

# AUSTRALHARMONY

An online resource dedicated to the history of music in colonial Australia, Australharmony's objective is to trace the records relating to music, musicians, publishers and other associated practitioners from British colonisation in 1788 through until Federation in 1901. The site is also interested in following the spread of colonial music and musicians into the 20th and even the 21st centuries.

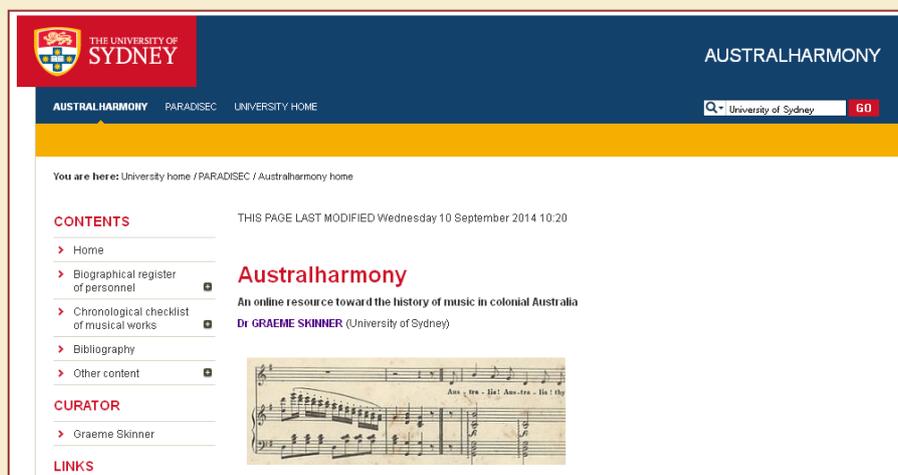
Quite a few of the biographical records cross into the area of Australian variety theatre - whether as composers or performers. Among the Australian or Australian-based variety practitioners already included in the resource are those such as: W. M. Akhurst, Billy Barlow, Daisy Chard, Hosea Easton, Nicholas La Feuillade, the Leopold Family, Orpheus McAdoo, J. C. Rainer, Thomas Rayner, J.W. Sanford, and George Skinner.

Australharmony also includes many individuals whose careers occasionally included an involvement with variety entertainment - e.g. G. B. Allen, Leon Caron, Frederick Coppin, Edward Geoghegan, the Howsons, Charles Nagel, and Frederick Wiereter); as well as those who toured the country briefly - notably Anna Bishop and Blythe Waterland (aka Henry Burton).

The Australharmony resource currently comprises three components:

- 1. A biographical register of Australian colonial musical personnel A-Z.** As of 1 July 2014, the register contains over 2,300 entries on musical individuals and families. At this stage of the ongoing project, coverage of the first two thirds of the colonial period is more complete than of the last third.
- 2. A chronological checklist of Australian colonial musical works.** As of 1 July 2014, the checklist, beginning at 1770, continues until early 1868, listing over **1,800 colonial musical works** (also including arrangements, orchestrations, editions, transcriptions), including over **600 extant** works most of which can be accessed directly from the table via live links.
- 3. A bibliography of Australian colonial music.** This listing of mainly general materials is complemented by more subject specific resource lists in biographical register entries.

The site, which is being continuously updated, also provides links to a mass of online content, thereby functioning as a virtual anthology of colonial Australian music and documentation.



Dr Graeme Skinner, the author and curator of Australharmony, launched the site in January 2012 as a private concern. As of 1 July 2014, it is being published by PARADISEC, at the University of Sydney. PARADISEC is a cross-institutional facility which has as its core mission the preservation of audiovisual materials relating to cultures from the Asia Pacific region.

To access the Australharmony homepage at the University of Sydney click on the link below.

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