originally sent to King Edward as a gift from the Commonwealth, but was later returned to Australia by HM Queen Elizabeth II and is on permanent loan from the Royal Collections.



Amongst the music events that took place in the proceedings, including Handel's Hallelujah Chorus from *The Messiah*, *Rule Britannia* and *God Save the King*, an 'Australia' Hymn was performed with solo soprano Nellie Stewart, (possibly chorus) and orchestra. The composer was the celebrated English Gilbert and Sullivan tenor Charles Kenningham, who was touring Australia in a season of G and S repertoire for the impresario J C Williamson. The vocal line and accompaniment was printed but the original orchestral and vocal parts were acquired by the Melbourne antiquarian book dealer and music commentator Kenneth Hince. Hince, who played a crucial role in gathering much of Australia's early music together, ensured that this important collection was made available to the National Library of Australia, including the surviving performing materials. It is from that material that the reconstruction of the 'Australia' Hymn has been compiled.

Charles Kenningham was born on 18 November 1860 in Hull and sing for some years as a chorister before enlisting for two years in the 5th Dragoon Guards. Possessing an exceptional and clear tenor voice, he sang for five years at Canterbury Cathedral before embarking on a stage career in 1882 in opera and operetta. In 1891 he sang the role of Maurice de Bracy in the premiere of Sir Arthur Sullivan's heroic English opera *Ivanhoe*. He was invited the following month to join the roster of singers with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company which specialised in operetta and especially the works of Gilbert and

Sullivan. With that company he created the roles of Captain Fitzbattleaxe in *Utopia Limited*, and in 1896 of Ernst Dumkopf in *The Grand Duke*. He was an immensely successful and popular singer in this repertoire, and in 1898 he commenced a long tour of New Zealand and Australia with the J C Williamson Company. When the tour ended, Kenningham decided to remain in Australia with his wife, and continued performing until ill health made him retire to Maryborough in Queensland where he died on 24 October 1925.

The 'Australia' Hymn was composed for the opening ceremony of the Official Opening of the First Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia. Scored for a solo voice, chorus and orchestra of a small group of woodwinds and brass with percussion and strings, the work seemingly received very few performances afterwards, and dropped out of sight until the vocal materials and orchestral parts were passed to the National Library of Australia. The work never achieved the popularity that it could have attained, having been premiered at such an important occasion. It is surprising that Kenningham received this commission for he was an inexperienced orchestrator and there are mistakes in the transposing instruments such as French horns. There are numerous inaccuracies in other parts and especially in the sketch chorus score, where the female voice lines were written an octave too high or too low. This is not clarified in the printed vocal score as it was printed with only the one voice part, being the soprano melody. The soprano soloist was the famous Nellie Stewart, known as the 'Darling of the Australian Stage' and a performer greatly appreciated by Australian audiences.¹ This leads to the question, did a chorus take part in the Hymn, for a full chorus was in attendance for the other items. Although the orchestral parts survive, no chorus parts have been found. Despite its imperfections it remains as a piece of music that played a role in the Foundation of the Parliament of the Commonwealth.

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Richard Divall
July 2014

¹ Two 78rpm private discs of Nellie Stewart are held in the Mitchell Library of the State Library of New South Wales. They were recorded by Stewart late in life, one speech being a farewell to her Australian audiences, and the other, an excerpt from her trademark role, Sweet Nell of Old Drury. The voice sounds engagingly youthful.



