

## PROGRAMME NOTES

### **ANTITHESIS** - A Programme of Opposites performed by **The Dalecarlia Clarinet Quintet**

Due to a repetitive strain injury in the arm and shoulder to one the string players in Antithesis Quintet, this ensemble is not able to undertake the tour. As a result Anna McGregor has established a new ensemble to present this 'Programme of Opposites' featuring New Zealand works. The replacement ensemble *The Dalecarlia Clarinet Quintet* includes Sofie Sunnerstam from the Antithesis Quintet and is notable, not only because of the experience of the string players who are the lead players in the Dalasinfoniettan, Sweden, but also because it now includes another New Zealander, violinist Manu Berkeljon.

#### **Song About Em (2006)**

#### **Emmy Lindström**

Emmy Lindström (b. 1984) is one of the new generation of Swedish composers, and she is also a violinist. Emmy studied at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm and at the Academy of Music and Drama in Gothenburg. Her music has been performed on stages all over Europe, and Australia, and also recorded and broadcast in Sweden and abroad. Emmy has a vast experience of different genres of music including classical, theatre and folk. 'Song About Em' is a bittersweet song of Scandinavia where the natural surroundings are achingly beautiful and the seasonal changes are extreme: light goes to dark and warm goes to cold. Melancholia and uncertainty are intertwined with existential questions and the uplifting magic of young love. 'Song About Em' was written for the composer's husband, clarinetist Emil Jonason

#### **Clarinet Quintet (2006)**

#### **Anthony Ritchie (1960 - )**

1. *slow, restless - allegro con energico*
2. *slow and intense*
3. *fast and uneasy*

Christchurch born Anthony Ritchie has composed over 160 compositions during a career that includes a decade of freelance composing, several composer residencies. Many of his works have been published and recorded, and he has had works performed in many countries abroad, including the UK, Europe, Asia and the US. His recent CD *A Bugle Will Do* (Atoll, 2011) was named one of the "CDs of the year" by British reviewer Nick Barnard, on the Music Web International site. Anthony is currently Associate Professor of composition at the University of Otago and combines his interest in composition with a passion for teaching and mentoring young composers.

*Clarinet Quintet* was commissioned by Christopher Marshall for his chamber music series "Christopher's Classics" in 2006. It was written for Gretchen Dunsmore, clarinet, and The New Zealand String Quartet, for a premiere performance on September 13, 2006. The point of departure in this work is Mozart, in the year of his 250th anniversary. Motivic ideas are derived from the opening melody of his *Clarinet Quintet*, using a magic square to transform the pitches. No direct reference is made to the Mozart theme until the third movement, which is more diatonic in character.

## INTERVAL

### Quintet in A for clarinet and strings K581

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 -91)

*Allegro*

*Larghetto*

*Menuetto*

*Allegretto con variazioni*

In 1781 Mozart was thrown out of his job as organist and Kapellmeister at the court of the Archbishop of Salzburg for insubordination – he did not appreciate being treated as a court servant – and he became a freelance composer and performer in Vienna, being particularly highly respected as a keyboard player. He had been boarding with the Weber family, and in 1782 Mozart married one of the daughters of the household, Constanze, with the grudging approval of his own father.

During the following years, Mozart enjoyed many successes as a composer, with his string quartets praised highly by Haydn, and the public flocking to concerts where he played his own piano concertos. In the second half of the decade he turned again to opera composition, and the resulting *Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* became widely performed.

However, he was not earning enough from composition to support the lavish lifestyle he and Constanze had adopted, and was forced to borrow money from friends until his income began to improve, shortly before his death. One of his loyal friends, and sometimes his touring companion, was the clarinettist Anton Stadler, of whom a contemporary critic wrote: “I would not have thought that a clarinet could imitate the human voice so deceptively”. Mozart wrote the ‘Kegelstatt’ trio to play with Stadler in 1786, then the Clarinet Quintet in 1789 and Clarinet Concerto in 1791.

The clarinet had only recently become standard in the orchestra and was still developing as an instrument, and both the Quintet and Concerto were actually written for the basset clarinet, a version with an added lower register. Mozart’s Clarinet Quintet was the first major composition for that ensemble and inspired later works, including the Quintets by his wife’s cousin Carl Maria von Weber, and by a fellow Viennese immigrant, Johannes Brahms.

#### Anna McGregor, clarinet

Originally from Christchurch, Anna McGregor completed her Bachelor of Music (First Class Honours) from the University of Auckland in 2008 and followed this with Masters study at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. During this time she became the first ever recipient of a 2-year full-fees scholarship provided by the Swedish government for a non-EU citizen to study at the Royal College of Music. Anna has performed with the Swedish Radio Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Royal Stockholm Opera Orchestra, Swedish Wind Ensemble, and a variety of other professional orchestras throughout Sweden, and has recorded for Radio New Zealand, Atoll Records and Waiteata Music Press. Anna actively supports New Zealand music through the performance of existing pieces as well as the commission and premiere of new works.

#### Sofie Sunnerstam, violin

Sofie is currently completing a soloist diploma at the Edsberg Manor, part of the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. She has received scholarships from the Royal Swedish Academy of Music, the Andersson i Anderslöv

Foundation, the GT Bäckman Foundation and the Fredrika Bremer Foundation and in 2012 won the soloist competition at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. Sofie has freelanced with the Swedish Radio Orchestra and Swedish Chamber Orchestra.

**Manu Berkeljon, violin** Manu is originally from the West Coast of New Zealand but moved to Sweden when she won the position of associate principal 2nd violin in DalaSinfoniettan, in Dalecarlia, Sweden. She has held long-term contract positions with Sydney Symphony Orchestra and New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Manu has appeared as soloist with orchestras including the NZ Symphony Orchestra, Cape Town Philharmonic and DalaSinfoniettan and has played chamber music throughout New Zealand, Australia and Sweden, including two private concerts for Pope Benedict XVI.

**Anders Norén, viola** Anders currently holds the position of co-principal viola in the DalaSinfoniettan. He has performed with a variety of orchestras throughout Sweden including the Swedish Radio Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Nordic Chamber Orchestra and the Västerås Sinfonietta. Anders is passionate about: chamber music and spends a lot of time working with his other ensembles the *Norén Quartet* and *Trio Castafiore*.

**Tomas Blanch, cello** Tomas is principal cello with the DalaSinfoniettan in Falun, Sweden. He has completed a master's degree at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm and further studies in solo / chamber music at the European Mozart Academy in Warsaw and in 1998 was a finalist in the Yamaha Music Foundation Europe competition for young musicians. Tomas has also held a position in the Gävle Symphony Orchestra.