

## CD Track Listing

Only A Hill  
Birds Fly  
Steal My Heart  
Ride That Pig  
Selected  
Birds  
Pony Girl  
Mad Accordion  
Araby  
Leaving  
Changes  
River Song  
Forever Again

All songs by Anna Glynn,  
except "Forever Again",  
which was co-written with  
Peter Dalmazzo.

I got out of the car and turned to stretch my cramped, travel-worn body. I looked out across the valley, one valley out of 4.1 million hectares (managed by Parks Victoria). What I saw left me breathless. I was on the top of a ridge overlooking a place with hills and trees and sighing breezes, a place with a flowing river, my place, my childhood home."

These events became the inspiration for "Strange Memories", the work that she would undertake during her time as artist in residence.

But how do you paint a dream and how do you capture your memories on canvas? Anna's inspiration for her series of paintings for "Strange Memories" was the 19<sup>th</sup> Century American painting "The Garden of Eden" by Erastus Salisbury Field. Both Anna and Field share a naïve artistic style, whilst still managing to convey the beauty of their own versions of Eden.

However, where Field paints a very biblical version of Eden, Anna has a far more down-to-earth approach, and has the scope to be far more surreal in her subject matter, even incorporating her bed in some of the bush paintings, as the physical manifestation of her dreamtime transportation back to her childhood home.

The series of paintings and some of Anna's old family photographs form the backdrop for both the DVD and the play.

And the moral of the story? Whilst we may all lose something important during our lives, sometimes the loss can be for the greater good, although we do not always realise it at the time. And if we are lucky, we can come to reconcile the loss, and gain an understanding of how one person's loss can ultimately be of benefit to others. So, Anna came to realise that whilst her family had lost their farm, the natural world had gained an important reserve for the inhabitants of the bush, which would remain forever.

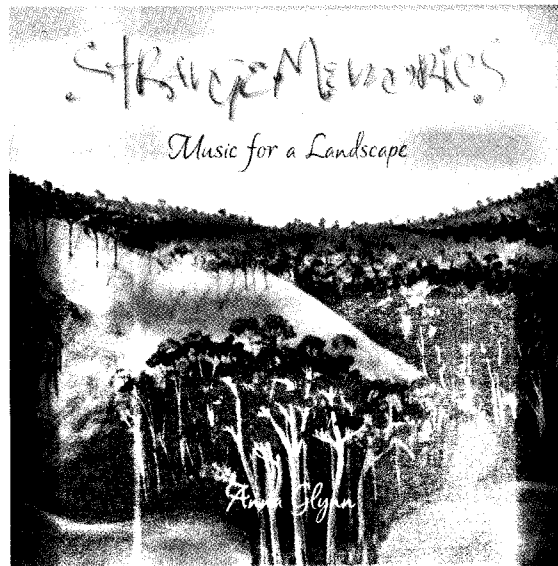
Whilst Anna is an experienced artist, she is relatively new to musical composition, which is surprising given the quality of the work on offer. Whilst I haven't seen the stage show or read the book, Anna has kindly loaned me copies of the soundtrack CD and the DVD for review, and has also spoken to me about the project.

So, how would you describe the soundtrack to "Strange Memories"? It has a beautiful, haunting and ethereal quality to it. It features violin, cello, piano and vocal soprano, but it is not classical, although it pays homage to the work of past classical composers. It has a dreamlike quality, which complements the dreamlike story that is being told, through the narration, the art and the songs.

The outstanding songs on the soundtrack in my view are "Only A Hill", "Steal My Heart", "Changes" and "Forever Again", all with that same romantic and dreamlike quality. The ethereal trance is broken from time to time by unusual and playful tunes such as "Ride That Pig" and "Pony Girl", before resuming again. Anna's dreamtime transportation theme cheekily mimics the theme to TV's time travelling "Doctor Who".

Credit must go to Nina Morrison for her soaring soprano vocal work, to Maria Perez Pulido for her equally soaring violin, to Jane McIntosh for her vocals on "Pony Girl" and for her narration, to Anne Stuart for some very expressive and soulful cello playing, and of course to Anna herself for her keyboards and her narration.

"The sun is coming up, it is a still morning. The fog is weaving through the valleys. The birds are waking and the dawn chorus has begun. I can smell the eucalyptus and wattle blossom. The bush is softly exhaling fragrant perfumes. It is better than any perfume made by man. I collect my easel and paints, and set off into the bush. I am home again, I am 44 years old."



"Night Cockatoos" by Anna Glynn