Invitation to the Opening of Federal Parliament – State Library of South Australia

Ms 52324/1

KENNETH HINCE

Sung at the opening
AT THE
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT.
MAY 9TH 1901

“ AUSTRALIA ”

H Y M N

Written and Composed
BY
CHARLES KENNINGHAM

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ALLAN & CO.
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COLLINS ST

National Library of Australia nla.ms-ms2324-1-2-s1-v

Vocal Score of 'Australia' Hymn – Published Allan and Co. Melbourne 1901

KENNETH HINCE

Andante *Ensemble* *Australia Hymn* *Leader* *5*

Violino I

Alto

Tenor

Basso

à la Harpe

Cello

Basso

Please first 4 Bars
then 3rd Verse

National Library of Australia nla.ms-ms2324-1-1-s4-v

Facsimile of the first violin part of the *Australia Hymn* – National Library of Australia
nla.ms-ms2324

CRITICAL NOTES

Bar	Instrument	Original notation in the manuscript
Tutti	Bass drum and cymbals	The part is fragmentary but enough of it survives to provide a clear indication of the parts until the final bar.
7-8	Cor I-II	Dotted semibreve C's in octaves.
44-5	Cor I-II	Dotted semibreve C's in octaves.
57	Flute I-II	Note 2, dynamic piano.
62	Flute II	Note 3 A.
63-4	Soprano I	There is an <i>ossia</i> for verse 3.
68-9	Soprano I	There is an <i>ossia</i> for verse 3.
72	Tutti orch	Note 4 pause added in pencil.
72	Strings	<i>Arco</i> added in pencil.
Tutti	Tutti	Pencilled note for 'encore' added to all parts.

The Editor

Frà Professor Richard Divall AO OBE is a Vice-Chancellor's Professorial Fellow at Monash University, an Honorary Principal Fellow in Music at The University of Melbourne, and Visiting Professor at The University of Malta. He is Chairman of the Marshall-Hall Trust and is a Knight of Malta in Solemn Religious Profession. He was awarded a D.Lett. (Hon Causa) in 1992 by Monash University, and a Doc. Univ. (Hon Causa) by the Australian Catholic University in 2004. He holds a PhD in Theology from the University of Divinity on eighteenth-century sacred music on Malta that includes an edition of the complete sacred works of Nicolò Isouard (1773-1818), and is an Honorary Research Fellow at the same university. Richard Divall has edited early Australian music since 1967.

'Australia' Hymn

Charles Kenningham 1860-1925
Edited by Richard Dival
National Library of Australia MS

Charles Kenningham **Molto Moderato Maestoso**

Sung at the Official Opening of the
Australian Parliament - 9th May 1901

Flute I
Flute II
Oboe
Clarinet I in B♭
Clarinet II in B♭
Bassoon
Cor I in F
Cor II in F
Cornet I in B♭
Cornet II in B♭
[Bass] Trombone
Bass Drum
Cymbals
Side Drum
Piano Reduction
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Solo
Soprano
Mezzo-soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Violoncello
Contrabass

Molto Moderato Maestoso

Aus - tra - li - a, Aus - tra - li - a, Thou land of gold, Thy name a - mong the Na - tions For -

11 Chorus

Fl I
Fl II
Ob
Cl I
Cl II
Bsn
Cor I
Cor II
Cnt I
Cnt II
Tbn
BD
Cym
SD
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Solo
S I
S II
A
T
B
Vc
Cb

[p]
[p]
ff
fff
fff
fff

e - ver is en - roll'd, We pray God will pro - tect you, And guide your youth, In hon - our, pow'r and jus - tice, In love and truth.

And when our an - cient
And when our an - cient
And when our an - cient
And when our an - cient
And when our an - cient

And when our an - cient
Chorus
fff
fff

Fl I
Fl II
Ob
Cl I
Cl II
Bsn

Cor I
Cor II
Cnt I
Cnt II
Tbn

BD
Cym
SD

Pno

Vln I
Vln II
Vla

Solo

S I
Mo - ther Your grace shall see, Your ho-nour and up-right-ness,Your laws so just and free, With heart up-raised to hea - ven Our God she'll praise, And pray that He'll be

S II
Mo - ther Your grace shall see, Your ho-nour and up-right-ness,Your laws so just and free, With heart up-raised to hea - ven Our God she'll praise, And pray that He'll be

A
Mo - ther Your grace shall see, Your ho-nour and up-right-ness,Your laws so just and free, With heart up-raised to hea - ven Our God she'll praise, And pray that He'll be

