



# TEAM OF PIANISTS



[www.teamofpianists.com.au](http://www.teamofpianists.com.au)

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### **SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

**Piano technician: Vincent Tarin**

**The Team partners acknowledge gratefully the committee and members of the Friends of the Team of Pianists Inc. for their support.**

# TEAM OF PIANISTS

## C & C RIGG BEQUEST CLASSIC MUSIC IN HISTORIC VENUES

### CONCERT 4 – 2024-2025

3.00pm, Sunday 29 June, 2025

“Labassa”, 2 Manor Grove, Caulfield North

## AND THEN THERE WERE FOUR! KEVIN SUHERMAN JOINS THE TEAM

Darryl Coote - piano, Robert Chamberlain - piano,  
Rohan Murray - piano and Kevin Suherman - piano

### PROGRAMME

#### Reception Room

Rohan Murray

Brahms – Three Intermezzi Op. 117 (1892)

*i. Andante moderato      ii. Andante non troppo e con molta espressione*  
*iii. Andante con moto*

Kevin Suherman

Ravel - Le Tombeau de Couperin

1- Prélude

2- Fugue

3- Forlane

4- Rigaudon

5- Menuet

6- Toccata

Strauss/Grünfeld - “Soirée de Vienne”, Paraphrase on *Die Fledermaus*

#### Music Room

Darryl Coote

Beethoven Sonata in D major Op 10 no 3

Presto

Largo e mesto

Menuetto: Allegro

Rondo: Allegro

## **Programme – continued...**

Robert Chamberlain

Ronald Stevenson – from “Scottish Folk Song Settings for Piano”

“Ca’ the Yowes”

Lachlan Brown - Piano Sonata no 2 (2025) - premiere performance

1- “mystery, romance, ecstasy”

2- “with gravitas, pathos, tenderness”

3- “joyfully, exuberantly, ecstatically”

Moszkowski - “Caprice Espagnole” Op 37

### **A message from Piano Sponsors - Bernies Music Land:**



### **This Concert Proudly Features Two Schimmel Grand Pianos**

In today’s performance you will be treated to two different Schimmel pianos in two different rooms; the Team of Pianists and National

Trust’s Konzert 213 and a Schimmel C189 grand piano, kindly supplied by Bernies Music Land. Please browse **[www.musicland.com.au](http://www.musicland.com.au)** or contact Bernies Music Land for all things pianos by phoning 9872 5122.

## **Programme Notes**

### **Lachlan Brown - Piano Sonata no. 2 (Program note by the composer)**

I usually write Impressionist and Romantic music, and sometimes neo-classical or neo-baroque. At first glance this Sonata seems to be in a Modern style, but it's really a Romantic work. The Romantic music and emphatic emotions emerge gradually from ambiguity and fragmentation.

The piece opens with strings of two note sonorities. As each sonority follows the last it becomes apparent that together they outline a chord or key centre, but the very next sonority often fits only with the last one heard, and outlines a new chord. Thus, we frequently re-interpret what we have just heard, and we are led through a restless landscape in which the key is never firmly established. The gestures and phrases are Romantic and lyrical in themselves, but they are frequently fragmented or interrupted. There are moments of reprieve in which we hear a phrase that seems more lyrical and settled. As the movement progresses, the gestures and key centres become longer and more secure. The music gains momentum and the key of B Major emerges. The movement works towards an ecstatic conclusion and chords in distantly related keys no longer disorientate, but now add harmonic colour to the established key.

The second movement has a sparse texture, both harmonically and rhythmically. It is wintry, astringent. Even as the movement becomes more impassioned the accompanying chords remain stubbornly regular and infrequent, and are unsettlingly distant in tessitura from the melody. The movement ends with a consoling chorale texture and a low bass note to anchor the conclusion.

The third movement finally brings an uninhibited celebration of a key (tonality), and an invigorating flowing texture. The music joyfully alternates between D Major and B Major, settling at last in B Major. Towards the end the tonality brightens even further, with the appearance of the sharpened fourth degree of the scale. In the final phrases the repeated diatonic cluster chords in distantly related keys are really chromatic alterations of the notes of B Major, ecstatically colouring the emphatic conclusion.

