

**DRY WHITE FIRE**  
**For violin & piano**

**PROGRAMME NOTES**

*Dry White Fire* was commissioned for a Riverina Conservatorium Composer's Forum and was premiered by the composer and the violinist, Lauren Davis, on August 27, 2010. The rich imagery in Mary Gilmore's poem *An Aboriginal Simile* (reproduced below) was the catalyst for these sounds but the music is not programmatic and does not follow the text in any order. After the performance, the composer was delighted to learn from a member of the audience of Gilmore's own connection with Wagga Wagga and how her name had once featured on the Conservatorium's gates.

*There was no stir among the trees,  
No pulse in the earth,  
No movement in the void;  
The grass was a dry white fire.  
Then in the distance rose a cloud,  
and a swift rain came:  
Like a woman running,  
the wind in her hair.*

Mary Gilmore. 'An Aboriginal Simile' from *Selected Poems*.  
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