T
Mo - ther Your grace shall see, Your ho-nour and up-right-ness,Your laws so just and free, With heart up-raised to hea - ven Our God she'll praise, And pray that He'll be

B
Mo - ther Your grace shall see, Your ho-nour and up-right-ness,Your laws so just and free, With heart up-raised to hea - ven Our God she'll praise, And pray that He'll be

Vc
Cb

34

Fl I

Fl II

Ob

Cl I

Cl II

Bsn

Cor I

Cor II

Cnt I

Cnt II

Tbn

BD

Cym

SD

Pno

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Solo

S I

S II

A

T

B

Vc

Cb

Aus - tra - li - a, Aus - tra - li - a, God grant you peace! And
with you, Thro' all your days.

with you, Thro' all your days.

with you, Thro' all your days.

with you, Thro' all your days.

with you, Thro' all your days.

with you, Thro' all your days.

46

Fl I
Fl II
Ob
Cl I
Cl II
Bsn
Cor I
Cor II
Cnt I
Cnt II
Tbn
BD
Cym
SD
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Solo
S I
S II
A
T
B
Vc
Cb

[p]
[p]

pros-per all your la - bour, While flocks and herds in-crease, May na-ture's boun-teous bles - sings, On you be pour'd, Your chil-dren grow in beau - ty, To praise the

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score, page 46. It features a variety of instruments including woodwinds (Flutes I & II, Oboe, Clarinets I & II, Bassoon), brass (Corianders I & II, Trumpets I & II, Trombone), percussion (Bass Drum, Cymbal, Snare Drum), piano, strings (Violins I & II, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass), and a vocal soloist. The score is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The vocal soloist part includes the lyrics: "pros-per all your la - bour, While flocks and herds in-crease, May na-ture's boun-teous bles - sings, On you be pour'd, Your chil-dren grow in beau - ty, To praise the". There are dynamic markings of *[p]* (piano) in the Clarinet I and II parts.

57 Chorus Piu' lento pesante

Fl I *fff*

Fl II *fff*

Ob *fff*

Cl I *fff*

Cl II *fff*

Bsn *fff*

Cor I *fff*

Cor II *fff*

Cnt I *mf*

Cnt II *mf*

Tbn *mf*

BD *mp*

Cym *mp*

SD *mf*

Pno

Vln I *fff* pizz a' la harpe

Vln II *fff* pizz a' la harpe

Vla *fff* pizz a' la harpe

Solo

S I Lord. *ossia 3rd verse* right - ness, Your laws so just and

S II And when our an cient Mo - ther Your grace shall see, Your ho - nour and up - right - ness, Your laws so just and free, With

A And when our an cient Mo - ther Your grace shall see, Your ho - nour and up - right - ness, Your laws so just and free, With

T And when our an cient Mo - ther Your grace shall see, Your ho - nour and up - right - ness, Your laws so just and free, With

B And when our an cient Mo - ther Your grace shall see, Your ho - nour and up - right - ness, Your laws so just and free, With

Vc *fff* Chorus

Cb *fff*

ritard.....

66

Fl I

Fl II

Ob

Cl I

Cl II

Bsn

Cor I

Cor II

Cnt I

Cnt II

Tbn

BD

Cym

SD

Pno

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Solo

S I

S II

A

T

B

Vc

Cb

God she'll praise, And
heart up-raised to hea - ven Our God she'll praise, And pray that He'll be with you, Thro' all your days.

heart up-raised to hea - ven Our God she'll praise, And pray that He'll be with you, Thro' all your days.

heart up-raised to hea - ven Our God she'll praise, And pray that He'll be with you, Thro' all your days.

heart up-raised to hea - ven Our God she'll praise, And pray that He'll be with you, Thro' all your days.

heart up-raised to hea - ven Our God she'll praise, And pray that He'll be with you, Thro' all your days.