



David Joseph
Works for String Orchestra

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CHAMBER CONCERTO FOR PIANO AND STRINGS – 1992

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra/Michael Kieran Harvey/Spiros Rantos

1 Toccata 9'04"

2 Poem of Love/Meditation 11'38"

3 **SCHEHEREZADE** – 1999 20'48"

Zagreb Soloists

4 **DIALOGUES** – 1992 9'04"

Ripieno Kammerorchester/Urs Walker/Howard Griffiths

Chamber Concerto – recorded at ABC Waverley Studios

The other works recorded before live audiences at the premiere performances

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Chamber Concerto for Piano and Strings was written at the invitation of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra by then Director, Spiros Rantos in 1992. The work was originally conceived for Bracchi Tilles solo piano and Spiros Rantos with some violin obbligato passages, leading from the chair. As it turned out, Michael Kieran Harvey was asked to be soloist with Spiros Rantos as conductor. The work is comprised of 3 movements: Toccata, Poem of Love, Meditation. The work was premiered that same year at Melba Hall, the University of Melbourne. This is a studio recording made at ABC Waverley Studios in Melbourne.

Scheherezade was written at the invitation of the Zagreb Soloists for the Muzi ki Biennale Zagreb in April, 1999. The work is in a single movement for small string orchestra. Like its namesake, the work sets forth an Oriental fantasy redolent of images suggestive of *The 1001 Nights*, Persia, and the gorgeousness of the East... images that perhaps are, sadly, no longer readily evoked when considering that part of the world. The recording is from the premiere at the Croatian Music Academy in Zagreb and was made by the Croatian Radio and TV (HRT).

Dialogues for solo Violin and Strings was written in 1992 at the invitation of violinist Urs Walker for the Ripieno Kammerorchester in Winterthur, Switzerland. The work, for small String ensemble, is in a single movement comprising variations on ideas inspired by natural sounds – birds etc. The work was premiered at the Saint Peter Church at Zurich 5 September 1993, with Urs Walker solo violin, and Howard Griffiths conductor. This is a recording of that performance.



Michael Kieran Harvey (1996)

Michael Kieran Harvey

Australian pianist and composer Michael Kieran Harvey was born in Sydney and studied piano with Alan Jenkins, ANU School of Music; Gordon Watson, Sydney Conservatorium; and Sándor Falvai, Franz Liszt Academy, Budapest. His 40-year international career has been notable for its diversity and wide repertoire. He has especially promoted the works of Australian and contemporary composers (premiering well over 300) and recorded over 50 solo CDs. Harvey became the first Australian to win a major international piano competition, the Ivo Pogorelich International Piano Competition, USA (1993). Other awards include the Debussy Medal, Paris (1986), the Australian Government's Centenary Medal (2002), the APRA/AMCOS award for Distinguished Services to Australian Music (2009), the APRA/AMCOS award for Performance of the Year (2014) and the

APRA/AMCOS 'Luminary' award (2020). He has given many historic performances of major piano repertoire internationally and in Australia, as well as collaborating with leading improvisers, jazz and rock figures. Harvey holds a PhD in music composition. His compositions have been performed in Europe, the UK, North and South America and Asia, in addition to major Australian festivals. His homage to Zappa, 48 Fugues For Frank, received the AMC/APRA Tasmanian State Award for the Instrumental Work of the Year (2011). His ensemble work Patañjali received an AMC/APRA Tasmanian State Award for



David Joseph and Spiros Rantos (1992)

Instrumental Work of the Year (2016). Dr Harvey is on the guest faculty of Australian National Academy of Music, is Adjunct Professor at University of Tasmania and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra:

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra is Victoria's preeminent small orchestra and the leading independent Victorian chamber

music organisation. For over 25 years, the orchestra has created a distinctive orchestral practice, with a collegial ethos, exploratory programming, and ambitious regional touring. The orchestra's Artistic Director is William Hennessy AM.