(note by Lachlan Brown 2025)

### **Moszkowski – Caprice Espagnole Op. 37**

Polish composer and pianist Moritz Moszkowski (1854 – 1925) was born into a wealthy Polish-Jewish family. He studied in Dresden and Berlin and later married the younger sister of the now-famous French pianist and composer Cécile Chaminade. He moved to Paris in 1897 with a reputation as a fantastic concert pianist and brilliant composer. Today, he is best known among pianists for his etudes, particularly the 15 Virtuoso Etudes Op. 72, and to a lesser extent for some showy salon pieces such as “Étincelles” (Sparks), a virtuosic staccato study, as well as this

“Spanish Caprice,” a study for repeated notes described by Maurice Hinson as a “long, effective dance piece.”

Moszkowski was also active in Paris as a teacher, and French pianist Gaby Casadesus (1901 - 1999) has interesting reminiscences of his teaching. Interviewed for Charles Timbrell’s book “French Pianism: An Historical Perspective” (Pro/Am Music Resources, Inc., New York, 1992), she recalled, “I never had a better teacher than Risler...unless, for technique, Moszkowski.” Also, “That [Moszkowski’s “School of Double Notes” Op. 64, a set of scales, exercises, and four grand etudes] was his specialty, and something that people in France didn’t really work on too much at that time. And I remember that I also had lessons with him on the Schumann Toccata and some Chopin. Moszkowski was wonderful for technique – though very few people had him as a teacher. I know that Vlado Perlemuter was working with him at the time I was.” (Timbrell, p. 148)

“Caprice Espagnole”, originally entitled “Scherzo-Valse” and composed in 1885, explores various virtuosic piano techniques while evoking the character of Spanish music, as did one of Moszkowski’s most popular piano duets, the “Spanish Dances” Op. 12, later arranged by the composer for piano solo. In the Spanish Caprice, fast repeated notes, as if in a flamenco guitar style, rapid scales and arpeggios, double thirds, martellato alternating hands, jumps and leaps feature in a lively triple meter dance, contrasting with a lyrically expressive middle section and

contrasting with a lyrically expressive middle section and concluding with a rousing finale.

[Note by Robert Chamberlain]

### **Brahms Intermezzi – Three Intermezzi, opus 117**

Brahms composed the three Intermezzi of Opus 117 in the summer of 1892 while staying in Bad Ischl. Some of Brahms' most intimate and introspective works, the Intermezzi opus 117, published in 1892 were once described by Brahms as "three lullabies of my sorrows". The first of the Intermezzi is based on a few lines of the Scottish Lullaby "Lady Anne Bothwell's Lament", the text of which is: "Sleep softly my child, sleep softly and well! It grieves me much to see you weep." The second of the three features sultry falling arpeggios and brooding development of a chromatic cell introduced in the opening bars. The final of the three is known for its melancholic beauty and is pensive and episodic.

### **Rohan Murray - piano**

Rohan Murray completed the first performance PhD in music at the Victorian College of the Arts (later VCAM). He is a member of the Golden Key Honour Society, and was a grand finalist and prize-winner at the 2000 Australian Piano Award. Rohan has performed as soloist with the Melbourne Youth Orchestra, the Victorian Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Melbourne University Choral Society, Monash Sinfonia and the New Monash Orchestra and has been the recipient of a number of awards and prizes. At the end of his Masters studies in 2002, he received an Australian Postgraduate Award Scholarship to undertake a PhD at the



Victorian College of the Arts. He has performed in the Rigg Estate Recital Series, the National Trust's Twilight Concert Series at Rippon Lea as well as being frequent performer in the Melbourne International Festival over recent years. Rohan has also performed in Europe and Asia. He is a partner in the Team of Pianists and his performances have been the subject of broadcasts on ABC Classic FM as well as on the Team of Pianists' 'Schimmel Artists' Series' and 'New Norcia' CDs.

### **Kevin Suherman - piano**

Indonesian-born pianist Kevin Suherman has appeared internationally since the age of 10, after being awarded the Indonesian National Records Award (MURI) as the youngest pianist to perform 50 classical, pop and jazz pieces, in a concert for 3 hours non-stop and all music memorised, broadcasted on live national TV.

