
Ulpirra Sonatines – Melissa Doecke & Mark Isaacs

Wednesday 9 March | 6pm, Salon

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre and Melissa Doecke & Mark Isaacs

Artist/s

Melissa Doecke, flute

Mark Isaacs, piano

Program

Mark Isaacs

Sonatine for flute and piano (2009)

Allegro vivace-

Largo supplicando-

Moderato con spirito

Henri Dutilleux

Sonatine for flute and piano (1943)

Allegretto-

Andante-

Animé

Mark Isaacs

The River (2013)

Mark Isaacs and Melissa Doecke

Three Improvisations

Ross Edwards

Ocean Idyll (2004)

Ulpirra (1993)

Francis Poulenc

Sonata for flute and piano, FP 164 (1957)

Allegro malinconico

Cantilena: Assez lent

Presto giocoso

About the Music

Melissa Doecke and Mark Isaacs present an inspiring program of Australian and French music for flute and piano from their new CD collaboration *Ulpirra Sonatines*.

Why *Ulpirra Sonatines*? *Ulpirra* is an Aboriginal word from peoples in the Sydney region of Australia meaning *pipe* or *flute*, aptly befitting the Sydney-based Australian composers Mark Isaacs and Ross Edwards who are featured on this album and the French title Sonatine invokes shorter, lighter forms of music, acknowledging the French half of the program, which provided inspiration for Mark Isaacs' Sonatine.

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How do you link the sound worlds of contemporary Australian and classic French repertoire? Quite easily actually! The songlike lyricism and poetic nature underpinning much of the classic French flute repertoire, especially that of Poulenc and Dutilleux, is mirrored in both Mark Isaacs' and Ross Edwards' works. Certainly the melodic and harmonic language of each composer is distinct and unique to them, but the overarching lyricism and strong sense of line and melody is a uniting thread linking all the works on this album. Mark Isaacs' Sonatine shows clear influences of his jazz background, especially in the quasi-improvisatory slow movement and in the driving rhythm and harmonies of the third movement. He also likes to push the sound world of the flute to its limits at every extreme! *The River* is a beautiful piece with the flowing melody evoking a lyrical *chanson* well suited to the timbre of the alto flute.

The water theme is continued in Ross Edwards' works with the slow movement of *Nura*, 'Ocean Idyll' figuratively capturing the vast expanse of the ocean and *Ulpirra* is a lively celebration, showcasing Ross Edwards' distinctively Australian style in all its splendour.

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About the Artists

Melissa Doecke is one of Australia's most exciting flautists, with a busy career of recitals, orchestral work and chamber music performances across the entire range of repertoire for flute. A section finalist in the 2010 Australian Young Performer Awards Melissa performed as soloist with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. She regularly plays with Australian symphony orchestras including as Principal Flute with Orchestra Victoria, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra & the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

Melissa has performed in London at the BBC Proms in Royal Albert Hall, at St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Purcell Room at London's Southbank, as well as in recordings for BBC Radio 3 and BBC Television. She has also given recitals in Italy, Prague, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Brazil, the UK and Australia, and performed at music festivals worldwide including the Harrogate, Spitalfields and Peter-Maxwell Davies Festivals in the UK, Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Festival, MONA FOMA, Bendigo International Festival of Exploratory Music and the Alice Desert Festival. Melissa is co-Artistic Director of Inventi Ensemble, an exciting new chamber ensemble in Melbourne. For more information on Melissa Doecke, please visit melissadoecke.com

Hailed as "a splendid musical mind" by the Los Angeles Times, **Mark Isaacs** has achieved widespread recognition as a pianist and composer working in both classical music and jazz. He has performed as a classical pianist, conducted orchestras and as a classical concert hall composer he has composed more than 100 major works, many commissioned by some of Australia's most prestigious ensembles, orchestras and soloists and ranging across orchestral, chamber, choral, solo pieces as well as scores for film, television and the theatre.

As a jazz pianist he has toured extensively in Europe, Russia, Asia, the USA, Australasia and the Pacific performing at major festivals including the Tokyo Jazz Festival and Pori Jazz, Finland. Mark's first symphony, commissioned by former media executive Kim Williams AM, was premiered by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in 2013. Mark premiered his solo piano cycle Children's Songs at the 2012 Adelaide Festival and his Chamber Symphony was premiered in July 2015. For more information on Mark Isaacs, please visit markisaacs.com

About the Spotlight series

Spotlight celebrates the compelling musical dynamic that exists between just musicians and their instruments. Each musician, artist or ensemble that performs as part of the Spotlight series shares a uniquely intimate and virtuosic perspective on the music they perform in the sublime acoustic of the Salon. This series is supported by The Robert Salzer Foundation.

To view all upcoming events as part of the *Spotlight* series, please visit melbournerecital.com.au/spotlight

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