Spiros Rantos

Violinist and conductor, was born in Corfu, Greece, grew up in Athens and pursued his musical studies in Vienna, Austria, where he met his wife and musical partner, Israeli born pianist Brachi Tilles. Spiros has won the International Violin competitions of Colmar, France and Forte dei Marmi, Italy and commissioned and promoted over 400 performances around the world of music by Australian composers, as a soloist, chamber music player and conductor. He has recorded over 55 records for many labels including Deutsche Grammophon, Harmonia Mundi, Adelcord and Grevillea Records. He has been a frequent guest performer for National broadcast companies in Europe, Asia and Australia. Spiros came to Australia in 1976 as a member of the Vienna based group Ensemble 1. He was the founder, artistic director and conductor of the Rantos Collegium and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, and has taught at the Victorian College of the Arts, the University of Southern Queensland and University of Melbourne from 1996 to 2009 he was senior Lecturer at UQ School of Music.

Zagreb Soloists:

The Zagreb Soloists (Croatian: *Zagrebaki solisti*) is a chamber orchestra founded in Zagreb, Croatia, in 1953 through the auspices of Zagreb Radiotelevision, under the artistic leadership of the Italian cellist and conductor, Antonio Janigro. After Janigro left the ensemble in 1968, the group was led first by their concertmaster, Dragutin Hrdjok, and then by their longtime artistic director and concertmaster, Tonko Nini. In 1997, Anelko Krpan became concertmaster, and in 2002, Karlo Slobodan Fio, took over as artistic director of the ensemble. Since 2006, the concertmaster and artistic leader has been Borivoj Martinic-Jercic. The Zagreb Soloists have given over 3,500 concerts in all parts of the world, and are also very well known for their numerous recordings.

Urs Walker

Urs Walker won first prize at the Expo music competition in Lausanne and first prize at the Jecklin chamber music competition in Zurich in 1970. He studied with Ottavio Corti and Nicolas Chumachenko and took part in master classes with Leonid Kogan, Arthur Grumiaux and Nathan Milstein, among others. He gained further training and influences in Israel in the 1970s. Urs Walker played as a soloist and chamber musician in all European countries, the Middle East, the USA, Canada, Australia, Argentina, Russia and China as well as at important festivals such as Gstaad, Lucerne, Salzburg, Vienna, Witten, Schwetzingen, Bruxelles, Warsaw and Barossa. From 1974 to 1988 he was a member

of the New Zurich Quartet. In 1992, together with other personalities from the Swiss musical scene, he founded the Collegium Novum Zurich, which in 1998 was awarded the Siemens Cultural Foundation Prize. Since 2010 he has been performing more concerts and recordings with the inclusion of live electronics, especially and repeatedly in Freiburg i. Br. (Experimental Studio SWR2) as well as in Karlsruhe (Center for Art and Media), Coburg (Technical University) and Ljubljana (Slovenia). Urs Walker taught at the Kantonsschule Zürich Nord (violin and viola) and at the Hochschule der Künste Zürich (musical analysis, variant subject new music) until 2018/2019. He is also in demand as an organiser and lecturer in master classes for winners of the Swiss Youth Music Competition (SJMW).



Urs Walker



Howard Griffiths

Howard Griffiths

Howard Griffiths was born in England. He first studied at the Royal College of Music in London and later with Eric Schmid and Léon Barzin in Paris. Since 1982 he has lived in Switzerland where he enjoys a long-standing partnership with the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, since 1996 as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor. The orchestra gives some fifty concerts annually in its home city and tours widely abroad. Howard Griffiths also has a flourishing international career, conducting well-known orchestras throughout Europe, as well as in South Africa and the United States of America. In England he made his debut with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall in London in 1991, a year after his first London performance with the English Chamber Orchestra, with which he has had a

continuing relationship. He is also a frequent visitor to the Northern Sinfonia in Newcastle, appearing with the orchestra in concert tours, and in the recording studio. Howard Griffiths has made over forty compact disc recordings, often promoting the work of lesser know composers, as well as performing standard repertoire.



Howard Griffiths
and Urs Walker



Urs Walker and Howard Griffiths



David Joseph