THE PARLOUR

WAGNER IN PARIS

A STORY OF PRISON, AMBITION & SONG

Thursday 3 November 6pm | Salon

Presented by Melbourne Recital Centre and The Parlour

ARTISTS

Wendy Grose, soprano
Adam Miller, baritone
Karen Van Spall, mezzo soprano
Eidit Golder, piano
Julie Houghton, actor
Eva Justine Torkkola, actor
Alice Tovey, actor

PROGRAM

RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883)
Der Tannenbaum (1838) WWV 50
'Meine Ruh ist Hin' from *Seven Compositions to Goethe's Faust* (1831-32)
Les Deux Grenadiers (1840) WWV 60
Les adieux de Marie Stuart (1840) WWV 61

GIACOMO MEYERBEER (1791-1864)
Chant De Mai

WAGNER
Tout n'est qu'image fugitives
Trois melodies

FREDERIC CHOPIN (1810-1849)
Smutna rzeka Op.74, No.3

HECTOR BERLIOZ (1803-1869)
Les nuits d'été
Villanelle

ABOUT WAGNER IN PARIS

A note from Karen van Spall:

Once you begin sifting through the letters of Richard Wagner, it isn't long before you become acquainted with the Burrell Collection, a set of primary documents assembled by English Wagnerphile, the Honourable Mrs. Burrell. Through these texts, the figure of Natalie Planer, until then just a footnote in Wagner's story (and often only referred to as 'N' in his letters) becomes significant. Toward the end of her life, Natalie was discovered by Mary Burrell in a 'poor house' for women.

Among her few possessions were many of Wagner's letters, musical sketches and an early prose play he had written. Natalie had lived in Paris with Minna and Richard between 1840 and 1842 and I thought it might be interesting to create a version of these early years of their marriage from her particular perspective. For this I've drawn on letters, biographies, portraits and other historical documents to confect a description of Mrs. Burrell's first encounter with Natalie in 1890.

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Julie Houghton (Older Natalie) trained as an actor on a scholarship at St Martin's Theatre School, before gaining an arts degree and becoming a cadet journalist and then an ABC radio producer and announcer. Julie is a freelance arts journalist, MC, professional narrator at Vision Australia, and hosts the Music In Melbourne program every fortnight on 3MBS. She was an Arts columnist for several years with Melbourne Observer, and is the music theatre reviewer for classicmelbourne.com.au. She hosted and performed in the Arden Crescent Concert Series for several years and compered *Opera In the Park* for the City of Stonnington. Julie has performed two successful short cabaret shows and is a professional reader in the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic *Carols In the Cathedral* Concerts each year. Julie co-compered the last three 3MBS music marathons, and has sang duets in concert with Greta Bradman, Roxane Hislop and Sally-Anne Russell.

Eva Justine Torkkola (Young Natalie) is currently touring full time as an actor performing a series of comedic and inspiring shows across Australia for The Commonwealth Bank, as well as working casually as an actor and puppeteer for Camp Quality and Trash Puppets. Graduating from The University of Ballarat (BA Acting) in 2009, Eva has since performed in a number of theatre shows - last year alone working on 12 different productions. Notable works include *Receivers* and *The Piano Thief* (Feat in Space), *The Goblin Tree* (Panopticon Collective) and *King in Exile* (NICE Productions). She will be seen later this year on stage in *Midsummer* (BackYardTheatreEnsemble) and *Subletting in Northcote* (Strumpet Productions) and also on screen in the upcoming feature film *Family Secrets* directed by Eve Ash.

Alice Tovey (Younger Natalie) is a Melbourne based singer, songwriter, comedian, actress, writer and egomaniac. Her first solo show *Malice* (written and performed with her co-writter, Ned Dixon) was nominated for a Green Room Award for Best Original Songs and won an Adelaide Fringe Festival Weekly Award for Best Emerging Arist. Alice is a collaborator and director at Seemingly Evil Productions, a comedy collective formed from the cast of the 2013 Melbourne University Law Revue. With her fellow cast members. Alice has written and performed with Seemingly Evil in *Tres Miserables, Office Party, Mix Tape* and *Willy Wanka*. Alice will be premiering her new show *Personal Messiah* at the 2016 Melbourne Cabaret Festival.

