

ANTONY GRAY

Piano

Malcolm Williamson

Piano Sonata No 4

(1st performance)

Andreas Scholz

Sleepers Wake - Keyboard

(1st performance)

Queen SO Great

Keyboard and Piano

Raymond Chopman Smith

in the Nightingale Garden

(Whispered in the Air 1991)

(1st performance)

Matthew

the firm 2003

CONCERT THREE

Lea Kinnel

in 1995

ANTONY GRAY

Piano

Malcolm Williamson

Piano Sonata No 4

(1st Australian performance)

Andrew Schultz

Sleepers Wake - Karalananga

(1st performance)

Quentin SD Grant

Meditations and Essays

Raymond Chapman Smith

In den Nachmittag Geflüstert

(Whispered in the Afternoon)

(1st performance)

Matthew Hindson

AK47

short interval

Leos Jánacek

In the Mists

"A stair that has not been deeply hollowed by
footsteps is, from its own point of view,
merely something that has been bleakly put
together out of wood."

Franz Kafka

Pilgrim Church provides wheelchair access
via the rear (northern) doors.

Toilets can be accessed through the door on
the left of the performance area.

Malcolm Williamson

Piano Sonata No 4

With the death earlier this year of Malcolm Williamson, Australia lost perhaps its greatest composer. Relegated to almost complete neglect in recent years due to the vagaries of public and critical opinion, he will in due course come to be seen as one of the great voices of the twentieth century. A remarkable pianist himself, he left a body of piano music including four sonatas, six concertante works and a sizable and important quantity of teaching pieces of the highest quality. The fourth sonata is a typically eclectic mix of styles, its two movements combining elements of serialism and dissonant melodic writing with rumbustious good humour and jazz. Williamson wrote it in 1964 for a concert that he himself gave at London's Wigmore Hall.

Andrew Schultz

Sleepers Wake, Karalananga

Sleepers Wake, Karalananga for solo piano was composed for Tony Gray in 2003. It is a short piece based on two excerpts from the cantata, *Journey to Horseshoe Bend*. The cantata is to a text by Gordon Kalton Williams based on the autobiographical novel of the same name by TGH Strehlow. The novel depicts the journey across Central Australia that the young Strehlow made with his mortally ill father, the Hermannsburg missionary Carl Strehlow, in the 1920s.. The cantata

incorporates the Bach harmonisation of the Lutheran hymn 'Wachet Auf!' (or 'Sleepers Wake') throughout and draws on Aranda, German and English language texts. This piano piece is comprised of two excerpts from the larger work. The opening and closing sections of the piano piece are drawn from the first part of the cantata, and depict a recollection of Hermannsburg and the arrival at Karalananga – a mountain seen from the dry bed of the Finke River – and a realisation of its mythical importance. The middle section is dance-like and is drawn from the third part of the cantata where the sudden arrival of storm rain symbolises a joyous transformation.

Note by A Schultz

Quentin SD Grant

Meditations and Essays

These six little pieces were written in 1993 at a time when I was seeking (as I ever am) simple means to express essential ideas.

Raymond Chapman Smith

In den Nachmittag Geflüstert (Whispered in the Afternoon)

- I Andante
- II Allegretto
- III Adagio
- IV Moderato

This set of four brief pieces began life as a sketch for a song - cycle on Georg Trakl's deeply evocative poem of the same name.

There it sat, quietly lurking, for three or four years, until it declared its intention of emerging as a group of songs-without-words.

Its four movement form acknowledges the outline of Janacek's "In the Mist" which was composed in the same year as Trakl's text.

The poetry of Georg Trakl (1887-1914), a sustained elegy for the Western World, remains mysteriously contemporary, haunting the present as if it had been written towards us. Trakl's deeply hermetic lyricism creates a linguistic 'emancipation of dissonance' which has drawn many musical responses.

Sonne, herbstlich dünn und zag,
Und das Obst fällt von den Bäumen.
Stille wohnt in blauen Räumen
Einen langen Nachmittag.....

Autumn sun, thin and unpredictable,
And fruit falling from trees.
Silence inhabits the blue spaces
A long afternoon.....

Matthew Hindson

AK47

Matthew Hindson's' career has had a fairly meteoric rise, with his music now being played and published all over the world. It is a slightly worrying fact that he does actually seem to enjoy techno music, but he does have a sense of humour - the middle section of AK47 being marked to be played 'Hyperactive |(never relaxedly), but with a slightly psychotic nostalgia'. We think we see what he means...

Leos Janacek

In the Mists

'In the Mist' was Janacek's last major solo piano work, completed in 1912, although it was followed by two chamber works featuring the piano, the Concertino and the Capriccio. Janacek was going through a period of extreme self- doubt and depression. He had lost faith in his music and could see no way forward, and yet this cycle of four pieces show no signs of a lack of imagination or inventiveness. They are mostly quiet and reflective, with the occasional emotional outburst, reflecting Janacek's emotional state at the time.

Last word

In Thomas Bernhard's "Old Masters" (1985), the critic, Reger, observes:

"We are *so* stunned each day that we have long come to exist *actually stunned* in a country whose government is mean and dull-witted and hypocritical and mendacious and utterly stupid to boot. Every day, if we think, we are aware of nothing so much as that we are governed by a hypocritical and mendacious and mean government, which moreover is the stupidest government imaginable, Reger said, and we think that we can do nothing about it, that really is the most terrible thing, that we can do nothing about it, that we simply have to watch impotently as this government is getting ever more mendacious and more hypocritical and meaner and baser every day, that we have to watch in a more or less permanent state of dismay as this government is getting progressively worse and progressively more unbearable."

Please join the pianist and living composers after the concert for complimentary drinks and a selection of Tortes by Gabrielle.

Antony Gray

is an Australian pianist currently living in London.

Following studies at the Victorian College of the Arts he continued his studies in London with Joyce Rathbone and Geoffrey Parsons. He has performed widely throughout Europe, Asia and Australia, and has always been an enthusiastic champion of new music, alongside standard repertoire. He has released recordings of the complete piano music of Eugene Goossens and Malcolm Williamson for ABC Classics, and is currently recording the complete piano music of Francis Poulenc, as well as a double album of Bach transcriptions. Future recording plans include the late Brahms piano pieces, and an Latin American album.

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