

Greta Bradman, soprano

Leigh Carroll, piano

Donizetti & Kurtag

Three Pieces in Fall

Three Magnificent Songs

Looked for with grace

Assembled

Raymond Chapman Smith

Almanac songs

Two songs from

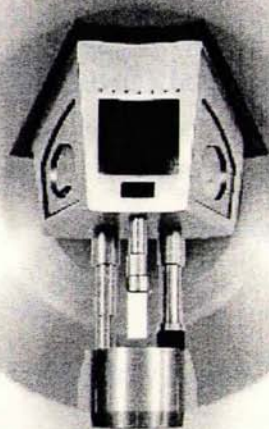
Three songs from

Two songs from

# the firm 2007

five Adelaide concerts

## concert four



**Greta Bradman, soprano**

**Leigh Harrold, piano**

**Hommage a Kurtág**

James Cuddeford

**Three Pieces in Pali**

David Kotlowy

**Three Morgenstern Songs**

Grahame Dudley

**Jatekok for solo piano**

György Kurtág

**Augenlied**

Raymond Chapman Smith

**Russian Songs**

Quentin Grant

**Three Old Inscriptions**

György Kurtág

Pilgrim Church provides wheelchair access via the rear (northern) doors.

Toilets can be accessed through the door on the left of the performance area.

## Hommage a Kurtág

James Cuddeford

"Silence prevailing-  
and penetrating the rock  
the cicada's cry."

"What is your silent speaking....  
Your unsung song?"

"Silent clouds of stars."

"Hommage a Kurtág" is a tribute to my teacher and the text alternates the phonemes of his name (Gyorgy Kurtág) with Haiku by Basho. Only one haiku is sung complete (3 lines), as the remaining two are progressively fragmented (2 and 1 line respectively). There are obvious parallels in intensity, discipline and brevity between Basho and Kurtág, and the composer would continuously inspire one in his teaching with seemingly impossible paradoxical challenges, much like a Zen master's "koan" (insoluble riddle).

## Three Pieces in Pali

David Kotlowy

The Dhammapada is a collection of aphorisms attributed to the Buddha, and written down in Pali, a Sanskrit-related language, during the first century BC.

As Pali culture no longer exists, I decided that the piano part could reflect archeological aspects; Leigh must excavate sounds from the piano's interior rather than producing them on the keyboard. The restricted pianistic techniques highlight vocal lines that are reminiscent of Indian classical music.

I

Be a light unto yourself and learn wisdom.

II

From meditation comes wisdom - and from lack of it  
wisdom decays.

These are the two paths - walk the path that leads to  
wisdom.

III

'All is transient.' - This is the radiant path.  
'All is not absolute.' - This is the clear path.  
'All is unreal.' - This is the shining path.  
(Realize this and be free from anguish.)

**Three Morgenstern Songs**

Grahame Dudley

texts by Christian Morgenstern (1871-1914)

1.  
THE POLICE INQUIRY

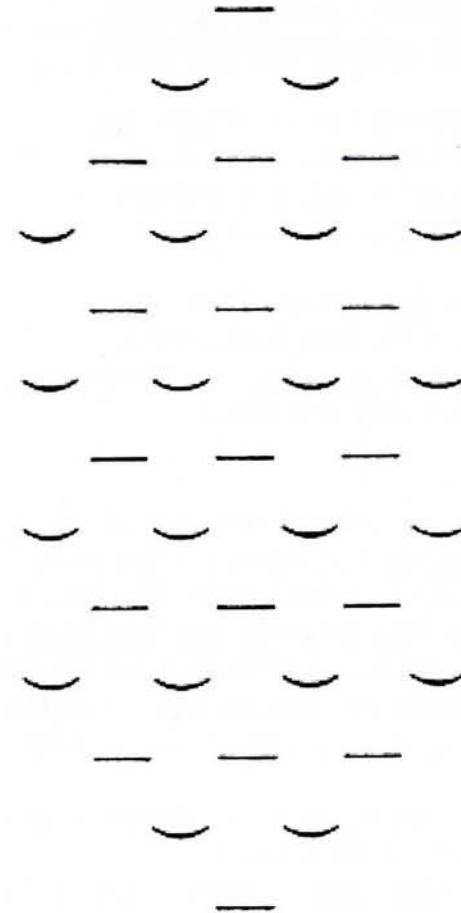
Korf gets a printed questionnaire  
from the police sternly worded,  
Demanding Who he is and How and Where?  
Where was his last home?  
Precisely What day of What year was he born?

Divorced, Married or Single?  
If not – Why not?

Has he received a permit to live  
(at all) – here  
If not –  
Where does the money come from?  
What do you believe?.....

Calmly and sweetly Korf replies  
“Dear High Commissioner,  
As undersigned, I herein certify  
That after due consideration,  
I declare myself,  
Non-existent  
Under the Legislation.”

2. FISH'S NIGHT SONG



3.

### KORF'S CLOCK

Korf a kind of clock invents  
where two pairs of hands go round:  
one the current hour presents,  
one is always backward bound.

When it's two – it's also ten;  
when it's three – it's also nine.  
You just look at it, and then  
time gets never out of line,

for in Korf's astute invention  
with its Janus-kindred stride  
(which, of course, was his intention)  
time itself is nullified.

I have always enjoyed the idea of taking the absurd seriously and the Dada corollary; that much of what we all take seriously is in fact absurd. This idea is most clearly portrayed in "The Police Inquiry" which plays humorously with the absurdities of officialdom but also how dangerous such absurdities can become when "objectively applied". Korf chooses "non-existence" but in what sense is left unclear.

