

AMATEUR CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

<http://www.acms-australia.org/>

— CONCERT PROGRAM —

GRAINGER *Handel in the Strand*

violin Jonathan Ell viola Susan Khouri
cello David Oldroyd piano Christine Edwards
6'

SCHUBERT *Lieder*

(1) *Suleika* (2) *Nacht und Träume*
(3) *Sehnsucht* (4) *Nachtstück*

mezzo-soprano Jo Burton piano Murray Brown
20'

MAHLER *Piano Quartet movement in A minor (1876)*

Nicht zu schnell

piano quartet players (as for Grainger)
12'

— INTERVAL —

SCHUBERT *Trio No1 in B flat major Op99 D898*

(1) *Allegro moderato* (2) *Andante un poco mosso*
(3) *Scherzo: Allegro* (4) *Rondo: Allegro vivace - Presto*
violin George Carrard cello Robyn Godfrey
piano Murray Brown
35'

— SUPPER —

Concert Organiser: Murray Brown

The and volunteer staff of the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre provide wine, juice and and charge \$10 entry donation (\$5 concession/seniors) to cover costs and to raise funds for the Centre

- Background Notes -

GRAINGER (1882-1961) *Handel in the Strand*

Percy Grainger wrote 'My title was originally "Clog Dance". But my dear friend William Rathbone (to whom the piece is dedicated) suggested the title "Handel in the Strand," because the music seemed to reflect both Handel and English musical comedy (The Strand—a street in London—is the home of London musical comedy) as if jovial old Handel were careering down the Strand to the strains of modern English popular music.'

Grainger was a piano prodigy turned composer who was known for his eccentric personal habits, his colourful prose, and his idiosyncratic music – his many admirers today still recognize that he possessed “the supreme virtue of never being dull.” Born in Australia, he went to USA at the outbreak of World War I, enlisted as an Army bandsman, and became an American citizen in 1919.

He composed *Handel in the Strand* in 1912 for piano and string orchestra, but had no objection to other musicians arranging his music to suit their needs. So the piece exists in several different versions.

<http://www.andypease.com/cuwe/handelinthestrand.html>

SCHUBERT (1797-1828) *Lieder*

Please see attached sheet for words.

MAHLER (1860-1911) *Piano Quartet movement in A minor (1876)*

Gustav Mahler wrote this quartet movement when he was about 15 or 16. He played the piano part at the première in 1876 at the end of his first year at the Vienna Conservatory. It is one of the very few works from Mahler's early youth that have survived and he completed only the first movement. He wrote no chamber music after his student years, concentrating on songs and symphonies instead. The 1876 quartet is notable for its rich sonority.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piano_Quartet_%28Mahler%29

SCHUBERT *Trio No1 in B flat major Op99 D898*

Franz Schubert, son of a parish schoolmaster in Vienna, was one of fourteen children of whom only five survived infancy. He started learning the violin at the age of five and later studied piano and singing. Aged eleven, he won a choir scholarship to study at the Imperial Seminary. He occasionally led the orchestra there and studied composition with Salieri. At sixteen he was training as a teacher and at seventeen wanted to marry a young soprano for whom he had written songs, but was prevented by marriage laws that required the ability of the prospective husband to show that he had means to support a family. In his twenties, he had a circle of adoring friends who helped him financially and attended musical gatherings called “Schubertiades”. Not all the gatherings were culturally

refined: on one occasion, the Austrian police, who were suspicious of any type of student gatherings, arrested Schubert and four of his friends, and "severely reprimanded" them in part for "inveighing against [officials] with insulting and opprobrious language".

Schubert was remarkably prolific. He wrote some 600 Lieder, nine symphonies, liturgical music, operas, some incidental music, and a large body of chamber and solo piano music. Appreciation of his music during his lifetime was however limited. Publishers rejected nearly everything he wrote, even though Beethoven said of him "Truly in Schubert there dwells a divine spark." Part of the problem was Schubert's penchant for writing lengthy works. Stravinsky, when once asked if he was put to sleep by the prolixities of Schubert, replied: "Why should it matter if, when I awake, it seems to me that I am in Paradise?" Interest in Schubert's work increased dramatically in the decades following his death. Liszt, Schumann, Brahms and Mendelssohn, among others, discovered and championed his works. Today, Schubert is admired as one of the leading exponents of early Romantic music and he remains one of the most frequently performed composers. The final three years of Schubert's life were not happy ones yet, like Mozart, he continued to compose music, seemingly unaffected by melancholy.

Although he completed the Trio D898 in 1828, the last year of his life, it was published only eight years later. Some commentators think that the opening theme of the first movement is a paraphrase Schubert's song Des Sängers Habe (The Singer's Possession): "Shatter all my happiness in pieces, take from me all my worldly wealth, yet leave me only my zither and I shall still be happy and rich!" This sentiment could apply to the whole work. In today's performance of this long work, we have made a few cuts, especially from the finale.

<http://theomniscientmussel.com/2009/01/schubert-piano-trio-b-flat-major-d898-notes/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz_Schubert

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Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre

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16 Fitzroy St Kirribilli

Chamber Music Concert

5pm Sunday 3 July 2011

