Night Walk

Vibrating Air series
Friday 27 October
7.30pm

David Li Sound Gallery
The Ian Potter Centre
for Performing Arts

Monash Performing Arts Centres
Night Walk

Program
Kaija Saariaho (1952—2023)
Prelude

Matthew Whittall (b. 1975)
Preludes, from Leaves of Grass:
On the Beach at Night
Twilight

Ian Munro (b. 1963)
Sonata for Two Pianos—
In memoriam Judith Wright (2023)*world premiere
i. I have sat down by the river…
ii. The small waves vanish endlessly on the shore
iii. Black is the night
iv. The light falls from the sky
v. In the depth
vi. The sun moves to be born of the sea

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)
Night Piece (Notturno)

Peter Sculthorpe (1929–2014)
Night Pieces
i. Snow, Moon and Flowers
ii. Night
iii. Stars

Akira Nishimura (1953–2023)
Mirror of Stars

Performed by
KIAZMA Piano Duo
Aura Go and Tomoe Kawabata

Also featuring
Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance students
Lana Raftopoulos
(winner of the 2023 Australian Music Prize)
Sayuka Yamafuji and Kate Hamilton
(winners of the 2023 Monash Piano Duo Prize)

Night Walk
Night Walk is a musical meditation on our connection with nature, on the movement and transformation of ideas, on metaphor and metamorphosis. Joined by pianists from the Monash University piano department, the KIAZMA Piano Duo interweaves music for one and two pianos by composers for whom nature has been a powerful creative force. Evocative night-filled poetry of Judith Wright, Walt Whitman and Amin Malouf gives rise to musical responses by Ian Munro, Matthew Whittall and Kaija Saariaho; Benjamin Britten’s daily “thinking walks” were central to his compositional process; for Peter Sculthorpe and Akira Nishimura, Japanese concepts of metamorphosis underpin sonic explorations of stillness and space. The performance features the world premiere of Ian Munro’s Sonata for Two Pianos – in memoriam Judith Wright (2023).
KIAZMA Piano Duo
Described as ‘masterful’, ‘positively ecstatic’ and ‘profoundly moving, subtle and exuberant’, the KIAZMA Piano Duo (pianists Aura Go and Tomoe Kawabata) has established itself as one of Australia’s most dynamic ensembles. Equally at home in solo, two-piano and four-hand repertoire from the baroque to the present day, KIAZMA is passionate about sharing the riches of the existing repertoire, developing the art form through the KIAZMA commissioning project, and creating concert experiences that explore new ways of listening to and engaging with music.

The duo’s first CD, *Five Rocks in a Japanese Garden*, features first recordings of works by five of Japan’s foremost contemporary composers. KIAZMA has presented concert series at the Melbourne Recital Centre since 2016 and has undertaken ambitious projects such as a reimagining for two pianists of J.S. Bach’s *The Art of Fugue* and the creation of a new interdisciplinary work *One Space One*.

Members of the teaching faculty at the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance at Monash University, Aura Go and Tomoe Kawabata mentor young pianists in piano and creative collaboration. The newly established KIAZMA Mentoring Program offers young pianists opportunities to engage in side-by-side professional development in rehearsal, creative development, curation and performance.

 Aura Go
Aura Go is an Australian pianist whose practice encompasses performance, collaboration, curation, education and artistic research. She performs across the globe, as soloist in concerti from J.S. Bach to Sofia Gubaidulina, as recitalist and chamber musician in programs that interweave old and new music, and as creative collaborator in the development of new music and multi-artform projects. Recently, Aura has worked as concerto soloist with orchestras such as the Melbourne, Adelaide and Queensland Symphony Orchestras, Tapiola Sinfonietta, the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria.

Aura has performed at international festivals including the Edinburgh Festival, Melbourne International Arts Festival, Australian Festival of Chamber Music, Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival, PianoEspoo, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Metropolis Festival, and the Musica Viva Festival.

Aura is a passionate advocate for new music and regularly collaborates with composers. World premieres to her credit include works by Australian composers Lisa Illean, Holly Harrison, Gordon Kerry, Ian Munro, Kate Neal and Cat Hope, as well as Tiina Myllärinen (Finland), Christopher Cerrone (USA), Garth Neustadter (USA) and Ye Xiaogang (China).

Aura is Head of Piano at the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance, Monash University. She received her doctorate from the Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki, where her artistic research drew on the acting methodology of Michael Chekhov to explore the embodied imagination, creativity, and collaboration in music performance.

aurago.net

kiazma.net
Tomoe Kawabata

Tomoe Kawabata is a Japanese-born pianist, collaborator, pedagogue and creative practice researcher who has made Australia her home since 2002. As well as being highly regarded for her outstanding interpretations of the traditional classical repertoire, she has become a leading figure in the performance of contemporary Japanese music, through her extensive international performances and artistic research.

