

**Maria Grenfell**

**Program Note**

**Dancing at the Camerata (2003)**

The Florentine Camerata was a group of musicians and ‘literati’ of the late sixteenth century that gathered to discuss the changing musical practices of the day, and saw the development of Baroque monodic vocal style and the first opera, ‘Euridice.’ The Camerata would engage in fierce debates about dissonance and counterpoint, and helped usher in a new era that strived to capture the emotion of the text in the music.

During this period, music that included brass instruments was widely performed.

Impressions of the Florentine Camerata, brass music, and Baroque ornamentation and dissonance were the inspiration for this piece: a madrigal, a recitative, and a quirky tango.

*Dancing at the Camerata* was commissioned by Ars Musica Australis for the Australian Youth Orchestra, and premiered in Sydney in October, 2003.