

alarming me now is that it's not just poets and songwriters who are doing it, it's politicians and militants.

'If my writing is supposed to mirror the national life, then the rise of religious imagery within the songs is actually very appropriate at this present stage because that's where the national political life has gone.'

Frenzy' is perhaps the word that best describes Pat Drummond the songwriter. Like his pressman, he's deadline driven, needing to spit the song out before the inspirational moment is gone, before it's not news anymore.

'I'm an obsessive compulsive, no question about it,' he says. 'I'll suddenly work on songs for 10 weeks and I'll be producing stuff and then nothing, (pause) nothing. And I'll go into a slump and I won't write or I can't see the point of writing.'

Being on the road doesn't stifle his songwriting either. That's where the bulk of the inspirational moments occur.

'All my best songs have been about recognising the moment, seeing something strange and unusual and just stopping the truck,' he says.

Pat Drummond has learnt not to worry about his songwriting slumps. When he's at home he has several music business ventures to chip away at - organising the Galston and Dubbo country music festivals and running Shoestring Records, the humble label that cut the first independent record in Australia that's now home to 17 artists. He doesn't mind the business side of things, but his philosophy here goes back to the community spirit of his upbringing.

'If I feel I'm constantly perceived as the enemy in any way, shape or form, I'll probably walk away,' he says.

On The Descent of Age, Pat Drummond listens to a veteran rock star's lament as a tribute band playing his old hits packs the venue across the road. The song's called 'Hard Times For Old Heroes'. With so many philosophical questions still unanswered, how long can the people's philosopher keep it up?

'Someone once asked me about my guitars, but my PA is my instrument. So the answer is, as long as I can lift my PA,' he says.

The death of Pat's brother Ron in 2003 has also caused him to consider another philosophical question - the one about endings. A huge part of Pat's live shows for years, Ron gave him his motto, a phrase called upon during the tough gigs: *'Eyes and teeth mate, eyes and teeth.'*

'You have to embrace the end. My brother's death has led me to look at that,' says Pat Drummond. *'The end of your performing life. For an artist that is, in some ways, the end of your life.'*

The Circle Of The Bells

*Ah, wake Up Adelaide,
It's Sunday
Listen to the bells of the Cathedral
Monday to Saturday
Sing your songs of trade
Today you're making music for the people*

*Chorus: Underneath the canopy the canticle of hope
You raise your heart and your hand to the rope
A mystical marathon, a musical spell where
Myth and mathematics come together
In the Circle Of The Bells*

*Spinning into vertigo
the streets below
ring and ripple to the patterns on the pages
Dorian, Iolian, Myxilydian
singin' to the city
in the syncopated rhythm of the ages*

*Essentially lonely, each bell rope is only
one heart, one hope and one hand
but played in communion
they sing of the union
that the angels still hope for in Man*

