

Trans Tasman Duo

Keyboard duos go back to the 17th century when organists and harpsichordists joined forces in a musical interplay. During the Viennese Classical era and early Romantic period the pianoforte duo became one of the most appreciated forms of chamber music.

Sonata in D major for piano four hands K.381 Mozart (1756-1791)

Allegro

Andante

Allegro molto

Composed in Salzburg in 1772 Mozart played this Sonata with his sister Nannerl. It sparkles with the spirit of an Italian 'sinfonia'. Its lively colours are reminiscent of orchestral music - the opposition between the strings and the woodwind can be heard and we can imagine the cellos and bassoons when the melody of the primo is accompanied by the octaves of the secondo.

The second wonderfully songful movement in G major surprises with themes from other orchestral works such as the Salzburg symphonies in D major K136 and A major K114. Whereas the first movement is essentially rhythmic in character, the finale is vivacious and exciting with its interchanging triplets and duplets crowning this work with sparkling tutti effects.

Three Coquettes for Piano Duo

**David Griffiths
(1950 -)**

Rumba

Waltz

Rumba and Waltz are the first two of a set of three duets written for Massimo and Sara Percciacante in 2012.

Rumba is an energetic, zany romp which swift and acrobatic flusters all over the piano with an incessant driving rhythm. It captures the wild unpredictability of passionate youthful enthusiasm and joy. Much use is made of fast moving scales and jagged arpeggiated motivic figures with moments of pointed cheekiness.

Waltz is an elegant escape into a languorous afternoon siesta time with sensual, dreamy, heated wafts of desire urging through tapestries of secrecy. The rocking accompaniment is spiked with shafts of persuasive dissonance and drifting harmonies that rise and fall in gentle clusters.

NZ composer David Griffiths is known for his vocal, choral and instrumental music and his operas, as well as his many works for piano. Receiving not infrequent commissions from Europe and North America for his compositions, on the home front he has composed six stunning operas for the vocal students and instrumentalists at the University of Waikato, many of them about NZ life and subjects close to our hearts and our history. These include 3 short operas based

on Frank Sargeson short stories, an opera about one of NZ's pioneer suffragettes and an opera based around the iconic White Lady pie cart which was stationed at the bottom of Queen St in Auckland, for 50 years, until quite recently.

David Griffiths is also one of NZ's leading baritones (winning both of New Zealand's premier operatic competitions, The NZ Herald Aria and the Mobil Song Quest), and performs all over NZ as a soloist and with NZ Opera, and was for 16 years Head of Voice at the University of Waikato until his retirement at the end of 2015.

Fantasia in F minor D.940

**Schubert
(1797 – 1828)**

Allegro molto moderato - Largo - Allegro vivace - Allegro molto moderato
Composed in February 1828 the work was dedicated to the young Countess Caroline Esterházy de Galantha, whom Schubert gave piano lessons to for two years. Schubert played it with his friend Lachner for Eduard von Bauernfeld, one of the pillars of the famous Schubertiads. The Fantasia is actually a sonata of imposing dimensions, its four movements linked together without interruption. It is one of Schubert's most moving and eloquent masterpieces for the piano – a kind of autobiographic insight into his tragic destiny.

INTERVAL

Petrouchka

**Stravinsky
(1882 – 1971)**

*Danse Russe
Chez Petrouchka*

Stravinsky's goal in arranging *Petrushka* for the piano was to attempt to influence Arthur Rubinstein into playing his music. He was not trying to reproduce the sound of the orchestra, but instead wished to compose a score which would be essentially pianistic even though its musical material was drawn directly from the ballet.

The first movement, "Danse Russe", is drawn from the closing part of the first scene of the ballet. The next part, "Chez Petrouchka", is the second scene of the stage work.

Six Morceaux Op 11

**Rachmaninov
(1873 – 1943)**

*Barcarolle
Scherzo
Waltz
Romance*

This is rarely heard collection of gems from Rachmaninov's earlier years. Barcarolle in g minor. For once Rachmaninov actually writes a Barcarolle that

sounds like a Barcarolle. Swaying rhythms accompany a lyric melody that incorporates typical swirling figuration to build to a climax.

Scherzo in D major is a dazzling and brilliant virtuoso work, full of wit and rhythmic excitement.

Waltz in A major is actually a suite of several continuous Waltzes in the traditional Chopinesque style.

Romance in c minor is a melodious and lyrical Nocturne in a fairly straightforward late Romantic style; it is beautiful, simple and unaffected.

Waltz of the Flowers Tchaikovsky transcribed by Rachmaninov

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Katherine Austin

Head of Piano Studies for the University of Waikato Conservatorium of Music, Katherine is one of New Zealand's leading pianists and performs regularly as concerto soloist, chamber musician, and solo recitalist, touring frequently for Chamber Music New Zealand, and broadcasting regularly on Radio New Zealand Concert. Pianist of the Tennant-Austin Duo for the past 21 years, her work with the New Zealand Chamber Soloists now occupies a large portion of her performing and concert life, with regular tours to Europe, UK, Asia, North and South America, and Australia, and invitations to give master-classes in such institutions as the Yong Siew Toh Academy of Music (Singapore), the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, the Yehudi Menuhin School (UK), the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) and the Vicenza Conservatory of Music (Italy).

Katherine graduated Master of Music with First Class Honours in Piano Performance from Auckland University. In 1982 she won both the NZ Young Performer of the Year (PACANZ) and the TVNZ/NZSO New Zealand Young Musician of the Year, playing Schumann's Piano Concerto with the NZSO. Seven years of study and performance in London and Europe followed, included a full scholarship to the Royal College of Music London to study with renowned Russian pianist and teacher Irina Zaritskaya, as well as postgraduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. In 1987, Katherine won the Top Duo Prize in the Stresa International Chamber Music Competition in Italy, performing with cellist Vincenzo Giuliani.

Katherine has performed the Romantic piano concerto repertoire with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra and performs regularly as a concerto soloist with the Auckland Chamber Orchestra and the Opus Chamber Orchestra, specializing in the concertos of Mozart and Beethoven. She is also the coordinator behind the Gallagher Academy of Arts' successful ongoing concert series and the producer for the University of Waikato Conservatorium of Music concerts in Central North Island, New Zealand.

Glenn Riddle

Melbourne-born pianist Glenn Riddle studied at the University of Melbourne, Royal College of Music, London and Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst, Vienna. Currently Lecturer in Keyboard at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, he is Federal Examiner for the Australian Music Examinations Board and is also a Research Associate at the University of Waikato.

Recordings include 10 pedagogical CDs for Hal Leonard Publishing, a DVD Classical Destinations III (performing the works of Australian composer Percy Grainger), and a CD of recent Australian works *The Sky is Melting* with Marianne Rothschild (violin). Glenn continues to perform widely and his concerts have taken him to the USA, Europe, South-East Asia, and throughout Australia. He is heard frequently on ABC FM as soloist, chamber musician and conductor, has performed for ABC Television's 7:30 Report, and recorded with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for ABC Classics. His publications include editing 12 volumes of piano music for the AMEB.

A much sought-after lecturer, adjudicator and pedagogue, Glenn has worked extensively throughout Europe, Asia, USA, Australia and New Zealand presenting recitals, workshops, masterclasses, examining and competition juror. One of Australia's leading piano pedagogues, Glenn Riddle's students have won prizes in international competitions in Europe, USA, South-East Asia and Australia.