

Amateur Chamber Music Society

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

— PROGRAM —

REBECCA CLARKE *Dumka*

violin Julie Stern viola Robyn Brookfield
piano Miriam Blatt

MADELAINE DRING *Trio for Flute, Oboe and Piano*

(1) *Allegro con brio* (2) *Andante semplice*
(3) *Allegro giocoso*

flute Marie Heinrich oboe Telena Routh
piano Miriam Blatt

CLARA SCHUMANN *Ich Stand in Dunklen Träumen*

PAULINE VIARDOT *Madrid*

mezzo-soprano Robyn Brookfield piano Miriam Blatt

FANNY MENDELSSOHN *Piano Trio Op 11 in D minor*

(1) *Allegro molto vivace* (2) *Andante espressivo*
(3) *Lied. Allegretto* (4) *Finale. Allegro moderato*

violin Miriam Blatt cello Clara Blazer
piano Brandon Scherrer

— REFRESHMENTS —

- Notes -

REBECCA CLARKE (1886–1979) *Dumka* (1941)

Rebecca Clarke was a British composer and viola virtuoso, born from a German mother and an American father. She studied viola with Lionel Tertis, and sang in a student group under the direction of Ralph Vaughan Williams

Clarke performed with a long list of luminaries including Artur Schnabel, Pablo Casals, Jascha Heifetz, Arthur Rubinstein and George Szell.

Clarke's viola sonata tied for 1st place out of 72 entries to a competition in 1911, tying with Ernest Bloch.

Inspired by the Slavic dumka tradition of alternating melancholic reflection with spirited dance, Rebecca Clarke's *Dumka* is a work of striking emotional breadth and harmonic richness. Composed in 1941, the work juxtaposes lyrical introspection with fiery rhythmic vitality, showcasing Clarke's command of instrumental colour and expressive intensity. A deeply compelling chamber piece, it highlights her unique voice within twentieth-century music)

MADELAINE DRING (1923-1977) *Trio for Flute, Oboe and Piano* (1968)

Multi-faceted artist Madeleine Dring was an English actress, mime, cartoonist, violinist, pianist, singer, and composer. At age 10, she earned a violin scholarship to the junior department of the Royal College of Music. She continued studies as a senior composition student of Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gordon Jacob. In addition to composing concert pieces, Dring sustained her love of theatre by acting, singing, playing piano, and composing incidental music. She died at age 53 of a brain aneurysm.

Dring composed several chamber works, including the *Trio for flute, oboe, and piano* (1968) for her husband Roger Lord, a professional oboist who played with the London Symphony Orchestra. Flutist Peter Lloyd, Lord, and André Previn premiered the *Trio* in the United States. Dring admired Francis Poulenc, and her works often exhibit similarities in melodic structure and rhythmic wit.

Poulenc's influence is clearly heard in the *Trio*. The first movement consists mainly of homorhythmic lines between the flute and oboe, though cheeky mixed meter passages elude a strong rhythmic pulse. The magical melodic simplicity of the second movement is reminiscent of the second movement of the Poulenc *Flute Sonata*, containing solo passages for both the flute and the oboe as well as melodic lines that interact conversationally. The similarities to the Poulenc *Flute Sonata* continue in the third movement of Dring's *Trio* as both exhibit an energetic brilliance. The piece concludes with a double cadenza and an exuberant ensemble finish

CLARA SCHUMANN (1819-1896) *Ich Stand in Dunklen Träumen* (1844)

This song is a setting of a beautiful but sad poem by Heinrich Heine. Born Clara Weick, she was one of the most distinguished pianists of the Romantic Era, with a busy concert career for over 60 years. She composed many solo piano works, a piano concerto, chamber music and songs. Clara married Robert Schumann in 1840 when she was twenty years old. This song was written as a gift to her husband on their first Christmas together.

PAULINE VIARDOT (1821-1910) *Madrid* (1887)

Pauline Viardot was a French born dramatic mezzo soprano, composer and pedagogue of Spanish descent. Her family were all music professionals who travelled widely. Pauline began performing as a teenager and had a long and illustrious career. The song *Madrid* was published in 1887. We hear the typical rhythms of the *Bolero* in the guitar-like piano accompaniment. The poem describes the ladies of Spain, some with blue eyes and some with dark eyes, their dainty feet and a beautiful lover who is both a demon and an angel.

FANNY MENDELSSOHN (1805-1847) Piano Trio Op 11 in D minor (1847)

Fanny Mendelssohn was a German composer and pianist, and the older sister of Felix Mendelssohn. Prodigiously talented, at age 14, Fanny performed all 24 Preludes and Fugues from Bach's Well Tempered Clavier for her father's birthday, from memory. She wrote over 450 compositions including a string quartet, piano trio, piano quartet, 4 cantatas, 125 pieces for solo piano, and over 250 lieder. Fanny died of a stroke at the age of 41. Her piano trio Op 11 was written in the last year of her life, and published three years later in 1850. It is one of her most significant contributions to the chamber music repertoire, now celebrated as a masterpiece that deservedly stands alongside the works of her era's most noted composers. The Trio begins softly, but with great energy and passion and whirling piano figures over a beautiful, broad melody of yearning sung by the strings. The lyrical second theme reminds us of her talent for song, as do the middle movements. The gorgeous second movement, though very romantic, is introspective and reflective in mood. The third movement Lied, meaning song in German, is a charming Song Without Words of the sort that her brother Felix made famous. The dramatic finale leads with a piano cadenza as an almost improvisatory introduction, followed by themes that are Hungarian and dance-like in flavour, though with an underlying sense of melancholy or yearning. It later recalls the lyrical second theme of the first movement.

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concert organiser Miriam Blatt
light refreshments (wine, juice and savouries)
\$15 admission (\$10 concession/seniors)

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www.acms-australia.org

All chamber music players are welcome to join the
Amateur Chamber Music Society. Visit our website for more information.



CHAMBER MUSIC BY WOMEN COMPOSERS

3 pm Sunday 12 April 2026



Steve Lohman
lineartgallery.com

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