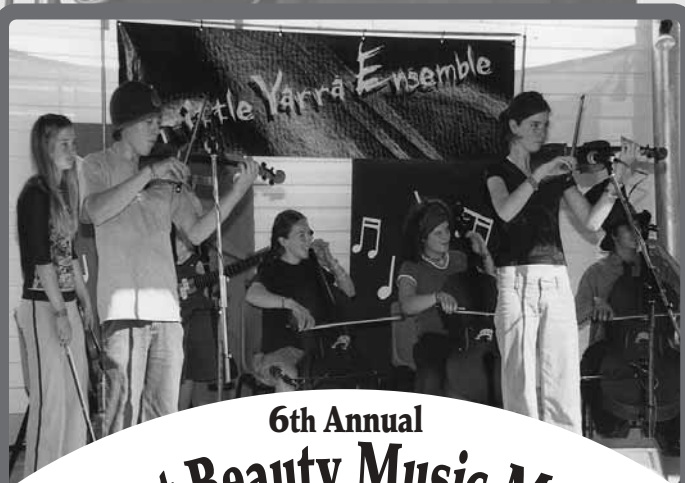
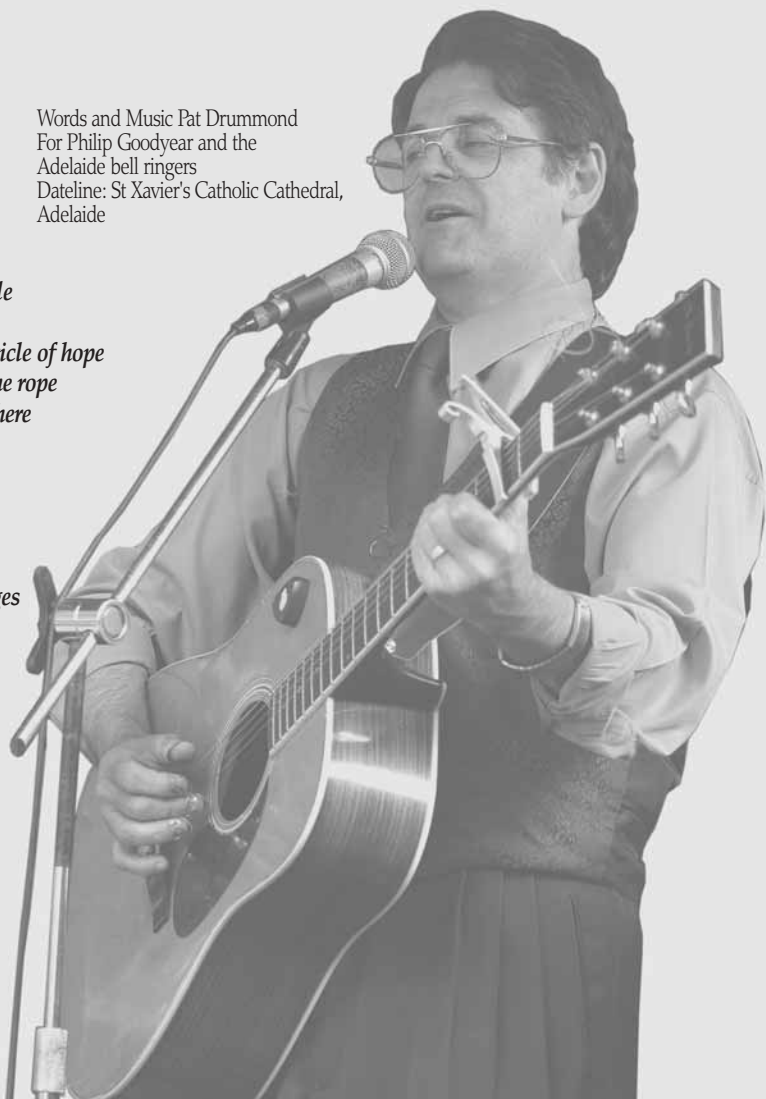
*Hour after hour they toll
The great bells roll
high above the shadows on the ceiling
spinning to the circle below
the velvet ropes
go dancing to the patterns
they are pealing*

*My strings lilt and linger
they dance on my fingers
and sing of the hopes of one man
but the bells of St Xavier's
remind that salvation waits
when we all join our hands
and our hearts
in the Circle of Man*

Discography

What You See is What You Get 1979
Pat Drummond 1984
Skooldaze 1985
Never Underestimate the Power of a Song 1987 - Compilation
Live at The Rest Hotel 1988
Tales from the Local Rag 1990
Over The Top with Macca 1991 - Compilation
The Best of Australia 1993 - Compilation
Laughter Like A Shield 1993
The Winners 2 1994 - Compilation
Rural Aid 1995 1995 - Compilation
Canowindra Means Home 1996 - Compilation
Of Wheels and Wires 1996
Through The Cracks - Live at The Clarendon 1998
Naked Poets 1...lie...v1 1999
Naked Poets 2 Newdirections 1999
Six Days In December 2000
Naked Poets 3...butt seriously 2001
Naked Poets 4 Swingin' Ockers- 2002
The Chess Set - 2004 2CD Enhanced CD featuring
The Age of Dissent and The Decent Of Age
www.patdrummond.net

Words and Music Pat Drummond
For Philip Goodyear and the
Adelaide bell ringers
Dateline: St Xavier's Catholic Cathedral,
Adelaide



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