

# PARRABOLA

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To Whom It May Concern,

## **RE: BRETT BROWN SINGING ALBUM WITH CHONG LIM AM**

I have known Brett Brown since 2006 when he was a first year acting student at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Since his graduation with Honours, Brett's impressive achievements, coupled with artistic development and experimentation, have placed him at the forefront of his field.\* The opportunity to make his debut album with Chong Lim AM is a significant career milestone.

Brett created the title role in my production of William Shakespeare's *Henry V*. I conceived the production as a solo performance with Brett in mind, knowing he would be able to sustain the demands of such a challenging role. Featuring original music reputedly composed and sung by the historic Henry V, the performance required virtuosic ability. Brett triumphed in the role. The production has toured for three years to Shakespeare festivals in the United Kingdom, Croatia, Czech Republic Hungary, Poland, Serbia, and the Adelaide Fringe. Brett has received critical acclaim and was awarded *Best International Solo Shakespeare Performance 2016* at the Ostrava Shakespeare Festival, Czech Republic.

Brett was an outstanding cultural ambassador for Australia. He possesses a quality that enables him to connect classical theatre with young audiences - even to those whose first language is not English. This relatability is also present in his work as a classical singer. Brett's concerts and engagements with leading ensembles feature music from the Baroque to the present: Bach cantatas, Sam Smith songs, and an upcoming Nico Muhly world premiere with the Omega Ensemble, for example. It is this breadth of ability and expressive capacity to connect with audiences both young and mature, that sets Brett apart from his contemporaries.

Working under the tutelage and musical direction of Chong Lim AM, Brett has the opportunity to share his talents with a diverse audience, and to connect young people with classical music which is often dismissed as 'un-cool' or irrelevant. This recording offers Brett a national platform for his artistry.

Brett has the ability and determination to shape the musical landscape of his generation. Soon to be a leading figure of the classical-cross over genre, Brett is a young artist with the potential to make a lasting artistic difference within Australia and beyond.

Yours sincerely,



**Philip Parr**

\*I have watched Brett in numerous productions: *The Tempest* with the Royal Shakespeare Company, where he played leading roles of Sebastian and Stephano; the UK premiere of *Dear World* directed by Dame Gillian Lynne DBE, which showcased his talents as an actor, singer and dancer; OperaUpClose's Oliver award winning production of *La Bohème*, in which he created the role of Schaunard. He won particular recognition for his leading role in *Fishskin Trousers* – written for him by the award-winning playwright, Elizabeth Kuti. Brett made his screen debut in the Academy Award winning film *The Theory of Everything* (Working Title).