THURSDAY 6TH JUNE | 7PM
DR JOHN GALLAGHER CONCERT CHAMBER

WITH CATHERINE NORTON, PIANO

Te Pae Kōkako
The Aotearoa New Zealand Opera Studio
at The University of Waikato

Programme

PIANIST – CATHERINE NORTON

Aria – **'Questa o Quella'** - *Rigoletto – G.Verdi*

Collection of English Art Song:
'Now sleeps the crimson petal' - *from Three songs, Op.3, No.2* – R. Quilter (1877-1953)
'**O Mistress Mine'** - *from three Shakespeare songs, Op.6, No.2* – R. Quilter (1877 – 1953)
'Roses of Picardy' - H.Wood (1882-1959)

Collection of German Lieder:
'Die Lotosblume' - *'Myrthen', Op.25, No.7* – R. Schumann (1810-1856)
'Mondnacht' - *'Liederkreis' Op.39* – R. Schumann (1810-1856)
'Du bist die welt fur mich' - R.Tauber (1891- 1948)

Aria – '**Una furtiva lagrima'** - G. Donizetti (1797-1848)

INTERVAL

Aria – '**Oh! ne t'éveille pas'** - Jocelyn – B.Godard (1849-1895)

Collection from Tostis songs – F. P. Tosti (1846-1916)

1. **'La Serenata'**
2. **'A vuchella'**
3. **'L'alba separa Dalla Luce l'ombra**

"**Ah Sweet mystery of Life'** – *Naughty Marietta* – V. Herbert (1859 – 1924)
'**Mou Piri'**. – *A Rarotonga Love song* – J. Jonassen (1949 -2023)

Ridge Ponini

Proud Cook Island tenor, 28-year-old Ridge Ponini completed his BMus(Hons) at the University of Otago, majoring in classical voice performance under Judy Bellingham. In 2021, Ridge was awarded the Enari Iosefa Opera Award from Creative NewZealand. Ridge was also a semi finalist for the Lexus Song quest for 2022 and was a studio artist with New Zealand Opera in 2023.

Ridge was part of New Zealand Operas Schools' Tour performing 'Sleeping Beauty' to over 10,000 tamariki nathionally. Ridge has been selected to attend the New Zealand Opera school for four consecutive years and was awarded the spirit of the School and the freemasons foundation and New Zealand Opera School runner up award for 2024. Ridge is now studying towards his MMus in Opera at TANZOS, as the recipient of

Catherine Norton

Catherine Norton is a busy and versatile pianist based in Wellington. She coaches privately, is in demand for recitals and competitions, and is a frequent guest player in the NZSO. She studied piano and languages at Victoria University of Wellington, winning the VUW Concerto Competition, and was an Emerging Artist with New Zealand Opera. She completed postgraduate studies in London at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where she was awarded numerous prizes and scholarships including the Guildhall Accompanists' Prize, and was appointed an Artist Fellow. She is an alumna of programmes including Britten-Pears Young Artists, Young Songmakers' Almanac, and Austria's Franz-Schubert-Institut for Lieder. She has given many song recitals around New Zealand, Great Britain and Europe.

Programme Notes

Aria: '**Questa o Quella'** - *Rigoletto* - G. Verdi (1813-1901)

Verdi composed *Rigoletto* in 1851 with a libretto written by Francesco Maria Piave (1810-1876). Verdi's motivation for the opera was based on Victor Hugo's 1832 French play, *Le Roi s'amuse* ("The king has a good time"), which describes a king who takes whatever he wants (which usually includes his subject's wives and daughters). *Rigoletto* is a tragic story by comparison, which revolves around the licentious Duke of Mantua, his hunch-backed court Jester Rigoletto, and Rigolettos daughter, Gilda. *Rigoletto* is widely considered one of Verdis most popular operas since its debut, due to its catchy tunes and lush orchestration, and "Questa o Quella" sung by the Duke of Mantua, is probably second only to the duke's other aria, 'La donna è mobile' in popularity!

