

# SINGING SONGS TOGETHER

As an adjunct to scientific explanation I am keen on the experience of singing these simple songs together to trigger a didactic process. Singing together seem to provide a different experience of human communication and knowing in which the crucial elements are **connection** and **flow** - not an exchange of information.

Singing together is an ancient practice, particularly associated in the past with work and worship. Its value is still recognised today in religious practice, in commercial advertising and in the teaching of children, more so in indigenous cultures. I mean it as a metaphor for the many ways in which we keep our knowing alive through caring interaction - by dancing together, or playing together - with a lightness that lessens common obstacles to knowing such as taking ourselves too seriously.

Lloyd Fell

The BIOSONG symbol on the cover page was designed and drawn by my friend, Graham Sharpe, in 1989. Graham was also co-creator and co-presenter of the original version of 'Stress the Musical.'

# SONGBOOK VOLUME 1

For this Third Edition of Songbook, Volume 1, I have selected 26 of my songs, including six that were not in earlier editions. They are also loosely arranged into five different themes this time.

Lloyd Fell, October, 2006

# SONGS FROM 'STRESS THE MUSJCAL'

# #1 I'VE GOT STRESS (U3A Version)

I've got stress, I've got stress Since I got here today I've got stress 'Cause I do hope you'll like me, I want to impress I've practiced all morning, but nevertheless My thoughts seem to be in a hell of a mess What a mess, I confess, I've got stress

I've got stress, I've got stress What a mess, I confess, I've got stress And I wonder if you've got it, everyone does If you haven't you should, it'll give you a buzz Or perhaps you're the blighter who gives it to us What a mess, I confess, I've got stress

I've got stress, I've got stress Every time I do this I've got stress I started this new course for pleasure and play But since meeting the tutor I've had it all day Don't know what it is, but it won't go away What a mess, I confess, I've got stress

I've got stress, I've got stress It's a U3A syndrome I guess They told me that study would strengthen my brain But with all this thinking again and again All that I've got in my head is a pain What a mess, I confess, I've got stress

I've got stress, I've got stress It's a serious problem no less I've thought of retiring at home in my bed But I seem to prefer to keep busy instead If I didn't have . . tension, I'd prob'ly be dead What a mess, I confess, I've got stress What a mess, I confess, I've got stress

There is also a cabaret version and a workshop version of this song, which is the opening number of 'Stress the Musical', a one-hour musical play/workshop that I wrote in 1989. The next two songs are actually 2006 versions for the same show.

#### #2 KNOW YOURSELF

Know yourself And you will know who you're being And then accept yourself So you will like what you're seeing And then forget yourself That's all you need to do And it will help you to keep up with everything that happens In the big wide world

It helps if you will use all your senses Even those you're not sure they exist Otherwise you might put up defenses And think of all the things you must resist

Whatever we oppose, opposes us. That with which we flow, flows with us. Whatever we embrace, goes with us. What we suppose, knows with us. So sing with us

## Chorus

#### #3 WE ARE THE SONG

(We are the product of our history of connections)

Threads connect us every day in everything we do Everything we notice and pay attention to These threads are hardly broken; they just renew each day They follow one another in an incremental way Honouring these details, the truth will set us free Where we are right now is where we're meant to be

We are the songlines of our lives We are the laughter and the cries We are the being right and wrong We are the singing, we are the song

We often think of what we are as what we ought to be Some imagined super being, absolutely free Or perhaps a victim of events that were not kind This denies us our free will; suffocates the mind We can only be exactly what we have become The product of our history; the race that we have run

# SONGS ABOUT MIND-BODY SCIENCE

#### **#4 SONG OF AUTONOMOUS UNITIES**

I am an autonomous unity My structure is very profound While everything else is a line to me To me I am perfectly round My history mystery I will unveil Believing I know as I do This world I bring forth is my own - and I love Your autopoietical you Not hypothetical, just parenthetical, Autopoietical you

# **#5 I PRODUCE MYSELF**

Now I'm a man who said that he was going to the top Who claimed he had the necessary skills Who had a great ambition which nobody could stop And said: "I'll do what anybody wills" So I produced the goods for other people I made a standard line that you could stock I daren't make them wrong - I was the quality control Until one day it hit me like a rock That I am not the same as other people Even though I learned to do like you I try to do a lot of things that other people do, but I produce myself and that is all I do

# I must tell you this in all due fairness That I will never be the same as you I try to do a lot of things that other people do, but I produce myself and that is all I do

