**Hollis Taylor Concerts and Lectures**

**Concert: Songs of the Australian Pied Butcherbird for Violin & Field Recordings**

In an area dominated by zoölogists, violinist/composer Hollis Taylor is the rare musician with an enduring devotion to and passion for a single species of songbird, the pied butcherbird. She spends hundreds of hours each year recording their songs, particularly in Alice Springs and Far North Queensland. These recordings form the basis of detailed birdsong analysis, but she has also created a body of (re)compositions based on her transcriptions. Her works for solo violin and field recordings do not aspire so much to improve on these birdsongs as celebrate and illuminate them.

**Concert CV Notes:** Hollis Taylor is a violinist/composer and ornithologist whose compositions have won numerous awards. Her dissertation, *Towards a Species Songbook: Illuminating the Song of the Australian Pied Butcherbird (Cracticus nigrogularis)*, straddles the fields of zoömusicology, ornithology, and composition. Currently a Research Fellow at Macquarie University, she is a past Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin and a past Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle in Paris and at the University of Technology Sydney. Taylor is webmaster of www.zoömusicology.com and author of *Post Impressions: A Travel Book for Tragic Intellectuals,* which documents (in text, audio, and video) Jon Rose and her bowing fences throughout Australia, and the forthcoming book *Is Birdsong Music? Outback Encounters with an Australian Songbird*. For more information, see www.hollistaylor.com and www.zoömusicology.com.

**Lecture: The Music of Nature and the Nature of Music**

Is musicality a capacity we share with other species? Do non-human animals display aesthetic preferences? Is birdsong music? Through photographs, videos, and recordings, this fast-paced presentation draws on extensive fieldwork to provide compelling answers. The lecture has been delivered worldwide, including in Paris, Berlin, Monte Verità (Switzerland), Utrecht, Cornell University (New York), Sheffield, Helsinki, Sydney (including the Australian Museum), the Blue Mountains, the Alice Springs Desert Park, the Museum of the Riverina, and Perth.

**Lecture: The combinatorial vocalizations of the Australian pied butcherbird**

The pied butcherbird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*) is considered a well-known Australian songbird, but until my research, no peer-reviewed paper had examined this species’ vocalizations. Multi-individual group song is diurnal and delivered most abundantly in the autumn. These antiphonal songs typically consist of four to eight motifs (or sub-units)—and some consist of many more, part doubling is common, and the order of motifs often appears to be flexible. In the spring, nocturnal solo “long songs” may last up to six hours. Many of these long songs are distinguished by significant combinatorial manipulation. To date, no two solo singers share all the same phrases, and most solo songs differ significantly one from another. These long songs hold potential in a search for formal rules governing sequential order and other structural attributes. The species is also an accomplished mimic. In this informal presentation, I discuss and demonstrate the current avenues I am pursuing to analyze pied butcherbird abilities to combine and recombine song units. Highlights of audio and video from my eleven years of research underpin this lecture.

**Lecture: The Pied Butcherbird, the Music of Nature, and the Nature of Music**

Is birdsong music? Pied butcherbirds, with their significant commonalities with human music, put pressure on music’s definition. While the species is considered well-known, until my research, no peer-reviewed paper had examined their vocalizations. In this presentation, I discuss and demonstrate the avenues I am pursuing to analyze pied butcherbird songs, especially their abilities to combine and recombine song units in their nocturnal long songs. Highlights of audio and video from my eleven years of research underpin this lecture.

**Lecture** **CV Notes:** Dr Hollis Taylor is a violinist, composer, and ornithologist who specializes in the Australian pied butcherbird and has an abiding interest in lyrebirds and bowerbirds as well. Her PhD thesis, *Towards a Species Songbook: Illuminating the Song of the Australian Pied Butcherbird (Cracticus nigrogularis)*, straddles the fields of zoömusicology, ornithology, and composition. Currently a Research Fellow at Macquarie University, she is a past Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin and a past Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle in Paris and at the University of Technology Sydney. Taylor is webmaster of www.zoömusicology.com. She is the author of *Post Impressions: A Travel Book for Tragic Intellectuals,* which documents (in text, audio, and video) Jon Rose and her bowing fences throughout Australia, and the forthcoming book *Is Birdsong Music? Outback Encounters with an Australian Songbird.* For more information, see www.hollistaylor.com and www.zoömusicology.com.