'The Fish's Nightsong' is as famous in its way as John Cage's 4'33'', (a silent piece).

It is a wordless poem consisting only of different stress symbols applied to a non-existent text.

"Korf's Clock" features one of Morgenstern's favourite characters; an inventor with a wonderful intelligence, not always constructively applied.

Morgenstern once said, "In any true man hides a child who wants to play." His 'Gallows Poems' of 1905 are dedicated to "The child in man."

I have also enjoyed writing for Greta Bradman and Leigh Harrold with whom I have had a rich association as composer and conductor and also being involved in the whole preparation process with Raymond and Quentin.

**Jatekok for solo piano**

György Kurtág

1. Homage to Tchaikovsky
2. (Homage to Beethoven)
3. Homage to Domenico Scarlatti
4. Homage to Schubert: Consolation for Sarah
5. Homage to Paganini (la nuova campanella)
6. Homage to Verdi (sopra: Caro nome che il mio cor)
7. Homage to Kabalevsky
8. Homage to Mussorgski
9. Homage to Varese
10. Waltz (Homage to Shostakovich)
11. Homage to Stockhausen
12. Homage to Ligeti

**Augenlied**

Raymond Chapman Smith

text by Paul Celan (1920-70)

sung in the original German

1. EYES:

Shining with the rain that poured  
when God bade me drink.

2. EYES:

gold that night counted into my hands  
when I gathered nettles  
and hoed the shadows of proverbs

3. EYES:

evening, kindled above me when I tore open the  
gate  
and wintered right through by the ice of my  
temples,  
I rushed on through eternity's hamlets.

## Russian Songs

Quentin Grant

The six poems as used in the songs are adapted by the composer. They are printed in their original form below.

### 1. In the Mist

Gennady Aigi (b.1934)

full of mist  
all night the allotment like a garden  
and beyond it  
beyond the fence in mist-forest  
the cuckoo's voice  
as if ever-quieter-un-quietness  
in the distant father-people  
long  
and long ago  
my father  
(in the billowing crowd  
of procession-and-singing)

### 2. The Dream Of Winter Night

Bella Akhmadulina (b.1937)

'Twas snowing. And to the snow,  
To cold of the heaven and earth,  
The deeper I slept the more grown  
Was Chegem tulips' warming blaze.

'Twas snowing. Soul was singing  
From whiteness of snow afar.  
'Twas snowing. Planetrees were greening.  
How green, dreams of winter, you are!...

### 3. Leningrad

Kristina Tsibolskia (1899-1944)

Another twilight,  
without my small one.  
His shadow's with me  
In every corner,  
night and day,  
Still hungry, complaining;  
pulling at my skirts.  
Each bomb whistles, still whistles his name.  
Dear Lord take me to him once again.

### 4. suddenly quiet... Anna Akhmatova (1889-1966)

Suddenly so quiet everywhere,  
The last of the poppies had blown away.  
Frozen in a day-dreamy stare,  
I met darkness early, coming to stay.

The gates are tightly shut from without,  
The night is black, the wind does not care,  
Where are you, joy, where care, where doubt?

When the last of the poppies had blown away.

### 5. The Funeral

Kristina Tsibolskia

Each mourner falls over,  
Falls into pools of ice.  
Morning bells lift my eyes to the sun's golden realm;  
If living I would float in on a smile: exaltant.

The last morning blows over,  
With new sleet melting into sorrow.  
If kept here I would look at all this with eyes anew.

My daughter cries up into the air,  
But look afar,  
I'm floating here, high!

## 6. Memory

Nika Turbina (b.1974)

I want to be with you alone  
To sit at the old house  
That house stands by the river  
Whose name is memory.  
The print of your bare foot  
Smells of last Summer's sun.  
Where we wandered together  
On the grass, not mown yet,  
The skies were so blue,  
Disappearing behind the gates.  
And the voices were ringing,  
That is all  
I can remember.  
And the days' accounting  
Has come to an end  
Like a flock of birds  
All the days  
Have gathered at my feet.  
What do I treat them to?  
No more lines are left...

## Three Old Inscriptions Op.25

György Kurtág

sung in the original Russian, Hungarian and German

### 1. Flower

János Gugelweit scripsit, 1490

Flower, know I must take leave of you,  
In mourning must I grieve for you.

### 2. Transylvanian Székely Mangle, 1792

In memoriam Endre Bálint

You gave me the master the first night,  
Anna Cserei, you earthly mortal,  
for which I, Gábor Móre, instead of the lamb-tithe,  
gave him a clout on the pate.  
Now I sit heavy in the stocks at Kászsónszék,  
- the pox on Lieutenant Görgényi –  
carving this mangle in my misery.



3. On a Cross in the Cemetary at Mecseknádasd

An epilogue to Ilona Bakó "Soulbird"

*Here rests in God*

Theresia Hengl,  
died the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 1939  
at the age of 29.

In the veriest bloom of my young life  
the fever devoured me,  
so I must depart this life in my prime,  
out into the cold of the grave.

It is, God, your will,  
and I am still.

These were her last words.  
Rest gently in peace.

You are invited to join us after the  
concert for complimentary drinks and a  
selection of Tortes by Gabriele.

**the firm's next concert**

8pm Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007

**The Langbein String Quartet**

*Further information: [www.firmmusic.com.au](http://www.firmmusic.com.au)*

**the firm**

and

Sheila Bryce Publicity

acknowledge the support of

Arts SA

Australia Council

Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

Jeanette Sandford - Morgan

ABC Classic FM

5MBS

Radio Adelaide

The Pilgrim Church

All the Firm musicians

