

chamber music concert 3

featuring

- margaret blades violin
- janis laurs. cello
- david lockett. piano

programme

(not necessarily in this order)

david kotlowy
Chromatic Traces

raymond chapman smith
Piano Trio

quentin sd grant
Meditations and Ecstasies



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**The South Australian Department
for the Arts
and Cultural Development**

david kotlowy

***Chromatic Traces* (1996)**

This piano trio shares both its title and aesthetic with other recent compositions of mine, *Ashen Traces* and *Empyreal Traces*.

The trio's title refers both to colour quality and, at least for me, a larger sonic palette. Listening to music offers an experience of perception, contemplation and enjoyment - of the unpredictable and unfamiliar. A downbow sets a string in motion and sound is heard. The bow's position along the string filters the sound, its velocity determines duration as well as amplitude. The piano strings vibrate freely and produce a haze of resonance. We hear patterns and relationships on a surface of silence. With deeper listening, we open ourselves, and the sounds are without boundaries.

quentin sd grant

Meditations and Ecstasies (1996)

This set of nine small pieces is related to earlier miniatures I've variously labelled *meditations* and *essays*, and are indebted to the intimate music of British composer Howard Skempton. The appearance of the 'ecstasy' comes from my ambition, when considering what to do for this piano trio, to write some *happy* music. I wanted a break from doing large works weighty in form and content - I was feeling fatigued by the constant stream of angst in my music - and so decided to allow myself to indulge in short and simple pieces (form not being much of a strain with such) that were happy in tone. Simple enough, but when it came to producing them I found nothing to like in what I was writing: *jaunty* was easy enough, *robust* a cinch, *jolly* a piece of cake - but to come up with something satisfactory that accorded with the emotion of happiness was beyond me. I threw away the dozen or so bits of unsuccessful happiness, and settled for occasional moments of ecstatic elevation amongst some gentle moments of reflection.

These little works are an indulgence for me: they are written for my pleasure: the pleasure I find in the making of music. New art music is a concentrated and intimate process for composer, performer and listener. It requires application and engagement on all levels, and as such is the antithesis of mass production, of the Internet, of communication without content, of marketing, of cynical pragmatism (I am denying none of these things: only their current primacy of place). I celebrate the fortune that has allowed me to live a life built around the cosmology of music, and give thanks that it is ecstatically manifested by the finest performers in concerts such as the one this evening.

raymond chapman smith

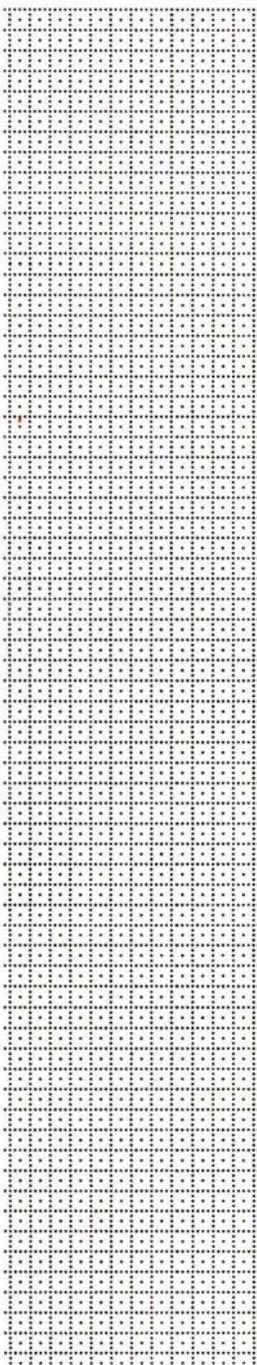
Piano Trio (1996)

Rather than follow the large scale, developing structures more usually associated with the piano trio's central repertoire, the initial model for my Piano Trio was Beethoven's curious, off-Broadway, set of Variations op.44 - a rarely heard work which constantly subdivides the medium. Going a little further than L.v.B, I have used all seven available configurations within the trio, in a developing variation form of contrasting "character" pieces.

Beginning with the solo piano - the central instrument in Haydn's invention of the medium - I then add the strings, subtract the piano and, in a spirit of reconciliation, gradually reassemble the ensemble with the last variation providing a transformed repetition of the opening piano solo with the strings now politely in the background.

The eleven variations proceed as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Solo Piano | Vivace |
| 2 Cello and Piano | Largo |
| 3 Violin and Piano | Allegro Molto |
| 4 Trio | Adagio |
| 5 Violin and Cello | Allegro |
| 6 Solo Violin | Adagio non troppo |
| 7 Solo Cello | Allegro non troppo |
| 8 Violin and Piano | Andante |
| 9 Cello and Piano | Allegretto |
| 10 Trio | Moderato |
| 11 Trio | Molto Vivace |



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