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Swan Lake takes out the Classic 100: Dance Countdown

Swan Lake has been named Australia's favourite classical dance music in ABC Classic FM's [Classic 100 Countdown](#).

Australia's favourite classical music event has celebrated the brilliant diversity, vivid colour and irresistible impulse of dance, by counting down the music that makes its audiences move.

Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, one of the world's most beloved ballets, tells the story of Odette, a princess transformed into a swan by the curse of an evil sorcerer.

Australia's passionate community of music lovers voted in their thousands in the annual campaign by ABC Classic FM, our only national classical music station. Nearly 2000 works were reduced by public voting to the final 100 broadcast this weekend. More than 50% of the performers featured in this flagship event are Australian, exemplifying the ABC's crucial role in nurturing local talent.

ABC Classic FM is dedicated to investing in high-quality and distinctive Australian music and performance, free for all Australians. **ABC Classic FM** has collaborated with **The Australian Ballet** to produce three films specifically for the Countdown. Emerging choreographers **Alice Topp**, **Richard House** and **Ella Havelka** created striking new responses to the top three featured works: [Swan Lake](#), [The Nutcracker Suite](#), and [Romeo and Juliet](#).

Why Dance, a 3 x 20 minute feature series from the ABC's **Dr Ann Jones**, has launched on air on ABC Classic FM, [online](#) and on the ABC listen app to mark this year's theme. In association with **The Australian Ballet**, **Sydney Dance Company** and **Bangarra Dance Theatre**, Ann explores female choreographers in the male-dominated world of ballet, the importance of dance in Indigenous culture, and the healing role of dance in the lives of some everyday Australians.

ABC Classic FM hosts **Russell Torrance, Vanessa Hughes, Genevieve Lang, Greta Bradman, Damien Beaumont, Martin Buzacott, Tamara-Anna Cislowska and Mairi Nicolson** dedicated the weekend to the joy of the dance, with an array of special guests including composer **Elena Kats-Chernin**, director and choreographer **Meryl Tankard**, performer **Lisa McCune** and author and broadcaster **Eddie Ayres**.

“Our audiences embraced the ABC Classic 100 in their many thousands, with their votes demonstrating that really, all music is for dance” said Toby Chadd, ABC Classic FM’s Content Manager. “Their choices have brought us a joyful and rich weekend of broadcast and online content, celebrating all the radiance and exhilaration that dance has to offer. Only the ABC can offer such a wonderful opportunity for audiences across the country to share the world’s best music with every music lover, no matter where they are.”

The Classic 100: Dance Countdown began on Saturday morning and concluded on Sunday evening, with a further day of recaps, highlights and works in full this Monday.

Follow The Classic 100 Countdown on social media via Twitter, (@ABCClassic) Instagram and Facebook using #classic100.

For further information or interviews, contact:

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The Classic 100: Dance (infographic attached)

- Total works on the voting list: 533
- Longest work on the Countdown: Gershwin *An American in Paris* (18'40)
- Shortest work on the Countdown: Tchaikovsky *Chinese Dance from The Nutcracker* (1'09)
- Works by living composers: 7
- Time lapse between the oldest work (Praetorius *Terpsichore* (1612)) and most recent work (Kats-Chernin *Dance of the Paper Umbrellas* (2013)): 401 years
- Works by era:
 - 21st century: 1
 - 20th century: 47
 - 19th century: 44
 - 18th century: 7
 - 17th century: 1
- Top 6 composers in the Countdown:
 - Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: 5
 - Ludwig van Beethoven: 5
 - Frédéric Chopin: 4
 - Johann Strauss II: 4
 - Camille Saint-Saëns: 3
 - Igor Stravinsky: 3
- Mozart: This is the first Classic 100 for which Mozart’s music has been eligible but hasn’t appeared. His highest work was *Horn Concerto No.4* at #146
- Top 6 Composers by Country:
 - French: 16
 - Russian: 16
 - German: 15
 - American: 10
 - British: 9
 - Australian: 7
- First-time composers: 4 (Johann Strauss I, Manuel de Falla, Émile Waldteufel, Astor Piazzolla)