Kevin has performed as a soloist in over 30 cities and at major concert venues throughout the world, including Wigmore Hall, Steinway Hall and St. James's Piccadilly in London, the Hamer Hall and the Melbourne Recital Centre, Singapore's Esplanade, Penang's Performing Arts Centre and Aula Simfonia Jakarta in Indonesia. Kevin was awarded in honour by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Singapore, for his debut recital at Singapore's Esplanade Recital Studio at the age of 10. He also held a charity concert for the 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake victims, which was featured on Indonesian national TV. As an artist of Germany's Schimmel Pianos Kevin has made 3 solo albums, with his third highlighting Chopin's 24 Preludes. Kevin started learning

the piano at age 6 with Stephen Sulungan in Bandung, and he also studied jazz with Bambang Nugroho.

Kevin has worked with world-class musicians such as Menahem Pressler, Paul Badura-Skoda, Andrea Bonatta, Tamas Ungar, Alessio Bax, and at the Internationale Sommerakademie in Mozarteum, Salzburg with Karl-Heinz Kämmerling, Rolf Plagge and Roland Krüger. Kevin has also worked with eminent conductors such as André de Quadros, Sian Edwards, Stephen Tong and Martin Rutherford – and orchestras including the Jakarta Simfonia Orchestra, Yogyakarta Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Strings of Melbourne and Royal Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra. Kevin performed his first piano concerto with orchestra at the age of 12, and has since performed over 13 piano concertos. His performance of the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3 with the Jakarta Simfonia Orchestra under Stephen Tong in 2015 was received with critical acclaim – the first ever performance of this Concerto in Indonesia.

On the competition platform, Kevin has won national first prizes from the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition, Royal South Street Chopin Competition, Vera Bradford Concerto Competition, and the Melbourne Recital Centre Great Romantics Competition. Kevin competed in the 60th Int. Busoni Piano Competition in Italy, and was a semi-finalist in the 14th Int. Ettlingen Youth Piano Competition in Germany. Additionally, Kevin is the winner of Royal Academy of Music's 2017 Wilfrid

Parry Prize, 2018 Delius Prize, the Else Cross Contemporary Piano Prize, and the Isaacs & Pirani Piano Trio Prize.

As an active chamber musician, Kevin frequently collaborates with cellist Ye Jin Choi, as the Orix Duo. The Duo has won several prizes at the Royal Academy of Music, including the Delius Prize. Subsequently, the Orix Duo was invited by the Delius Society to perform at Maddingley Hall, Cambridge, where they were praised for their interpretation of the Delius Cello Sonata. Kevin has worked with renowned chamber musicians such as Michael Dussek, Christoph Richter, Adrian Brendel and Trio Owon. Kevin was also invited to perform in the 2019 Bloomsbury Festival in London, and together with the Orix Duo they performed in the New Wave Concert Series, with a programme inspired by the 50th anniversary of the first landing on the moon.

Kevin obtained the Advanced Diploma in Performance degree from the Royal Academy of Music in London, under the Steinway & Sons scholarship. As a student of renowned pianist, Professor Joanna MacGregor CBE, he specialised in Liszt's Transcriptions of Beethoven Symphonies. Additionally, Kevin obtained his Master of Arts and Professional Diploma degrees from the Royal Academy of Music and was awarded with DipRAM (Diploma of the Royal Academy of Music) for an outstanding final recital. Kevin also holds a Bachelor of Music (Honours) degree from The University of Melbourne Conservatorium of Music where he studied with Professor Max Cooke OAM, and he graduated as the Valedictorian of the Year 2016. Kevin is an alumnus of Melbourne

Grammar School, where he was awarded the Sir Brian Hone honorary medal for his service to music. Kevin is a teaching associate at The University of Melbourne, and piano staff at Scotch College. In 2025, he was awarded an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM). [kevinsuherman.com](http://kevinsuherman.com)

### **Darryl Coote - piano**

With interpretation described by Paul Badura-Skoda as “poetic”, Australian-Irish pianist Darryl Coote is a founding partner of the *Team of Pianists* ([www.teamofpianists.com.au](http://www.teamofpianists.com.au)). His professional life has encompassed activity as solo pianist, chamber musician, concerto soloist, teacher, adjudicator and administrator. He studied piano in Korumburra with Rennie Sullivan, then at the University of Melbourne with Max Cooke (a pupil of Alfred Cortot), where he completed a Bachelor of Music with Honours and subsequently, Master of Music. Following initial training in Australia, Darryl studied for a year with Kurt Bauer at the Musikhochschule in Hanover (Germany). In 1985 he was Victorian State winner of the keyboard section of the ABC’s Instrumental and Vocal Competition, as well as the inaugural winner of the national Hephzibah Menuhin Memorial Scholarship. A few years later, he met the brother of Hephzibah Menuhin, Sir Yehudi Menuhin, accompanying the maestro at virtually no notice in a recital encore.