This aria opens the first act at a ball hosted by the Duke ,and the aria translates to "This woman or that one." The aria displays his misogynistic attitude towards women, and describes his desire for pleasure with as many women as possible. He enjoys seducing the wives of his courtiers, disregarding their jealousy with rakish scorn. The aria also highlights the Duke's desire to seduce the Countess of Ceprano.

Aria:
DUKE OF MANTUA
Questa o quella per me pari sono
A quant'altri intorno, d'intorno mi vedo
Del mio core l'impero non cedo
Meglio ad una che ad altra beltà
La costoro avvenenza è quel don
Di che il fato ne infiora la vita
S'oggi questa mi torna gradita
Forse un'altra, forse un'altra doman lo sarà
Un'altra, forse un'altra doman lo sarà
La constanza, tiranna del core
Detestiamo qual morbo, quel morbo crudele
Sol chi vuole si serbi fedele
Non v'ha amor, no, se non v'è libertà
De' mariti il geloso furore
Degli amanti le smanie derido
Anco d'Argo i cent'occhi disfido
Se mi punge, se mi punge una qualche beltà

Aria:
DUKE OF MANTUA
This girl or that girl are equal
to the all the others I see around me,
the core of my being I will not yield
to one beauty, or another
their attractiveness is what they are gifted
from fate and embellishes life
Perhaps today this girl welcomes me
perhaps tomorrow another girl
will demand me.
Constancy is a tyrant to the heart
it is a hated cruel disease to
only those who want you to be faithful;
There can be no love if there is no freedom.
Husbands' jealous rage,
lovers' woes I despise,
I defy the hundred eyes of Argo
if I fancy a beautiful girl

'Now sleeps the crimson petal' - from *Three songs* Op.3, No2 - R. Quilter (1877-1953)

Roger Quilter was a prominent English art song composer in the early twentieth century, composing over 100 songs for the genre. His *Three Songs* is a collection composed in 1905 is a collection of art songs that shows off his skill in setting poetry to the music. The text for this piece comes from the poetry of Lord Alfred Tennyson. This piece portrays a dreamy setting of Tennysons's poem, and the speaker in the poem wishes to remain with his lover forever, urging her to stay with him. This beautiful love song is a description of the night when everything is quiet and still.

'O Mistress Mine' - from *Three Shakespeare Songs* Op.6, (First Set) R. Quilter (1877-1953)

Following on with Quilters collections of songs, this however is one his most successful works composed from Shakespeares plays 'The Twelfth Night' which supplies the text for the first two songs of the set. Quilters admiration for Shakespeares poetry are shown through his songs, and he masterfully portrays emotion behind Shakespeares text. The song is sung by Feste, who plays the fool in Shakespeares play, where he is telling his lover to live in the present and stop waiting for the right man to come along for she should settle with him. He encourages her that maybe in the end she will love him back as they are not getting any younger.

R*oses of Picardy* - Haydn Wood (1882-1959)

This piece is a popular British song with lyrics by Frederick Weatherly and music by Haydn Wood. Haydn was a 20th-century English composer and concert violinist, best known for his 200 or so ballad-style songs, including the popular *Roses of Picardy*. *Roses of Picardy* was an enormous international hit after the First World War and one of the greatest melodies to emerge from that horrific time. It tells of a soldier who has gone off to war and he is in love with a woman named Colinette. He describes her beauty and how she waits for his return by the long white road. He compares her to the roses in Picardy but confesses that there is no rose as lovely as she is. Even though the distance between them is far, he will always keep her in his heart.

'**Die Lotosblume' -** ***'Myrthen'***, Op.25, No.7 - R. Schumann (1810-1856)

Robert Schumann was one of the greatest German composers of the Romance era and was an influential music critic. This lied is part of Schumanns Myrthen collection (1840), and six songs for Männerchor. The song cycle was written as a wedding present to his future wife Clara Schumann, who was a composer in her own right. The poem however was written by Heinrich Heine and published in his Busch der Lieder (The Book of songs, 1827). Both the melody and lyricism are beautiful and give the piece a tranquil feeling. The story is about a Lotus flower who hides from the sunlight, and only shows herself to her lover the moon. I feel that the text represents a forbidden romance, where two lovers are from different worlds and must wait for the one time they are free to see each other.