Tomoe completed her early musical studies in Japan, attaining her Master of Music from the Tokyo College of Music. In 2016 she was awarded her PhD from the Elder Conservatorium. She has maintained an active international performing career, with frequent appearances in festivals and concertos in Europe, Canada, Australia and Japan. She is passionate about early childhood music education and creates and presents innovative and immersive performances for children. Tomoe is a member of the piano teaching staff at the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance at Monash University where she mentors students in piano and piano duo.

Lana Raftopoulos

Lana Raftopoulos is a fourth-year student at the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music. She was recently awarded 1st place in the 2023 Australian Music Prize competition for her performance of Fragments for Piano by Australian composer Anne Cawrse. Through her performance studies, Lana has developed a passion for discovering and sharing hidden gems for the piano. This interest has led her to explore and perform works by composers such as Frederico Mompou, Leoš Janáček and Matthew Whittall.

In 2022, Lana performed at the David Li Sound Gallery as a soloist in connection with Open House Melbourne’s annual Built/Unbuilt event, and as a co-performer in pianist Aura Go’s Soul Bird recital. Both projects brought to life the venue’s unique acoustic qualities through inventive and colourful works for the piano. Lana has also been involved in a number of ensemble-based projects. She has performed with the Monash Academy Orchestra at the celeste in the orchestra’s 2022 and 2023 programs, and was involved in the 2023 performance of Speak Percussion’s Bell Curve. Currently, Lana works as a piano teacher and forms one third of the classical trio ellipsis.
Kate Hamilton
Kate Hamilton is a first-year student at Monash University studying the Bachelor of Laws and Music double degree. She attended the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School from 2021—2022 and was awarded with the Lenton Parr Academic Award in Year 12. She has studied with many notable pianists and teachers including Elyane Laussade, Caroline Almonte, Julie Haskell and is currently under the tutelage of Dr Aura Go. In 2023, Kate and her duo partner Sayuka Yamafuji won the Monash Piano Duo Prize. Kate is passionate about sharing her music with others and has performed at many places including the Lyceum club, Monash Youth Music Festival and The Melbourne Recital Centre. She teaches piano to 15 students, hoping to inspire both the younger and older generations to immerse themselves in the wide world of music.

Sayuka Yamafuji
Sayuka Yamafuji is in her first year of studies at Monash University. She began her music journey in 2010 through the Suzuki method, completing up to book 6 of Suzuki piano. She has attained her AMEB AMus and plans to complete her LMus next year. Her past teachers include Ikeda Yuko, Margaret Bland, Caroline Almonte and Glenn Riddle, and she is currently studying with Dr Tomoe Kawabata. In 2023, Sayuka won the piano duo prize in her first semester of university alongside her partner Kate Hamilton. For her future studies, she plans to continue studying music at the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music and Performance at Monash and complete her double degree in Arts, majoring in Japanese.
Vibrating Air series

Flinders Quartet with Dong Ma
Friday 10 November

A marriage of musicians and culture matched with times past, present, and future create a soundscape that is unexpectedly homogenous and extraordinarily beautiful. Dong Ma’s virtuosity on the erhu is perfectly matched with Julian Yu’s arrangement of Bach’s Goldberg Variations, and together they create a mesmerising performance that transcends time and cultural barriers. Yuin woman Brenda Gifford’s heartfelt work Dissipate adds depth and meaning to the overall program, resulting in a strikingly successful musical fusion that will leave audiences in awe.

Flinders Quartet is instantly recognisable as one of Australia’s most loved chamber music ensembles, entering their third decade with acknowledged musical skill and maturity. Their purpose is to challenge and champion the role of the string quartet in 21st century Australia, realised through performances, recording, education, and work with composers.

Arcadia Winds
Friday 24 November

Arcadia Winds are trailblazers for Australian wind music. Formed in 2013 at the Australian National Academy of Music, Arcadia Winds are known for their energetic, joyful and spontaneous performances. The ensemble has performed in concerts and at festivals across Australia and abroad, and have been heavily involved in educating and inspiring the next generation of young wind musicians.

Arcadia Winds has championed new Australian music since its inception, through commissioning, performance, recording and their annual composition prize for young composers. To celebrate their 10 year anniversary, Arcadia Winds are set to perform ten new works by Australian composers. This performance in the David Li Sound Gallery will feature the first five of these new compositions. Don’t miss this celebration of everything Arcadia Winds, which will highlight the outstanding journey of this ensemble across a decade.