Darryl has appeared in concert in all states of Australia and in many of Victoria’s metropolitan and regional venues. Over 25 years he performed frequently in the *Team of Pianists’* long-running concert series, *Twilight Chamber Music at Rippon Lea*.

An all-round ensemble performer, he has performed many piano duets with the late Max Cooke, as well as major two-piano works with Robert Chamberlain. He is a sought-after chamber musician and accompanist, having worked with artists such as Anne Gilby (oboe), Stephen Robinson (oboe), David Thomas (clarinet), Richard Doumani (clarinet), Jacob Lawrence (tenor), Paul McMahon (tenor), Robert Macfarlane (tenor), Timothy Reynolds (tenor), Sally-Anne Russell (mezzo soprano), Brian Hansford (baritone), Kristy Conrau (cello), Rohan de Korte (cello), Josephine Vains (cello), Michelle Wood (cello), Christopher Cartlidge (viola), Lerida Delbridge (violin), Judith Hickel (violin), Charles Castleman (violin), Miwako Abe (violin), Roy Theaker (violin), Kathryn Taylor (violin) and Elizabeth Sellars (violin). Among numerous other works, his chamber music performances have included all the works for cello and piano by Beethoven, all three violin sonatas of Brahms, the two cello sonatas by Brahms and Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*. A fluent German-speaker, he enjoys presenting German art-song/Lieder, having performed Schumann's song-cycles *Frauen-liebe und -Leben* (with Sally-Anne Russell), *Dichterliebe* (with Robert Macfarlane), *Liederkreis Op. 39* (with Michael Petruccelli) and Schubert's song-cycles *Die Schöne Müllerin* (with Timothy Reynolds) and *Winterreise* (firstly with Brian Hansford, later with Timothy Reynolds). A recent collaboration with mezzo-soprano Sally-Anne Russell, titled *Janet and Gerald: A tribute*, presented some of the favourite repertoire performed by Janet Baker and Gerald Moore. He is a member of the Australian-German-Association.

Darryl has recorded and broadcast extensively on Australian radio networks, including ABC Classic FM and 3MBS FM. He features prominently on all nine CDs produced by the *Team of Pianists*, including having made the first Australian recording of Bruch's Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra, with duo-pianist partner Robert Chamberlain and the New Monash Orchestra, conducted by André de Quadros (all recordings are available in the *iTunes* store, under *Darryl Coote* or *Team of Pianists*). He is an experienced teacher, examiner and adjudicator and has been a member of the piano faculty at Monash University since the mid-1990's. He has adjudicated many music competitions in Victoria and interstate, as well as in Malaysia and China. He has presented masterclasses in Malaysia, Germany, China, various universities around Australia, Boston University (USA), the Eastman School of Music (USA) and the Kunitachi Academy in Tokyo (Japan). In 2012, he taught at Chethams Summer Piano School (Manchester, UK).

He has held administrative and leadership roles in music administration, including as organising secretary of the 2003 Australasian Piano Pedagogy Conference in Melbourne. An honorary Life Member of the Victorian Music Teachers' Association (VMTA), he was a Council member of that association for ten years, including a term as President between 2008-2011. Together with Max Cooke, he was one of the co-founders and a past adjudicator of the Australian National Piano Award, ANPA ([www.australianpianoaward.com.au](http://www.australianpianoaward.com.au)), a major national competition held every two years, for pianists aged

between 21 and 35. Since late 2012, he has been President of the Award board.

With heritage from both Australia and Ireland, he holds citizenship of both countries.