They told me that the most important thing was to produce That output was the measure of a man Advancement will depend on the amount that you produce Provided that it fits the business plan So I produced the goods for other people I tried to be as good as all the rest I dared to hope I might become the ultimate success Until one day they put me to the test The only thing that counted was my output I was only what I could produce I want to do a lot of things that other people do, but I produce myself and that is all I do

So I know that the way that I am here with you as we do what we can do together Is the same as the way that I am with the world - this and me, that and me, this and me

> And from the two arises all my output Always me with something else it's true I may not do a lot of things that other people do, but I produce myself and that is what I do

Chorus

# #6 THE SECOND-ORDER SONG

If I'm doing something to it, it's an object To objectify existence is a must By discovering the objects all around me I know my world is something I can trust (*Trust*??) But what if it is doing something to me? Have I become a victim of its way? Could it be I've given it my power? How come I don't seem to have a say?

# Second order, second order, Second order singing is a song, song, song, Second order, second order, Second order singing is a song.

What is this that I am doing to it? Giving it its objectivity As if it was completely independent Of little, old, good-for-nothing me

I do believe that I was its inventor Perhaps I only have myself to blame What I do and what it does are not different The action and the object are the same

## **#7 DRIFTING**

We bring forth our world and our world draws us onward

I hear the singing that streams through the valley I hear the merry voice calling I see the dark clouds that drift o'er the mountain I feel the gentle rain falling How do I know that their call is for me Or where the path goes when the path is so free I know the music that flows through my forest For I sing the song that is calling

# Drifting here and there I go Only drifting can I know Over the mountain and down through the valley Drifting toward my calling

You do and I do and I know and you know Two lonely voices are ringing Where is the harmony given by nature For the duet we are singing Where is the dancing, the movement so free There in the calling - the drifting - for me When all the people join hands in the forest There will be love in our calling

# Chorus

We hear the singing that streams through the valley We hear the bright voices calling We see the dark clouds that drift o'er the mountain We feel the gentle rain falling Now we are joined, 'tis a chorus we hear The calling of love is the absence of fear We know the music that flows through the forest For we sing the song that is calling

# Chorus

These songs were written around 1990 to assist my understanding of the revolutionary thinking concerning second-order cybernetics, autopoiesis, structural coupling and co-drifting that I learned about from the work of Humberto Maturana. I have used them in lectures and workshops about the biology of cognition and the human spirit ever since.

# #8 THE CONVERSING CAFÉ (for Alan Stewart)

I talk to people at work every day And I'm affected by things that we say We talk for power or self preservation Winning the argument, justification Needing agreement to guarantee outcomes Separately having our way

I long to be able to speak without fearing Trust and belong as a part of the whole When we're conversing we're working together Not just our minds but our heart and our soul

For I've seen the sparkling eyes I have felt that connection We came together not to persuade But to treat each other well In this together whatever we say At the Conversing Café In this together whatever we say At the Conversing Café

Talking and listening we do every day Cultures created by all that we say Speaking oppression, how heavy the heart is Lightness and laughter are not just for parties Speak without needing the answer you wanted Let out your spirit to play

So we are able to speak without fearing Trust and belong as a part of the whole When we're conversing we're working together Not just our minds but our heart and our soul

# Chorus

This song arose during a journey with my friend, Alan Stewart, in 2000, along the Great Ocean Road and the Coorong in Southern Australia as we discussed his work as a consultant and facilitator. Alan was a pioneer in this country of Open Space Technology and World Café principles and he successfully combined these two into a workshop format that he called The Conversing Café.

# **#9 THE UNMADE PATH** (inspired by Pille Bunnell)

We walk, our faces turned to what we want The path we made is there behind us Where is the path ahead to show us where to go? It's not there - the wonder blinds us We do not see the seed of our becoming We cannot watch the choices grow We don't choose an outcome, but we know what we attend to And we do what we know

We orient as we feel And walk as we are We orient as we feel And walk as we are What do I see? Where am I looking? What do I hear? What am I feeling? Do I know fear? Do I know love?