Die Lotosblume ängstigt
Sich vor der Sonne Pracht,
Und mit gesenktem Haupte
Erwartet sie träumend die Nacht.

Der Mond, der ist ihr Buhle
Er weckt sie mit seinem Licht,
Und ihm entschleiert sie freundlich
Ihr frommes Blumengesicht.

Sie blüht und glüht und leuchtet
Und starret stumm in die Höh';
Sie duftet und weinet und zittert
Vor Liebe und Liebesweh.

The lotus-flower fears
The sun's splendour,
And with bowed head,
Dreaming, awaits the night.

The moon is her lover,
And wakes her with his light,
And to him she tenderly unveils
Her innocent flower-like face.

She blooms and glows and gleams,
And gazes silently aloft—
Fragrant and weeping and trembling
With love and the pain of love

'Mondnacht' - *'Liederkreis' Op.39* - R. Schumann (1810-1856)

Mondnacht by Robert Schumann is a song from his "Liederkreis" Op.39, a song cycle based on the poetry of Joseph Von Eichendorff. The song cycle was composed in 1841 and is made up of 12 songs capturing the romantic experience of landscape and is regarded as one of the great song cycles of the 19th century. Schumanns Mondnacht is a beautiful and dreamy piece of music that captures the true essence of a peaceful and enchanting moonlit night. The piece is quiet and unhurried, it depicts the earth and sky joining together for a lover's kiss. And the soul is flying across the silent land, as if it were flying home.

Es war, als hätt' der Himmel,
Die Erde still geküßt,
Daß sie im Blütenschimmer
Von ihm nun träumen müßt'.

Die Luft ging durch die Felder,
Die Ähren wogten sacht,
Es rauschten leis die Wälder,
So sternklar war die Nacht.

Und meine Seele spannte
Weit ihre Flügel aus,
Flog durch die stillen Lande,
Als flöge sie nach Haus.

It was as though Heaven
Had softly kissed the Earth,
So that she in a gleam of blossom
Had only to dream of him.

The breeze passed through the fields,
The corn swayed gently to and fro,
The forests murmured softly,
The night was so clear with stars.

And my soul spread
Her wings out wide,
Flew across the silent land,
As though flying home.

Du bist die welt fur mich - R. Tauber (1891-1948)

Richard Tauber (1892-1948) was an Austrian-born British tenor and composer celebrated for his vocal work in opera and, especially, operetta. When in the 1920s his career emphasis shifted to light opera and operetta he became a close friend of Franz Lehár. Richard Tauber was a renowned Opera singer and concert performer, and this ballad was made popular by him when he performed the piece in 1934 and has become one of his signature tunes. The lyrics are poetic and sentimental, for this Romantic ballad expresses a deep devotion and longing for a loved one. He wrote this song due to his love affair with the beautiful ballet dancer Christine. This song also became the initial title for an Austrian feature film in 1953 in black and white.

My only thought
In every moment,
Is to kiss your dainty hands,
while yearning for your mouth.
I have but one desire
And that becomes a constant prayer:
That you would be mine forever,
Because my yearning will never end!

You mean the world to me.
I see only you, you under the sky.
You mean the world to me,
I only live through you, you alone!
You make my life so gay
Should you leave me, there would be no any more.
Yes, you mean the world to me,
Listen to my prayer telling you:
"I do love You!"

Ich habe nur einen Gedanken,
nur einen zu jeglicher Stund!
Küß' ich deine Hände die schlanken,
dann sehn ich mich nach deinem Mund.
Ich hab' nur das eine Begehren
Und das wird zum frommen Gebet:
Du sollst mir für immer gehören,
weil nie meine Sehnsucht vergeht!

