

Amateur Chamber Music Society

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

— PROGRAMME —

SCHUMANN *Piano Quintet in E Flat Op.44*

(1) *Allegro brillante*

(2) *In modo d'una marcia. Un poco largamente*

(3) *Molto vivace* (4) *Allegro ma non troppo*

violins George Carrard and Regula Scheidegger

viola Barra Boydell cello Clara Blazer

piano Christine Edwards

33'

Richard KERSHAW *Elephant Dances*

(1) *Elephants' Cake- Walk* (2) *Pachyderm Polka*

(3) *Jumbo-Rumba* (4) *Jungle Stomp*

(5) *Tuskers' Tarantella*

bassoon Petrina Slaytor piano Judith Maynard

10'

RACHMANINOFF *Sonata for Cello and Piano in G minor, Op.19*

(3) *Andante* (4) *Allegro mosso*

cello Sharon Mannl piano Neil Semmler

20'

— REFRESHMENTS —

SCHUMANN (1810–1856) *Piano Quintet Op.44*

The Piano Quintet in E flat major Op.44, by Robert Schumann was composed in 1842 when Robert was 32 years old and received its first public performance the following year. Composed for piano and string quartet, the work revolutionised the instrumentation and musical character of the piano quintet and established it as a quintessentially Romantic genre.

Noted for its "extroverted, exuberant" character, the quintet is considered one of his finest compositions and a major work of nineteenth-century chamber music.

Robert dedicated the quintet to his wife, the great pianist Clara Schumann. She was due to perform the piano part for the first private performance of the quintet on 6 December 1842. However, she fell ill and Mendelssohn stepped in, sight-reading the "fiendish" piano part. Mendelssohn's suggestions to Schumann after this performance led the composer to make revisions to the inner movements.

Clara did play the piano part at the first public performance of the piano quintet on 8 January 1843, at the Leipzig Gewandhaus. She pronounced the work "splendid, full of vigour and freshness", and often performed the work throughout her life.

Schumann's choice to pair the piano with a standard string quartet reflects the changing technical capabilities and cultural importance of these instruments. Bringing the piano and string quartet together, the quintet takes full advantage of the expressive possibilities of these forces in combination, alternating conversational passages between the five instruments with concertante passages in which the combined forces of the strings are massed against the piano. At a time when chamber music was moving out of the salon and into public concert halls, Schumann reimagines the piano quintet as a musical genre "suspended between private and public spheres" alternating between "quasi-symphonic and more properly chamber-like elements."

Richard KERSHAW (1946-) *Six Elephant Dances*

Dr Kershaw is a cellist and pianist, but composed a great deal of music for wind instruments to cater for students of Sherbourne School in Dorset (founded 705 AD). Petrina and Judith will play five of the Elephant Dances.

RACHMANINOFF (1873–1943) Sonata for Cello and Piano in G minor, Op.19

In the wake of the successful completion of his Second Piano Concerto, Sergei Rachmaninov spent the summer of 1901 on the family's country estate several days' travel to the south of Moscow. On his return to Moscow in autumn he began to work on the sonata, the performance of which was already planned for December with the composer at the piano.

By mid-November Sergei was crying off social engagements, complaining that "my work's going badly, and there's not much time left. I'm depressed..." Annotations on the original score shows that he revised the ending immediately after the first performance. By the following January, he was hard at work on the final proofs of the piece: "I've found almost no mistakes". In later years Rachmaninov recalled "I felt that [psychiatrist] Dr. Dahl's treatment had strengthened my nervous system to a miraculous degree ... The joy of creating lasted the next two years, and I wrote a number of large and small pieces including the Sonata for Cello..."

concert organiser George Carrard
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.

The Kirribilli Centre

www.thekirribillicentre.org

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Chamber Music Concert

3 pm Sunday 3 September 2023