Our paths are stories of the past we have told When we reflect we spread our feelings We see with love it happened as it should Everything according to our dealings We think we know the why of all we do But when we understand the how We connect the presence of the past to future dreams And see them here and now

#### Chorus

We look and step with love upon the road Even though we know not where it takes us But when we cherish the beauty that we have We know that life does not forsake us We understand surrender to our being Connects our footprints to our star Freedom to tread surely with confidence and love Is for the person that we are

# #10 MAKE THE CONNECTION

I make the connection to know I am here My predilection is mistrust and fear But the correction is being sincere Trying to make the connection

Make the connection to be who you are Reach out your hand and you follow your star As we are joined we draw strength from afar If we will make the connection

In introspection my worries abound And circumspection that goes round and round For my protection this motto I've found It's good to make the connection

#### Chorus

Seeking perfection I never can see In my reflection I think: is that me? There's no detection of who I could be Until I make the connection

Careful inspection will probably show Much resurrection of things that you know But the selection of which way to go Comes when you make the connection

# Chorus

## **#11 MAKING IT HAPPEN**

Making it happen is like, in the moonlight, Watching the shimmering waves in the sea Making it happen is mostly just being Aware of the movement in you and me

# Only together it flows Not one of us really knows

Making it happen is hearing that movement Conscious, unconsciously, setting it free Making it happen is like, in the moonlight, Knowing the darkness is meant to be

# **#12 TALKING UP, TALKING DOWN**

# How do we co-exist in the world today? How do we get along with our fellows? We just talk and our words make the world what it is Talking up, talking down, our world

And they say it will be a great sight to see When the world is a better place But the way it will be will be spoken by me And will shine like the smile on your face

#### Chorus

# **#13 A LITTLE SONG OF MEANING**

There's the funniest thing about making meaning That it seems to be like being in love There's the funniest thing about making meaning That it seems to be like being in love

I know I want to make some meaning But the words don't come out right That's why I have to sing this song of my experience I know I want to make some meaning But the words don't come out right That's why I have to sing this song to you

#### Chorus

# SONGS ABOUT LOVE

#### **#14 THE WHITE ROSE**

 You're the white rose that blooms in my garden But I know I can't call you my own You're the dew drops that cling To the white rose in spring As the soft morning sunlight shines down You're the white rose that blooms in my garden But this beautiful sight to behold Is the white rose that blooms The white rose that blooms It's the white rose that blooms for the world How I worshiped your face How I cherished your touch But it could only mean pain If I loved you too much

2. You're the lovelight that shines in my eyes now
And this light by the world can be seen
You're the fond memory
Of what beauty can be
And the sweet taste of what might have been
You're the lovelight that shines in my eyes now
But this beautiful light to behold
Is the lovelight that shines
The lovelight that shines
It's the lovelight that shines for the world

#### **Chorus and verse 1**

# **#15 THE WORLD IN YOU**

In the act of loving one another we become aware of the universal wholeness

I see the world in you I see the whole of life in all its glory Maybe even see the moral of the story I see the world in you I see the world of the world in what you do I see the world in you

I hear the world in you I hear the harmony in our emotions Hear the melody that sings of our devotion I hear the world in you I hear the music that runs our living through I hear the world in you

The world seems full of fragments, of pieces here and there It's hard to put them all together It's not in generalities, or in a broader view It's when I look into your eyes That I can see the soul

# #16 LOVE IS FOR THE GIVING

1. Love is for the giving Everyone knows that is so Love cannot ever be had for the asking Love is a gift - that we know

2. (And) love is for the livingCannot be held in a storeOnly if given completely and freelyCan love last for evermore

# So the love that we live and the love that we give Is returned to our hearts every day And the love we believe is the love we receive Teach us now to believe - to give love away

3. Love is for the giving True love returns as it goes True love is given completely and freely True love eternally flows

[Spoken over verses 1 and 2 the second time through] St Francis said: Make me an instrument of your peace Where there is hatred - let me show love *Where there is injury - pardon* Where there is doubt - faith Where there is despair - hope Where there is darkness - light Where there is sadness - joy Grant that I may not so much seek To be consoled - as to console To be understood - as to understand To be loved - as to love, for It is in giving that we receive It is in pardoning that we are pardoned It is in dying, we are born, for evermore

#### Chorus and verse 3

The song above was written for my marriage to Penelope in 1989 and sung by friends of ours at the outdoor ceremony. The next song was for my friend, Trevor Ireton.