Du bist die Welt für mich.
Ich sehe dich, nur dich im Sonnenschein.
Du bist die Welt für mich,
ich lebe nur für dich, für dich allein!
Du bist mein lachender Mai,
und gehst du fort, ist mein Frühling vorbei.
Ja, du bist die Welt für mich,
und mein Gebet es spricht:
"Ich liebe dich!"

Aria: '**Una furtiva lagrima'** - *L'elisir D'amore* - G. Donizetti (1797-1848)

Gaetano Donizetti was an Italian Opera composer whose numerous operas and was a leading composer of the bel canto opera style during the first half of the 19th century. Una Furtiva Lagrima (A furtive tear) is the romanza from act 2 of the opera. In this aria Nemorino is in love with Adina, but she is not interested in a relationship with an innocent, rustic man. To win her heart, Nemorino buys a love potion with all the money he has left in his pocket. That love potion was a cheap red wine sold to him by a travelling quack doctor, but when he sees Adina weeping, he knows that she has fallen in love with him, and he is certain that the elixir has worked.

Aria:
NEMORINO
Una furtiva lagrima
negli occhi suoi spuntò:
Quelle festose giovani
invidiar sembrò.
Che più cercando io vo?
Che più cercando io vo?
M'ama! Sì, m'ama, lo vedo. Lo vedo.
Un solo instante i palpiti
del suo bel cor sentir!
I miei sospir, confondere
per poco a' suoi sospir!
I palpiti, i palpiti sentir,
confondere i miei coi suoi sospir...
Cielo! Si può morir!
Di più non chiedo, non chiedo.
Ah, cielo! Si può! Si, può morir!
Di più non chiedo, non chiedo.
Si può morire! Si può morir d'amor.

Aria:
NEMORINO
A single secret tear
from her eye did spring:
as if she envied all the youths
that laughingly passed her by.
What more searching need I do?
What more searching need I do?
She loves me! Yes, she loves me, I see it. I see it.
For just an instant the beating
of her beautiful heart I could feel!
As if my sighs were hers,
and her sighs were mine!
The beating, the beating of her heart I could feel,
to merge my sighs with hers...
Heavens! Yes, I could die!
I could ask for nothing more, nothing more.
Oh, heavens! Yes, I could, I could die!
I could ask for nothing more, nothing more.
Yes I could die, yes I could die of love.

-INTERVAL-

'Aria - '**Oh! ne t'éveille pas' -** *Jocelyn* - B.Godard (1849-1895)

Benjamin Godard (1849- 1895) was a French violinist and Romantic -era composer of Jewish extraction he's best known for his for his opera *Jocelyn*. The opera was based on the poem by Alphonse de Lamartine, and this opera is remembered mostly for Godard's enduring composition, the sweet and tender Berceuse (lullaby) for tenor, which in known in English as 'Angels guard thee'. The aria speaks about a person who is praying for safety and the well being of their loved one, asking the angels to guard them and keep them safe from harm. The poem also expresses a desire for the loved one to sleep peacefully and wake up to a better tomorrow.

Recitative:
JOCELYN
Cachés dans cet asile où Dieu nous a conduits,
Unis par le malheur, durant les longues nuits
Nous reposons tous deux endormis sous les voiles
Ou prions aux regards de tremblantes étoiles.

Aria:
JOCELYN
Oh ne t'éveille pas encor
Pour qu'un bel ange de ton rêve
En déroulant son long fil d'or,
Enfant, permette qu'il s'achève.
Dors, dors, le jour à peine a lui.
Vierge Sainte, veillez sur lui.

Sous l'aile du Seigneur loin du bruit de la foule
Et comme un flot sacré qui doucement s'écoule
Nous avons vu les jours passer après les jours
Sans jamais nous lasser d'implorer son secours.

Recitative:
JOCELYN
Beneath the quiv'ring leaves, where shelter comes at last,
All sadness sinks to rest, or glides into the past;
Her sweet eyes prison'd now, in their soft silken bars,
O! my love, calm she sleeps beneath the trembling stars.