Wendy Grose (Soprano) has performed in Britain with Royal Opera, Covent Garden, and Welsh National Opera. In Australia she has performed with Chambermaid Opera and CitiOpera. She has sung Mimi in *La Boheme* and starred in Peter Grimes. Wendy has performed in Italy and France as well. She has been a recital artist with the BBC and with the Melbourne symphony orchestra on the ABC. She is also a very fine actor and appeared in Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*. Wendy has appeared on several television programs including *Blue Heelers* and *Neighbours*. In 1999 Wendy was invited to London to perform Isolde's *Leibestod, Straus's Four Last Songs* with the Whitehall Fine Arts Boroque Orchestra. She is currently playing her solo performance of the legendary opera singer Marjorie Lawrence as well as her acclaimed *Life of Anna Russell*.

Eidit Golder (Pianist) is a highly respected solo pianist and chamber musician. She received her musical education at the exclusive Talma Yalin School For The Performing Arts in Israel and the Victorian College of the Arts. In 1999, Eidit received first place at the Australian National Piano Award. She has made a number of professional broadcasts and recordings for the ABC, and has played at the Melbourne International, Port Fairy, Woodend and Castlemaine Festivals. Eidit completed her Masters at Melbourne University under Professor Stephen McIntyre, and is a laureate of the Advanced Performance Program, Australian National Academy of Music. Between 2005 and 2010 she was the pianist with Freshwater Trio, with whom she made numerous festival and concert appearances, including performances at the 2010 Vancouver International Music Festival. Eidit is currently Artistic Director of the Melbourne Art Song Collective (MASC), in addition to teaching at Scotch College and Sacré Coeur.

Adam Miller (Baritone/Director) graduated with Distinction and a Dip RAM from the Opera Programme at London's Royal Academy of Music. He was a finalist in the Covent Garden National Opera Studio Scholarship 2003 and 2004. He has been awarded the Royal Over-Seas Leagues Bursary, the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme Award and the Royal Academy's Edna Graham Scholarship. He has performed with Scottish Opera, Opera Australia, Opera Queensland, OzOpera, Clonter Opera and Melbourne City Opera and his operatic roles include: Figaro (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Le Nozze di Figaro*), Germont , Baron Zeta, Papageno , Enrico (*Lucia di Lammermoor)*, Marcello, Schaunard, Masetto, Marco (*Gianni Schicchi*) and Silvio (*Pagliacci*). Sacred and concert repertoire includes Raphael/Adam in Haydn's *The Creation* and the bass soloist in Handel's *Messiah*. Adam has an equally distinguished career on the concert platform, in film, television and radio, and has featured on two CDs.

Karen Van Spall (Mezzo Soprano/Writer) graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Arts (Music) and Bachelor of Music Performance (Hons) after which she lived and worked in London. She performed regularly as a guest artist of Opera Australia, soloist for Victorian Opera and various orchestras. Roles for Opera Australia's national touring company OzOpera include Suzuki, Kate Pinkerton, Mercedes and Carmen (understudy). Other roles include; Dorabella (*Cosi fan tutte*), Second Lady (*Magic Flute*), Secretary (*The Consul*), Slave (*Salome*, OA), Third Orphan (*Der Rosenkavalier*, OA), Third Handmaiden and Unborn Child (*Die Frau Ohne Schatten*, VSO) Lola (*Cavallaria Rusticana*), Marianne (*Le Chatte*), Dryade (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) and Mercury (*Thespis*). She has given numerous recitals at the Melbourne Recital Centre with Melbourne Art Song Collective. She has recently completed a MA in Arts Management.

The Parlour would like to thank King David School, Shirley Breese, Richard Wagner Society (Vic), Lucy Esdaile and Alexandra Elliott.

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Melbourne Recital Centre acknowledges the people of the Kulin nation on whose land this concert is being presented.

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