

# WHITE COCKATOO SPIRIT DANCE

White Cockatoo Spirit Dance has all the characteristics of a maninya, or dance-chant. Ross Edwards coined the word maninya to denote the chant-like quality of one strand of his music, a unique and highly characteristic form which results from the subtly varied repetition of material over a static harmonic basis in a lively tempo.

He has distilled structural material from the natural environment. "For years I have found the ecstatic and mysterious sound-tapestry of the insect chorus in the heat of the Australian summer to be a particularly fertile source of inspiration."

Vibrant, captivating, life-affirming and virtuosic, White Cockatoo Spirit Dance is a spontaneous melodic outpouring. It also exists as a viola solo from which it has been adapted for violin by the composer, who has also arranged it for string quartet.

This arrangement for string quartet of my *White Cockatoo Spirit Dance* was especially commissioned by Barbara Schmidt, who has dedicated it as follows: "To my gorgeous husband Peter, in honour of your 40th birthday ... all my love, Barbara."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping underline.