

Between the Writer & the Reader 4

“To Infinity and Beyond”

a day of words and music with

Maurice Whelan

Saturday 27th February 2016, 8:30am to 3:30pm

“In one of his most famous passages Shakespeare wrote about ‘the lunatic, the lover, and the poet’ and how each made use of their imagination. The lunatic saw evil everywhere; the lover saw confirmation of love everywhere. The poet’s pen gave form to ‘things unknown’ and in doing so glanced from ‘heaven to earth’ and ‘earth to heaven’.

People have glanced from earth to heaven for thousands of years. Some see atoms and molecules, others see paradise and gods. Whatever people see has a bearing on how they live their lives. As Shakespeare wisely warned ‘the lunatic, the lover, and the poet are of imagination all compact’. We can slip and glide between being the three.

This talk explores not only how beliefs affect lives, but also how beliefs affect minds. How is a mind shaped by its notion of God, religion, eternity, infinity?

In this talk I will present the thoughts of a few of the numerous people who have glanced in a similar way. I will refer to the thoughts of, among others, Freud, Oskar Pfister, Romain Rolland, Hans Loewald, Neville Symington and Karen Armstrong .

Many people who look towards infinity employ a “rough magic” in their investigations. This talk suggests that poetry with its more subtle magic will help us travel further and when (with Shakespeare) we confront the ‘forms of things unknown, the poet’s pen turns them to shape, and gives to airy nothing a local habitation and a name’.”

Maurice Whelan

Maurice Whelan grew up in Ireland where he studied philosophy and theology. Moving to the United Kingdom he studied social work, followed by an MA in criminology. He later trained as a psychoanalyst in London, where he became a visiting lecturer at the Tavistock Clinic. A past Chairman of the Sydney Institute for Psychoanalysis, his published work covers the fields of social work, education, literature and psychoanalysis. In recent years he has turned to fiction, and since 2008 has published one novel, 'Boat People', plus three books of poetry, 'The Lilac Bow', 'Excalibur's Return', and "A Season and a Time", and has produced 2 audio CD's of his poetry.

Programme Saturday 27th February 2016

8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:20	Introduction and Prokofiev symphony No 1
9:20 – 10:30	Maurice Whelan -Infinity and Beyond
10:30 – 10:45	Music – Spiegel im Spiegel – Arvo Pärt
10:45 – 11:15	Morning tea
11:15 – 11:45	Panel response
11:45 – 12:00	Music - A Lark Ascending – Ralph Vaughan Williams
12:00 – 12:15	Music - Improvisation- Euan Cumming
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch
1:15 – 3:15	Discussion
3:30	Finish

Venue: **The IndigiScapes Centre, 17 Runnymede Rd, Capalaba**

Cost: \$120, Concession \$55. This includes morning tea and lunch.

There are also a limited number of tickets available for a small donation.

Maurice Whelan's books and audio CDs of his poetry will be available for purchase.

Registration Form:For catering purposes advance booking is required. Enquiries and bookings to Judith Bore or Pia Hirsch – see below for contact details.

I wish to attend **Between the Writer and the Reader 4** on Saturday 27th February 2016

Name.....

Address.....

Email.....

I enclose a cheque for

Catering preferences

For further information contact:

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