Aria:
JOCELYN
Ah! wake not yet from thy repose,
A fair dream spirit hovers near thee,
Weaving a web of gold and rose,
Through dream land's happy isles to bear thee!
Sleep, love, it is not yet the dawn,
Angels guard thee, sweet love, til morn!

Far from the noisy throng, by song birds lulled to rest,
Where rock the branches high by breezes soft carres'd;
Softly the days go on, by sorrow all unharm'd,
Thus may life be to thee a sweet existence charm'd.

La Serenata - P.Tosti (1846 -1916)

Francesco Paolo Tosti composed 350 songs in English, French, standard Italian and Neapolitan dialect. La serenata composed in (1888), is in the traditional Neapolitan style originating from the romantic ballad found in the 19th century opera. Based on a folk melody, with poetry by Giovanni Cessero, and the song is a serenade as the singer sings of a romantic evening where he is serenading beloved beneath their window, surrounded by the beauty of nature. It explores the themes of longing, solitude and the power of music to evoke and express emotions.

Vola, o serenata: la mia diletta è sola
E, con la bella testa abbandonata
Posa fra le lenzuola
O serenata, vola, O serenata, vola
Splende pura la luna
L'ale il silenzio stende
E dietro i veni dell'alcova
Bruna la lampada s'accende
Pura la luna splende, Pura la luna splende
Vola, o serenata
Vola, o serenata, vola
Ah...Vola, o serenata: la mia diletta è sola
Ma sorridendo ancor mezzo assonnata
Torna fra le lenzuola
O serenata, vola, O serenata, vola
L'onda sogna sul lido
E il vento su la fronda
E ai baci miei ricusa ancora un nido
La mia signora bionda
Sogna sul lido l'onda, Sogna sul lido l'onda
Vola, o serenata Vola, o serenata, vola

Fly, o serenade: My beloved is alone,
with her beautiful head hidden
under the sheets:
O serenade, fly. O serenade, fly.
The moonlight is pure,
wings of silence stretch out,
and behind the veils of the dark alcove
the lamp burns.
The pure moonbeams shine, The pure moonbeams shine.
Fly, o serenade,
Fly, o serenade, fly.
Ah! là. Ah! là. Fly, o serenade: My beloved is alone,
but still smiling [while] half asleep
she has returned beneath the sheets:
O serenade, fly. O serenade, fly.
The waves dream on the shore,
and the wind [blows] through the branches;
and my kisses don't result in a nest [being offered],
by my blonde lady.
The waves are dreaming on the shore.
O serenade, fly. O serenade, fly.

A Vuchella - P.Tosti (1846-1916)

Francesso Tosti was an Italian composer and music teacher. Tosti wrote well for the voice, allowing, indeed encouraging, interpretation and embellishment from operatic singers, and yet he never wrote any operas. Amongst his finest works," A Vuchella" composed in (*1897*) was a famous love song where the singer is captivated by a woman's beauty and describes the woman's mouth like a little rose's petal, symbolising its beauty and sweetness. This song is a romantic declaration of love and admiration. The singer also expresses in this piece of how much he wants to kiss this woman.

Sì, comm'a nu sciorillo
tu tiene na vucchella
nu poco pocorillo
appassuliatella.

Meh, dammillo, dammillo,
- è comm'a na rusella -
dammillo nu vasillo,
dammillo, Cannetella!

Dammillo e pigliatillo,
nu vaso piccerillo
comm'a chesta vucchella,

che pare na rusella
nu poco pocorillo
appassuliatella...

Yes, like a little flower,
You have got a sweet mouth
A little bit
withered.

Please give it to me
it's like a little rose
Give me a little kiss,
give, Cannetella!

Give one and take one,
a kiss as little
as your mouth

which looks like a little rose
a little bit
withered.