# #17 LOVE MAKES YOU

I heard a ditty the simple folk sang As they went about working each day They looked at each other without any fear In a quaint sort of lovable way I hadn't seen it since I was a child And I hadn't heard anyone say How I feel will be how I behave As I love so I play

Love makes you warm and expanded Fear makes you cold and contracted Love makes you warm and expanded And this will be how you acted Love makes you warm and expanded Fear makes you cold and contracted Love makes you warm and expanded And this will be how you acted And this will be how you act

#### Love makes you (repeat)

I tried to capture the simple folk song In my crass intellectual way Feelings prefigure behaviour I thought How we forget this today Putting down feelings as nothing at all The worship of reason holds sway But love play shall not be forgotten by all As I love so I play

# Chorus

#### **#18 LOVE IS EVERYWHERE**

Love is in the conversation Love is blowin' on the breeze Love is somewhere that you just can't touch, or see, or smell, But you know darn well, that Love is in the conversation Love is somewhere in the air Love is there and you know it's there because Love is everywhere

# #19 LODE (lo\_dah)

Lode, my friend You're a part of my being I love you, and call you my own Once in a while I can see what you're seeing And I wonder at how much you've grown

# Do you remember the magical music And how we laughed loud and long Through all the trials and painful illusions They were playing our song

Of the Road in the Sky You and I were agreeing Even though I never knew When I hated Despaired of my being I was just punishing you **But we remember etc**.

Of the Road in the Sky You and I are enjoying Living one day at a time The time of our lives Is the moment we're living When I can share yours and mine **And we remember etc**.

Of the Road in the Sky It is onward we're going Where the Road leads we don't know But we can live Content in the knowing Wherever it leads we will go

# **For we remember etc.** Of the Road in the Sky Lode and I - Road in the Sky - Lode and I - We are one

This song accompanied a small book of the same name outlining 25 chapters of my life as a Kookaburra. 'Lode' is also the 'handle' I sometimes used to represent myself on the World Wide Web, though it has been more commonly spelled 'Loda' in recent years.

# AUSTRALJAN ABORJGJNALTHEMES

These songs were inspired by my friend, Phill Buckmaster, and the work he did to bridge cultural divides through music, art, poetry and story. The song below is dedicated to three Aboriginal artists who were also friends of ours: Sonny Beckett, his father Les and Tex Skuthorpe. The words of the chorus were given to me by Sonny from the notes attached to one of his paintings. He died at the age of 21. The way in which we all sat around talking is fondly remembered in this song.

# #20 I CAN HEAR MY COLOURS SINGING

I can hear my colours singing Through my culture deep within Feel a peaceful sense of beauty For I am brother to the wind

I thought that I had lost my dreaming I thought that I had lost my way I thought that I had lost my people All gone astray But then I heard the sound of talking I sat round talking every day And in the words that I was talking I heard a black man, a black woman, black man, a black woman, say

#### Chorus

I thought that I had lost my talking I thought that I had lost my mind But then I heard it all around me Flowing on the wind The wind that sounds like colours singing A spirit moving in the sky And in the words that I was singing I heard a black man, a black woman, black man, a black woman, say

#### Chorus

This song was arranged by Pat Rix for a combined choir that she conducted in Adelaide and performed in an Adelaide Town Hall concert in 1998 and also in a Festival of the Coast at Grange Jetty, Adelaide, in 2001. It was also recorded in 1999 by the Armidale High School choir for an Aboriginal Reconciliation CD that was entitled Together Together.

# #21 SONGLINES IN THE CITY

1. When I travel in the country I know the way to go What my people told me is the only way I know But sometimes in the city I get lost and feeling bad There are so many people there with eyes that look so mad There's got to be a knowledge of where I'm meant to be This earth that I belong to, it knows more than me You only seem to hear it when you sing it as your own Have you ever tried to sing upon the land that is your home?

There are songlines in the city for the people there to hear But the people keep on walking Never knowing what they fear They keep walking, never knowing For the people cannot hear There are songlines in the city . . . for the people

2. Long ago they did it, but few still know the songs Nowadays we stray from the place where we belong We lost this way of knowing a long, long time ago Hearing only city sounds we don't know what we know Music is our meaning and how we find our way The most important matters are not things you can say The ancestors made lines to show us where to go The music is our memory of what we need to know

Stay back from the river Tread softly on the hillside for a while We will ask the land to tell us And we listen, listen, listen, listen, listen, listen...

3. The buildings of our cities, just shapes upon the ground If we listen careful they don't change the sound Dreaming tracks are footprints of ancestors long gone Places we have been before remembered in a song Possessions make us tired, we don't sing no more I think we have forgotten what our songs are for Everything we notice tells a story in a song What we know, where we been and what we're doing wrong

#### Chorus

This song accompanied a paper entitled 'Songlines in the City: Hearing the Spirit Dimension' published in the Proceedings of the 2nd Australian Conference on Spirituality, Leadership and Management, 1999.

