Heritage Concerts 2023

Tāmaki Pātaka Kōrero | Central City Library

Thursday 5 October, 12.10-1pm

Descending Muse: Katherine Mansfield in music

Martin Griffiths (cello), Polly Sussex (cello), Sherry Grant (piano)

Katherine Mansfield inspired generations of artists, including those represented in this performance. Works by Chopin and le Beau complement a programme otherwise entirely made up of musical responses to Katherine's poetry. Here, Martin, Polly and Sherry combine their substantial literary knowledge with musical interpretations of depth and intrigue.

Three Morceaux pour cello and piano	Arnold Trowell
**Voices of the Air* (1916)	music by Nigel Keay
**To L. H. B. (1916)*	music by Michael Bell
Romanza op 24/1 for cello and piano	Luise Adolphe le Beau
Prelude in D flat, op. 28 no.15 for piano	Chopin
**I was a bird (1908)* for unaccompanied cello	music by Michelle Velvin
Two poems: **Sanary (1916)* for cello and piano **Sleeping together (1909)* for cello and piano	music by Edwin Carr
**The Opal Dream Cave (1910)* for two cellos and piano	music by Josh Dawson

* music inspired by Katherine Mansfield's poem

Programme notes

NZ Composers

Nigel Keay was born in Palmerston North, New Zealand in 1955 and has been working as a freelance composer and viola player in Paris since 2001, having moved to France in 1998. He writes primarily for orchestral instruments, from small ensembles to larger orchestral groups, and also composes for voice.

Michael Bell (BMus, DipTchg) is presently resident organist, composer and music teacher at King's School in Remuera, Auckland. He has a passion for the music of J.S. Bach and improvises on organ and piano with his own blend of Classical and Baroque elements.

Edwin Carr was born in Auckland, in August 1926, and studied music at Otago and Auckland Universities from 1944 to 1947. He travelled to London on a New Zealand Government Bursary to study composition with Benjamin Frankel at the Guildhall School of Music. He spent time studying and working in Italy and Australia before returning to New Zealand permanently in 1984.

Joshua Dawson is a Piano and Music Theory Teacher at St Pauls Collegiate School, Hamilton, New Zealand (2017-present)

Michelle Velvin is a Wellington based harpist, composer and teacher. As a musician her explorations have led to diverse collaborations over wide-ranging genres and disciplines.

Musicians

Dr Martin Griffiths is a cello teacher and examiner for the New Zealand Music Education Board, principal cellist of Opus Orchestra (NZ) and guest artist with Vox Baroque and NZ Barok. He performed "Katherine Mansfield, Cellist" at the 2019 Katherine Mansfield Society (KMS) conference in Krakow, Poland. Martin was editor of the Katherine Mansfield Society Newsletter from 2015 until 2021 and has published in *Tinakori*, *Crescendo,* and *Katherine Mansfield Studies*. Notably the latter journal chose his research for publication in five consecutive editions (2020–2024).

Polly Sussex was born in Australia but moved to New Zealand at an early age. She studied Violoncello and Piano in Prague and at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Later she studied for her B.Mus. Hons., and Ph. D. (The Violoncello Sonatas of Luigi Boccherini) at the University of Otago, New Zealand. She also holds Diplomas in Teaching and in Arts Administration from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. More recently, she became interested in the Viola da Gamba. In 2007 and 2008, Polly undertook postgraduate studies in Viola da Gamba at the Hochschule fuer Kuenste, Bremen, North Germany (with Hille Perl) and at the Scola Cantorum in Basel, with Paolo Pandolfo), Switzerland. She plays all sizes of Viola da Gamba, including the Pardessus.

Sherry Grant is a Taiwan-born New Zealand concert pianist, cellist, award-winning poet, author, journal editor and festival organiser. She performs as solo pianist and with Taioro in North America (2022), Thailand (2023) and within NZ. Sherry is artistic director for the International KM100NZ Festival (November 2023) to celebrate Katherine Mansfield's centenary. www.linktr.ee/sherrygrant.

The 2024 Thursday Heritage Concerts Autumn series will commence on Thursday 18th April

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