

Songmakers Australia

Songs to a Distant Beloved

Wednesday 13 April 6pm, Salon

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre and Songmakers Australia

L O C A L
H E R O E S

ARTISTS

Merlyn Quaife, soprano

Sally-Anne Russell, mezzo-soprano

Andrew Goodwin, tenor

Nicholas Dinopoulos, bass-baritone

Andrea Katz, piano

PROGRAM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Notturmi for 3 voices and piano

Luci care, luce belle

Se lontan, ben mio, tu sei

Due pupille amabili

Più non si trovano

Ecco quel fiero istante

Mi lagnerò tacendo

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

An die ferne Geliebte, Op.98

Auf dem Hügel sitz ich spähend

Wo die Berge so blau

Leichte Segler in den Höhen

Diese Wolken in den Höhen

Es kehret der Maien, es blühet die Au

Nimm sie hin denn, diese Lieder

Robert Schumann (1801-1856)

Spanisches Liederspiel, Op.74

Erste Begegnung

Intermezzo

Liebesgram

Hoch, hoch sind die Berge

In der Nacht

Es ist verrathen

Flutenreicher Ebro

Melancholie

Geständniss

Der Contrabandiste

Botschaft

Ich bin geliebt

ABOUT THE MUSIC

In the 1780s, Mozart spent much time with the family of Baron von Jacquin, a famous University professor of botany and chemistry who hosted weekly salons, and Mozart wrote several pieces for these. The youngest Jacquins were among Mozart's most talented pupils and there is some speculation as to whether Gottfried might have written some of the vocal parts of the Notturmi; they were published in 1803 under his name. Mozart certainly wrote the accompaniment, originally for three basset horns, and there is no doubt about his authorship of number six.

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Written in 1816, Beethoven's **An die ferne Geliebte** is not only a true song cycle but the first important example of the form. All six poems concern the feelings of love as translated through nature, a subject that had already been immortalized in the 'Pastoral' Symphony. The constraints of the strophic form are addressed successfully by constantly developing the piano part into more complicated rhythmical variations. The final song brings the cycle full circle with lyric and musical quotes from the first, a technique later used by Schumann in his song cycles. Incidentally he quotes Beethoven's song in his *Frauenliebe und -leben* almost as if he is sending secret messages to his beloved Clara, his distant beloved.

After the first performance of the **Spanisches Liederspiel**, Schumann had second thoughts about the work's dramatic flow and decided to cut two songs and publish a third one, *Der Contrabandiste*, as an appendix. It seems obvious that the discarded songs, *Hoch, hoch sind die Berge* (for alto) and *Flutenreicher Ebro* (for baritone), were recycled into his *Spanisches Liebeslieder* completed only a few months later the same year. Schumann's second thoughts had both their pros and cons and tonight Songmakers Australia brings you the opportunity to listen to the work as originally imagined by the composer.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Since their foundation in 2011, **Songmakers Australia** have built a reputation as one of Australia's leading ensembles, bringing together some of the country's most prominent singers and instrumentalists to perform a diverse repertoire comprising some of the pinnacles of chamber music. Pianist Andrea Katz teams with soprano Merlyn Quaife, mezzo-soprano Sally-Anne Russell, tenor Andrew Goodwin and bass-baritone Nicholas Dinopoulos in inspired programs that feature a dynamic interplay of song and chamber music.

The ensemble presents a yearly subscription series at Melbourne Recital Centre, where they have been Local Heroes since 2011. They enjoy numerous invitations to perform at leading festivals and recital series Australia-wide (Art Gallery of NSW, Peninsula Summer Music Festival, Art Song Canberra and the Art Gallery of Ballarat) and they are regularly heard nationally in live-to-air broadcasts.

songmakersaustralia.com

NEXT CONCERT

Shakespeare in Love

Wednesday 21 September 6pm, Salon

For more information and tickets, please visit melbournerecital.com.au/heroes

ABOUT LOCAL HEROES 2016

Local Heroes is the easiest way to rediscover your love of chamber music or take delight in experiencing it for the first time. From strings to piano, early music to contemporary, art song to tango, there's something for every musical taste. This year, *Local Heroes* showcases 19 acclaimed ensembles across 44 concerts in the award-winning acoustics of Melbourne Recital Centre's Salon and Elisabeth Murdoch Hall. Want to get to know the artists and learn more about the music they love to perform? Visit localheroes.melbourne to discover more.



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