

Jane Austen's Songs of the Sea

This year commemorates the 200 year anniversary of Jane Austen's death. The Maritime Museum invites you to join us in celebrating the life, characters and stories of Austen for an evening produced and performed by:

Gillian Dooley (soprano)

Raechel Damarell (alto)

Richard Schaumlöffel (violin)

Christine Morphett (harp)

Kathy Walton (flute and whistles)

Among the music in Jane Austen's personal music collection are many songs about sailors and the sea. Britain was at war for most of Austen's lifetime and two of her brothers were naval officers. The program includes songs about life at sea and coming home, songs about the wives and families left behind, sailors' love songs, and songs about war and revolution. Many of the songs are drawn from the rich folk heritage of the period. Others are written by composers including William Shield, Samuel Arnold, Stephen Storace and the prolific Charles Dibdin, whose comic and sentimental songs Austen seems to have been especially fond of. There are arrangements of Haydn and Handel tunes, and there is even a love song written by Matthew Flinders – the colleague of Jane Austen's younger brother.

The program includes 90 minutes of performance with a 20-minute interval, with a paid bar. \$30 per person or \$25 for concession. Bookings Essential.