
Summer Waves
Len Vorster - piano

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George Gershwin (1898-1937)

Preludes (1926)

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1	Allegro ben ritmico e deciso	1' 30"
2	Andante con moto e poco rubato	4' 28"
3	Allegro ben ritmico e deciso	1' 16"

Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)

4	Cancion (1900)	1' 53"
5	Serenata (1901)	3' 54"
6	Nocturno (1896)	3' 60"
7	Serenata Andaluza (1900)	4' 32"
8	Valse Capricho (1900)	3' 06"

Lord Berners (1883-1950)

9	Polka (1941)	2' 32"
10	Valse (1943)	5' 21"

Lennox Berkeley (1903-1989)

Six Preludes for Piano, Op.23 (1945)

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11	No.1 Allegro	1'46"
12	No.2 Andante	1'55"
13	No.3 Allegro Moderato	1'41"
14	No.4 Allegretto	1'51"
15	No.5 Allegro	1'52"
16	No.6 Andante	2'29"

John Field (1782-1837)

17	Nocturne No.5 in B-flat major (1817)	2' 60"

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

18	Nocturne from Lyric Pieces, Op.54 (1891)	4' 26"

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

19	La plus que lente - Valse (1910)	4' 25"

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

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20	Les Chemins de l'amour (1940)	3' 38"

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

21	Valses nobles et sentimentales (1911)	14' 53"

Total playing time 74'36"

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Len Vorster - pianist

Len Vorster, born in South Africa, studied with the eminent pianist Lamar Crowson at the University of Cape Town. He made his concerto debut with the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra in a Mozart Piano Concerto.

In 1983 he migrated to Australia where he swiftly established a career as soloist, chamber musician and accompanist.

As a soloist he recorded Michael Easton's *Concerto on Australian Themes* with the State Orchestra of Victoria for NAXOS and premiered the work in Italy, Hungary, Germany and London. He also performed in Taiwan and USA.

He received a Gramophone Magazine award for his NAXOS recording of the two-piano version of Holst's *The Planets* and an Aria nomination for his recording of music by Manuel de Falla. For ABC CLASSICS he recorded *Brahms: Complete Works for Clarinet*, with Deborah de Graaff and Georg Pedersen.

He performs and records with world-leading artists including Ian Partridge, James Buswell, Andras Adorjan, Trevor Wye, Elizabeth Wallfisch, Lauris Elms, Rita Hunter and, in two-piano concerts, with John McCabe.

In music theatre, Len Vorster performs with Wendy Grose in "A Different Hat" (Marjorie Lawrence) and "Perfect Timing" (Anna Russell) and, with Merlyn Quaife, in the Cocteau/Poulenc "La Voix Humaine". He also performs and tours with the Dragon Tenors.

In 2001 he formed a duo with Melbourne Symphony principal cellist David Berlin.

He was Artistic Director of PORT FAIRY SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL for twelve years. Presently, he is Artistic Director of CLASSICAL PALETTE (a series of NAXOS recordings devoted to contemporary music) and of the SCHIRMER ENSEMBLE.

Len Vorster also teaches at the University of Melbourne and the Victorian College of the Arts.

Summer Waves

Summer Waves has been a dream of mine – to produce a CD of selected piano works that I have recorded over the last few years. These works are not only close to my heart but also evoke the spirit of summer and the sea. I grew up near Cape Town, and I remember the magnificent summers in my hometown Fish Hoek and at our beach house in Pringle Bay.

The dazzling play of light on the aquamarine water, the white sand and long lazy dusks inspired me to choose music that vibrates with colour, melody and rhythm.

I had to look no further than to the music of, in particular, Gershwin, Falla, Debussy, Poulenc and Ravel. This music reflects the shimmering warmth and sensuality of summer and the ever-changing ebb and flow of the sea. It also captures the dance rhythms of Spain, France and America; and waltz, polka and blues rub shoulders with ease.

Nocturnes, the songs of the night, reflect the sea's sultry stillness at sunset. This is time for lovers to be serenaded and indulged by the music of Poulenc, Field, Grieg, and Falla.

I love the eccentricity of Lord Berners – a true cross-over artist; and I celebrate the centenary of Lennox Berkeley's birth with his exquisite *Preludes for Piano.*

I would like to thank Charlene Chia for her friendship and sponsorship, Lili Kahan for her kind permission to reproduce Louis Kahan's *The Pianist*, Nicholas Chan for his exciting visual and creative ideas, and Thomas Grubb and Sonja Michelini for their sensitive and colourful 'realisation' of *Summer Waves.*

Further thanks to my dear friends Donna Coleman, Wendy Grose, Alex Holzer and my mother Sue Vardy.

Len

Executive producer: Len Vorster
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