L'alba sepàra dalla luce l'ombra - P.Tosti (1846-1916)

Tosti's songs are a joy to sing, caressing the voice and the subject with his very Italian, beautiful lyrical melody. His melodies showcase the voice's expressive qualities, and are carefully crafted to convey the emotional depth of the lyrics. Tosti's songs are considered a staple of the vocal repertoire, particularly for tenors, and his music continues to be loved by many. '*L'alba separa Dalla Luce lombra' was* composed in (*1907*). Another of Tosti's beautiful Italian art songs, it explores themes of sensual pleasure and desire, and the lyrics written by Gabriele D'Annunzio are filled with metaphors and imagery with the music being so emotive and expressive. The song describes the moment of dawn, when the light separates the darkness of the night from the light of day.

L'alba sepàra dalla luce l'ombra,
E la mia voluttà dal mio desire.
O dolce stelle, è l'ora di morire.
Un più divino amor dal ciel vi sgombra.

Pupille ardenti, O voi senza ritorno
Stelle tristi, spegnetevi incorrotte!
Morir debbo. Veder non voglio il giorno,
Per amor del mio sogno e della notte.

Chiudimi, O Notte, nel tuo sen materno,
Mentre la terra pallida s'irrora.
Ma che dal sangue mio nasca l'aurora
E dal sogno mio breve il sole eterno!

The dawn divides the darkness from light,
And my sensual pleasure from my desire,
O sweet stars, it is the hour of death.
A love more holy clears you from the skies.

Gleaming eyes, O you who'll ne'er return,
sad stars, snuff out your uncorrupted light!
I must die, I do not want to see the day,
For love of my own dream and of the night.

Envelop me, O Night, in your maternal breast,
While the pale earth bathes itself in dew;
But let the dawn rise from my blood
And from my brief dream the eternal sun!

'Ah! Sweet mystery of life' - *V.Herbert (1859-1924)*

Victor Herbert (1859-1924) composed "Ah! Sweet mystery of life" as a romantic duet that expresses the wonder and enchantment of falling in love. He was an Irish-born composer of operettas and light music. This piece stood out to be so famous from his operetta the Naughty Marietta composed in (1910). The song is a pivatol moment in the story, it is where Marietta and captain Warrington declares their love for each other. The song portrays the essence of finding one's soul mate, a sense of contentment and fulfilment. The expression for the gift of love, which has brought two people together in love, which is told through the songs romantic lyrics and soaring melody.

"**Mou Piri'** - *Cook Islands traditional love song - J.Jonnassen (1949-2023)*

Jonassen, known for composing hundreds of songs and traditional drum pieces, many of which are renowned across Polynesia. One of Jon's creations, "Mou Piri," became a national sensation and resonated worldwide at various occasions. "Mou Piri" captures the essence of young love, portraying the innocence and thrill of budding romance at community dances. The song also delves into mature love nurtured by dedication, faithfulness, and trust - a love that can unite individuals or a community with their heritage. Just like love, holding onto culture provides stability and security, which is the core message of "Mou Piri."

Mou Piri, Mou Piri au iakoe
I te kimi Maana

Amiri au ia ko'oe
Uraura ta'ua
Tu pu mai
Tu put e inangaro
I roto I te poiri
Te tangi o te Kita
Te reo imene

Mou Piri, Mou Piri au iakoe
I te kimi Maana

E rangi te'ate'a
Moana te o'onu
Ta taua e papa u

Hold you tight, hold you tight to me
In search of warmth

I caress you
While we dance
I was thinking
Thinking that our love was growing
In the darkness
of the evening

The strum of the ukulele
The sound of the song

Hold you tight, hold you tight to me
In search of warmth
The Sky (Heaven) is wide
The ocean is deep to that which we propose

About Te Pae Kōkako (TANZOS)

Te Pae Kokako - The Aotearoa New Zealand Opera Studio (TANZOS) is a unique 18-month immersive programme here in NZ preparing six exceptionally promising singers for a professional vocal career. TANZOS is the only national opera studio providing a full-time international-level programme. It encompasses the long-held vision of Dame Malvina Major and is available regardless of circumstances as each student is funded by donor-gifted scholarships.

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