# #22 MARTIN AND BENNELONG (Brothers in Arms)

Martin and Bennelong came from different worlds There at Port Jackson when the flag was unfurled One man was pale and remembered a homeland so green The other was dark and his home was wherever he'd been

Martin and Bennelong were on opposite sides Both had a sickness that goes with the fiercest of prides The darker sold out to the white man for whiskey and wine The paler stole rum as his way to the end of the line

Look for the sameness and not for the difference Life is a struggle, not least for a drinker That fight which can only be won by surrender Takes many to death in despair

Martin and Bennelong fell to the ground far apart Lay without hearing the crying of each other's heart They lost the fight and as life slipped from out of their palms God smiled and said, it's okay now, you're brothers in arms

## #23 THIS LAND IS MY HOME

Coming back to where I lived when I was very young Standing on this earth that gave me strength to laugh and run I recall how land and sky were innocence and joy I saw the sun rise every morning as a boy I grew up on a dairy farm in northern New South Wales Dad and us would watch the sunrise from the old cow bails Life was mostly dreaming then of things that I would do Now I've been and done them all and come back home to you

# This land is part of me. This earth, it is my Mother. This ground my feet embrace. This land, it is my home

This land was cleared to make a farm and raise a family We all moved on and now the land is planted back in trees But land and sky and you and I are one eternal plan I saw the sun rise here this morning as a man I know that life is asking me to love you without fear Caring for the land and sky and all that we hold dear Brothers, sisters, everywhere, come let me take your hand And we can live in harmony, belonging to the land

# SONGS ABOUT THE WORKPLACE

## #24 FUN AT WORK

1. I go to work to have some fun You what!? You work to get some mon-ey So you can afford to have your leisure And when you've worked an awful lot You stop and find that you've forgot-ten What it was that used to give you pleasure!

# Oh my! Why, why? This is what it means to make a living? Oh my! Why, why? This is what it means to make a living

2. You have to work to keep ahead Of mortgages and other ded-icated Spending plans for your retiring But when the journey's almost done You hear your motor cough and won-der Are there any cylinders still firing!

#### Chorus

3. I'll live it up another day Once this work's out of my way for That will be the time I will be happy And when there's nothing left to do The problem could be then that you may Find that doing nothing can be crappy!

#### Chorus

4. You get to work all full of doubtAnd then you get a list of out-comesThat will prove your day has been a winnerYou know as soon as you beginThat by the time you get them fin-ishedThere's no way that you'll be home for dinner!

5. Our mission is that we'll be great And never do a thing that's hate-ful Working hard together we can make it But we need to plan a lot And with these goals and roles and what-not You will have to fudge a bit and fake it!

#### Chorus

6. Work is what we mostly do And if you feel a little rue-ful That it isn't quite a bed of roses You can always chuck it in And, even though it might feel sin-ful, Join us happy out-of-work composers!

#### Chorus

# #25 RHYTHM IN MY BONES

I wonder a lot how we do what we do How we manage to live here together But I know there is something vibrating in me That is also vibrating in you

# There's a rhythm in my bones There's a rhythm in my body There's a rhythm in my bones There's a rhythm in my soul

So what will we do on the first day? What will do on the last? What will we do on the days in between? What if the future is already past? (Oh!) This here and now is the moment Everything happens on time Just let the rhythm of life be your friend Each little step a beginning not an end Trust in the music to guide you round the bend Follow the song in your soul

#### #26 NO SINGING ALLOWED (IN THIS BOARDROOM)

# There's no singing allowed in this boardroom The company motto is clear

We sponsor the arts and we do know the score But business dictates what the workplace is for **And everyone knows there's no singing in here** 

# The boardroom is where great decisions Are made in a rational way

Directors are logical, clear in the mind Entrusted, responsible, whom you won't find **Stooping to sing-song and story and play** 

# There's no time for frivolous pastimes No taking off serious masks

Keep your eye on the ball, on your toes - to react Win the point, score! Playing games would detract **From the performance of serious tasks** 

# We cannot have singing in boardrooms For reason must always prevail For reason is power, emotion is not Gut feelings, well, sometimes, they're worth quite a lot, But reason is certain, so it cannot fail

All Hail, All Hail All Hail to the power of reason All Hail, All Hail All Hail to the power of reason [Pay attention, please. The Accountant has the floor.]

These last three songs were written during my term as the inaugural Company Secretary of Spirituality, Leadership and Management (SLAM) Limited from 2000– 2002. This Company was created to promote the awareness of spirituality in the workplace.