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## Becky Llewellyn - Composer & Librettist

Llewellyn writes as a witness to the world's pain and beauty. She delights in using the power of music to connect with her listeners. She is also interested in the symbolic meanings of music and frequently uses a simple approach to create complex emotional shades that reflect our human experience. Llewellyn was born in 1950 and grew up in Minnesota in a large musical family. She migrated to Australia in 1969 at the time of the Vietnam War and has created a rich life in Australia since that time. Much of her life revolved around her 32-year marriage to Richard Llewellyn AM, a pioneering leader in arts and disability access, who had severe disabilities from polio. Llewellyn has two children, two step-children, and three grand-children. Trained as a teacher, Llewellyn began composing in the mid-1980s. She studied with Graeme Koehne at the Adelaide Elder School of Music. Her works for chamber ensemble, choir, orchestra and solo performers have delighted audiences in Australia, the US and UK. In 2002, Move Records released Milerum's Basket, featuring a selection of her works from the 1990s. Llewellyn's most recent work is The Portrait, a chamber opera performed by Co-Opera as a musical tribute to the Adelaide-born World War II war artist, Stella Bowen and her relationship with the writer Ford Madox Ford. She was commissioned by Co-Opera to develop the libretto and score in 2003. The project was interrupted when her husband was diagnosed with terminal cancer, then died in May 2004. From February to May 2005, she wrote the opera and Co-Opera presented three work in progress performances in July. The Portrait had its World Premiere at the Adelaide Festival Centre Space Theatre in February 2006 and a tour of NSW, ACT and Victoria in September 2006.