### **Robert Chamberlain - piano**

Robert Chamberlain gained Bachelor and Master degrees in Australia under renowned Australian pedagogue Max Cooke, studied in Vienna as a winner of the *Apex/Robert Stolz Scholarship*, and also at the Banff Centre for the Arts, Canada. He is active as a performer, adjudicator, presenter and pedagogue and is a partner in the Melbourne based *Team of Pianists - Artists in Residence* for the *National Trust of Australia (Vic)*. Between 2004 and 2013 he developed and directed the *Team's* annual *Spring Piano School*, an intensive enrichment program for school aged pianists aged from 6 to 18 years. Along with the other *Team of Pianists* partners, he performs in and co-directs their annual concert series in historic venues, supported by the *Colin & Cicely Rigg Bequest*.

Concert engagements with Australian and international colleagues have taken him to Turkey, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Canada, as well as around Australia. His recordings on around 15 CD's encompass music for solo piano, two pianos, chamber music, voice and piano, for the *Team of Pianists* as well as on the labels *Tall Poppies*, *Naxos*, *Move Records* and *VoxAustralis*. Concert performances with leading Australian musicians in recent years

have included chamber music recitals in Sydney and Melbourne with colleagues from the *Sydney Symphony Orchestra*, programs with vocal colleagues Justine Anderson, Vivien Hamilton and Jeannie Marsh from *Icon Trio*, trios and duos in *The Four B's* (Brahms, Beethoven, JS Bach) and *A Musical Flower-Garden* (Bach, Bruch, Zemlinsky) with Robert Schubert clarinet and Josephine Vains cello, chamber music programs with Judith Dodsworth soprano and Roman Ponomariov horn, multiple piano programs with Team partners including two piano repertoire with Darryl Coote, plus many other recital programs.

Robert has been on the piano staff at the *Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance* at Monash University since the 1990's and in 2019 he filled a temporary 12-month role as *Coordinator of Piano* in that school. His scholarly work has included a critical edition of Australian composer Margaret Sutherland's Sonata for Violin and Piano (Currency Press, 2000), while his academic interests include piano teaching, learning and performance, creativity in piano pedagogy, and style and technique in piano performance.

Robert was Secretary of the organising committee for the [15<sup>th</sup> Australasian Piano Pedagogy Conference](#), held at Monash University, Clayton Campus in July 2024. Links to papers and articles and a fuller biography of Robert may be found at <http://www.teamofpianists.com.au/partners/robert-chamberlain>.



## **Lachlan Brown - Composer biography**

I have loved composing since I started piano lessons and joined a choir at the age of eight. I particularly enjoy writing for choir, soprano, harp, violin and string quartet.

I mostly write Romantic, Impressionist and neo-classical music. Much of my music is about nature, and some pieces have nature titles to suggest the type of human emotions in the music. My music is expressionist in character; I hope the music expresses emotions, and suggests scenes and stories. I write intuitively, but the music is also informed by musical study.

## **Rigg Bequest Classic Music in Historic Venues 2025 - 2026**

We are currently planning a number of recitals for later in 2025, as well as into 2026, featuring outstanding guest artists and Team partners. Keep an eye on our website for the announcement of this next part of the Rigg Bequest concert series.

You can also sign up for the Team's email mailing list at the base of the home page at <https://www.teamofpianists.com.au/> or follow the Team's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/teamofpianists/>

We acknowledge First Nations people as the Traditional Custodians of the Lands on which our events take place. We pay respect to their Elders, celebrate their continuing culture and acknowledge the memory of their Ancestors.

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## **SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Rippon Lea: National Trust of Australia (Victoria)**

**Piano technician: Vincent Tarin**

**Committee members of Friends of the Team of Pianists**

**The Team also wishes to thank the Friends of the Team of Pianists Inc.**

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# **TEAM OF PIANISTS RIGG BEQUEST CLASSIC MUSIC IN HISTORIC VENUES 2025**

Acclaimed for their artistry and professionalism, the Melbourne-based *Team of Pianists* has presented solo and chamber recitals, concerto performances, CDs and broadcasts over many decades and is also committed to encouraging and promoting young musicians through masterclass programmes and concert opportunities. The Team has produced many CDs covering a wide range of music, including a number of exciting, yet rarely recorded works, as well as two innovative videos and various publications on the art of piano playing and musicianship. The Team presents recitals in historic venues in and around Melbourne. The Founder of the Team was the late Professor Max Cooke OAM and the four partners are Robert Chamberlain, Darryl Coote, Rohan Murray and Kevin Suherman.

**Details of forthcoming recitals are available at  
[www.teamofpianists.com.au](http://www.teamofpianists.com.au)**

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