



15 August 2007

Indigenous music to the people – now and in the future

A CD of traditional Western Arnhem Land music by song man Kevin Djimarr and published by Sydney University Press was this week's joint winner of the Traditional Music Award at the NT Indigenous Music Awards.

The CD features individually owned songs accompanied by didjeridu and clapsticks performed in the Western Arnhem Land region of the Northern Territory. Djimarr is a member of the Kurulk clan and the Kuninjku (Eastern Kunwinjku) language group.

Titled *Wurrurrumi Kun-Borrk: Songs from Western Arnhem Land*, it includes a booklet with extensive notes containing translations and explanations of the song texts. "The CD opens up this extraordinary music to a national and international audience," said Dr Linda Barwick, who has recently won an international grant to further document song traditions in Western Arnhem Land.

"The song traditions of Western Arnhem Land are amongst the foremost examples of verbal art in the nine endangered languages of the region," says Dr Barwick, an Associate Professor in performance studies based at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

The CD – launched this week at the 6th Symposium on Indigenous Music and Dance in Darwin – is the first music CD from the University of Sydney Press's new Indigenous Music of Australia series.

The SUP music series has its origins in the CD National Recording Project for Indigenous Performance in Australia, convened by Mandawuy Yunupingu, Allan Marett, Marcia Langton and Aaron at Gunyangara in Arnhem Land during the inaugural Indigenous Performance Symposium in August 2002.

Wurrurrumi Kun-Borrk: Songs from Western Arnhem Land

By Kevin Djimarr

The Indigenous Music of Australia CD 1

RRP: \$24.95 plus postage

<http://purl.library.usyd.edu.au/sup/9781920898618>

PARADISEC, the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures

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Books and CDs can be purchased through the Sydney University Press website:

<http://www.sup.usyd.edu.au/>

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