

Programme notes by Jenny Wollerman

Die Forelle (The Trout) by Schubert (1797 - 1828),

Op 32 Text by C Schubart

This song tells of a lovely little trout ensnared by a cold blooded fisherman. The trout's capture is an allegory for the 'capture' of a naïve young woman by a calculating older man.

Nacht und Träume (Night and Dreams) by Schubert

Op 43 No 2 Text by Matthaüs von Collin

As night falls, so dreams descend like moonlight into the quiet minds of sleepers. They listen to them joyfully, and as the day breaks, cry out "Return, come back to me, sweet dreams!"

Seligkeit (Bliss) by Schubert

(posthumous, written 1816) Text by Hölty

The young man says: "We've been told that heaven is a wonderful place and I so want to be there, happy forever, but... if Laura would only give me a look that says 'Yes', then I'd be happy to stay here forever with her!"

Du bist die Ruh (You are Rest and Peace) by Schubert

Op 59 No 3 Text by F. Rückert

A song addressed to love: 'You are rest and gentle peace, you are yearning and what quiets it. I dedicate my heart to you: let it be filled to the full with your joys'.

Three Songs from 'Ariettes Oubliées' by Debussy (1862-1918),

Texts by Paul Verlaine

C'est l'Extase (It is Ecstasy)

'It is languorous ecstasy, it is amorous fatigue, it is the trembling of the trees in the caress of the breezes, it is, by the grey branches, the chorus of little voices.. This soul that laments sleepily, it is ours, is it not – mine and yours, from which flows the humble anthem, in this warm evening.

Il Pleure Dans Mon Coeur (There is Crying in my Heart)

'There is crying in my heart, just as there is rain falling on the town... What – no betrayal? A mourning without cause?... It is the certainly the worst pain to not know why, without love or hate, my heart has so much grief.'

L'Ombre des arbres (The Shadow of the Trees)

A song of unfounded fears and imagined perils, which quotes a tale about a nightingale who looks down from a high branch at his reflection and believes himself to have fallen into the water, fearing he is about to drown.

C by Poulenc (1899-1963)

Text by Louis Aragon

This song is on a poem inspired by the tragic scene at *Les Ponts-de-Cé*, where in 1940 large numbers of French fleeing the German invasion attempted to cross the Loire river at this point. It refers to 'tales of bygone days.. the castle of a mad duke.. an eternal fiancée..' and 'the long lay of false glories'.

Air champêtre (A Country Song) by Poulenc

Text by Jean Moréas

Here Poulenc has set a far more inconsequential poem – a sweet song reflecting the sweetness of love and the loss of a lover with whom the joys of the countryside had been shared.

INTERVAL

'Aquarelles' Two Songs from 'Ariettes Oubliées' by Debussy

Texts by Paul Verlaine

Green

"Here are fruits, flowers and leaves and here too is my heart that beats only for you." Two lovers, nature, the fresh morning dew, and desire for sleep: "on your young breast let me rest my head, still ringing with your last kisses".

Spleen

Weariness, anxiety and despair – the 'spleen' is here a result of the perils of intense love. "The roses were all red, the ivy all black... Darling, if you even move a little, all my despair returns. The sky was too blue, too tender... always I fear your leaving... I am weary of everything, everything but you, alas!"

Mandoline (Mandolin) by Fauré (1845-1924)

Text by Paul Verlaine

This song captures the quintessential mood of a Watteau painting, with serenaders playing mandolins to beautiful women dressed in long silk dresses beneath a pink and grey moon.

Clair de lune (Moonlight) by Fauré

Text by Paul Verlaine

'Your soul is a chosen landscape, where charming maskers roam, playing the lute and dancing, almost sad beneath their fantastic disguises'.

Au bord de l'eau (Beside the Water) by Fauré

Text by Sully Prudhomme

To sit together on the bank of the flowing stream, to watch it flow, to watch the clouds float by and smoke drift on, to smell the fragrance of the flowers, to hear the murmuring stream, to adore each other and, while this dream lasts, not feel the passing of time: to feel that love, in the face of all that fades and ends, will never fade.

Die Vögel (The Birds) by Schubert

Op 172 No 6 Text by Schlegel

The birds say: "How lovely it is to hover and glide, to look down on earth from the glittering heights! Humans are so hopeless: they can't fly!! They lament their pain to heaven, but we flutter way up to it!"

An die Musik (To Music) by Schubert

Opus 88 No 4 Text by F. von Schober

A song of thanks to music, acknowledging its power to bring us to a better place and to 'open up for us the heaven of better times'.

Gretchen am Spinnrade (Gretchen at her Spinning Wheel) by Schubert

Op 2 Text from the play 'Faust' by Goethe

Gretchen sits at her wheel, thinking of the marvellous man, Faust, whom she has been seeing. She is in the throes of first love and all she can think of is him: his noble bearing, his smile, and most of all, his kiss.

Liebe schwärmt auf allen Wegen (Love Swarms on Every Road)

Claudine's Ariette from the Singspiel 'Claudine von Villa Bella' on a text by Goethe (No Opus number)

This sweet arietta is from Schubert's light opera 'Claudine von Villa Bella'. Unfortunately only fragments of the work have survived to the present day.

Jenny Wollerman has performed throughout Australasia, and Europe as well as Taiwan, as recitalist, and with orchestras.

She studied at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, graduating in 1991 with a Master of Music in Opera. After further studies at the Banff Centre in Canada and the

Britten-Pears School in England, she returned to pursue her career in Australia and New Zealand.

She is noted for her recital work, performing with Bruce Greenfield for numerous radio recordings, and in recital for festivals around New Zealand, and other concert series such as Paekarariki and Gisborne. She has taught singing at the New Zealand School of Music since 2003.

Richard Mapp studied at the Royal Academy of Music from 1975-79, and taught there from 1979-1982. While living in Britain and Italy, he performed regularly in the main London concert halls, and recorded for the BBC, and for radio in Germany, Sweden, Finland, and Canada.

Richard has appeared as soloist with all the orchestras in New Zealand, and tours regularly for Chamber Music NZ. He is heard often on Radio New Zealand Concert, and has also appeared as a guest pianist with the NZ String Quartet. His CD of piano music by Granados for Meridian records was well reviewed in the BBC Music Magazine, and he also appears on CDs with the flautist Amanda Hollins, and the NZSO. Richard is Senior Lecturer in Piano and Chamber Music at the New Zealand School of Music. He has a particular interest in the late 19th and early 20th Century repertoire.