

Flowers Still Bloom



Two pieces for Harp and Guitar

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|----|---------------|------|
| 1. | Falling Ashes | 3'56 |
| 2. | Floating Free | 4'07 |

For Solo Guitar

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|------|
| 3. | La despedida (The farewell) | 4'10 |
|----|-----------------------------|------|

Short & Sweet - Three Pieces for Concert Ukulele

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|----|------------------------------------|------|
| 4. | Poco Allegro : espressivo e rubato | 1'48 |
| 5. | Vivace : quasi waltz style | 1'39 |
| 6. | Moderato : delicato e rubato | 2'40 |

Isolation Suite for Solo guitar, nos. 1-4

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|-----|-------------------|------|
| 7. | Isolationist | 2'48 |
| 8. | Quietude | 2'14 |
| 9. | Steel Grey | 2'56 |
| 10. | Sunset Reflection | 1'13 |

Eight Bagatelles for Recorder & Guitar

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|-----|--------------------------|------|
| 11. | Allegro | 0'59 |
| 12. | Poco allegro | 1'24 |
| 13. | Giocoso | 1'19 |
| 14. | Poco allegro e cantabile | 1'02 |
| 15. | Piacevole | 2'23 |
| 16. | Poco adagio | 1'34 |
| 17. | Animato | 1'04 |
| 18. | Allegro e sempre legato | 1'22 |

Isolation Suite - nos. 5-8

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|------|
| 19. | Rising Tension | 1'20 |
| 20. | Anamnesis | 1'52 |
| 21. | Endure | 2'13 |
| 22. | Flowers Still Bloom | 2'19 |

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Michelle Nelson

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Composer's Note

All work recorded at MOVE, Eaglemont from 2019 to early 2020, and February-April 2021. Thanks to Megan Reeve and Will Hardy for their instrumental work, and Vaughan McAlley for his keen ears and editing skills. To the staff at MOVE, and to Fay Bailey and Apra-amcos for the much needed, post-Covid \$\$\$ assistance towards completing this project; much appreciated.

And thank you to everyone who supports grass-roots composition and recording. The current world is not making it easier to get new work out, find it a market and earn a small recompense for it. All gestures of support are all worthwhile to the artist and greatly appreciated.

Michelle Nelson



For more info about my music please visit: www.michellenelson.com.au

Liner Notes

Two pieces for Harp and Guitar - Harpist: Megan Reeve

Falling Ashes

Floating Free : with blended seascape

As my father ebbed away in hospital, early 2018, one of the few things he enjoyed in his final weeks was the music-therapy harpist who moved quietly around the Cancer Ward playing gentle, soothing melodies for the sick and dying. The value of this service became apparent to my family at this time. This duo was composed shortly after the scattering of his ashes on a windy shoreline at Peterborough, Victoria in May 2018.

[And yes, on cue at the critical moment a sudden gust blew half the ashes back onto the scattering party; he really didn't want to go].

La despedida (The farewell)

A homage to the romantic Spanish guitar style of the late 19th-early 20th Century era, and a gesture of regret to all those whose life was, with little warning, cut short in the Covid years.

Short & Sweet - Three Pieces for Concert Ukulele

A triptych of short pieces that explore the solo capacity of the Concert/Tenor size Ukulele. The first features three-note (pmi) tremolo, the second a quirky 'waltz' regularly disrupted by bars of 5/8, and the third features the quicksilver ligado techniques common to solo guitar style.

1. Poco Allegro : *expressivo e rubato*

2. Vivace : quasi waltz style

3. Moderato : *delicato e rubato*

Eight Bagatelles for Recorder & Guitar – Recorder soloist: Will Hardy.

A set of short, related pieces for Recorder and Guitar, two instruments that naturally balance one-and-other.

1. Allegro

2. Poco allegro

3. Giocoso

4. Poco allegro e cantabile

5. Piacevole

6. Poco adagio

7. Animato

8. Allegro e sempre legato

Isolationist Suite – for Solo Guitar

A set of related pieces composed mostly during Melbourne's first Covid lockdown (April-May 2020) that represents the rollercoaster of emotions and stress induced by the sudden loss of livelihood and social connection.

1. Isolationist

Suddenly at home, unprepared to spend so much time alone; the suddenness produces a surprise sense of isolation and fragility . . .

2. Quietude

The traffic, the noise and all the rushing about suddenly ceases! As if the whole world falls suddenly quiet ; and it's an unexpected relief . . .

3. Steel Grey

The novelty is wearing thin. Surprise morphs into a struggle with boredom and pessimism. Grey, leaden skies reflect my mood . . .

4. Sunset Reflection

A break in the weather; a beautiful late Autumn afternoon. Amazing what a burst of sunshine does for the soul . . .

5. Rising Tension

The ongoing lockdown, together with the ever-gloomier economic effects are now creating real tension and widespread unhappiness. . . .

6. Anamnesis

Recollection; especially of a supposed previous life . . .

7. Endure

The longer a lockdown goes on the harder it is to maintain optimism. As weeks turn into months, fears grow, hopes fade; wait turns to grind . . .

8. Flowers Still Bloom

Early rays of hope; light at the end of the tunnel. Lockdown #1 ends but then, mere weeks later and just as suddenly as the first, a longer one begins . . .

Spring arrives; a timely reminder that although gloom is all around, flowers still bloom . . .

[Spring arrives, reminding me, thankfully, that flowers do still bloom . . .]?

