



Festival Singers

A Box of Birds

Director: Ingrid Schoenfeld

Soprano: Rowena Simpson

Accompanist: Jonathan Berkahn

7.30pm Saturday 13 May 2023

Island Bay Presbyterian Church, 88 The Parade, Island Bay

Programme

Hirini Melbourne (1949–2003)

Purea nei

Christopher Tin

'Hope' is the thing with feathers

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

Mass in C K.202 ("Sparrow" Mass)

Kyrie

Gloria

Credo

Sanctus – Benedictus

Agnus Dei

Liza Lehmann (1862–1918)

The cuckoo

Eva Dell'Acqua (1856–1930)

Villanelle

INTERVAL

Jonathan Berkahn

A Box of Birds

The dalliance of the eagles (Walt Whitman)

Little Trotty Wagtail (John Clare)

Philip my sparrow (George Gascoigne)

A widow bird (Percy Bysshe Shelley)

'Hope' is the thing with feathers (Emily Dickinson)

Hirini Melbourne

Tihore mai

Stephen Leek

Kondalilla

English traditional arr. Victor C. Johnson

The Turtle Dove

Thomas Vautor (fl.1592–1619)

Sweet Suffolk owl

William Byrd (1540–1623)

The eagle's force

John Bartlet (fl. 1606–1610)

Of all the birds (Philip my sparrow)

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

The blue bird

Jonathan Berkahn

Everyone suddenly burst out singing

About this Concert

Anyone who's attempted to sing has been charmed by birdsong. Tonight, you will hear us imitate birds (as in Kondalilla, Suffolk Owl, or Of all the Birds), reflect on their beauty (as in The Blue Bird, Tihore Mai, or The Turtle Dove), and use the concepts of flight and freedom as metaphor (as in Hope is the Thing With Feathers, Everyone Suddenly Burst Out Singing, Purea Nei, and The Eagle's Force).

Mozart's "Sparrow" mass got its nickname from the chirping violin figures that introduce the Hosanna section, and although its avian references end there, we are featuring it because it's an absolute banger of a mass.

A Box of Birds was commissioned by Duo Isetta (Genevieve Davidson and Ingrid Schoenfeld) in 2020; it is a series of depictions of different birds, inspired by five evocative poems that you can read below.

Ingrid Schoenfeld



Photo: Celia Waimesley

Rowena Simpson

Rowena is a soprano who performs in chamber music and opera, a singing teacher, and a performer-producer. She studied and worked in The Netherlands from 1997-2006 and since her return has sung with many groups including New Zealand Opera, Pinchgut Opera in Sydney, Voices New Zealand, New Zealand Barok, and Hammers & Horsehair.

Poems for A Box of Birds

Jonathan Berkahn

1. *The dalliance of the eagles*

Walt Whitman (1819–1892)

Skirting the river road,
(my forenoon walk, my rest,)
Skyward in air a sudden muffled sound,
the dalliance of the eagles,
The rushing amorous contact
high in space together,
The clinching interlocking claws, a living,
fierce, gyrating wheel,
Four beating wings, two beaks,
a swirling mass tight grappling,
In tumbling turning clustering loops,
straight downward falling,
Till o'er the river pois'd, the twain yet one,
a moment's lull,
A motionless still balance in the air,
then parting, talons loosing,
Upward again on slow-firm pinions slanting,
their separate diverse flight,
She hers, he his, pursuing.

2. *Little Trotty Wagtail*

John Clare (1793–1864)

Little trotty wagtail he went in the rain,
And tittering, tottering sideways
he neer got straight again,
He stooped to get a worm,
and looked up to get a fly,
And then he flew away
ere his feathers they were dry.

Little trotty wagtail,
he waddled in the mud,
And left his little footmarks,
trample where he would.
He waddled in the water-pudge,
and waggle went his tail,

And chirrupt up his wings
to dry upon the garden rail.
Little trotty wagtail,
you nimble all about,

And in the dimpling water-pudge
you waddle in and out;
Your home is nigh at hand,
and in the warm pig-stye,
So, little Master Wagtail,
I'll bid you a good-bye.

3. *Philip my sparrow*

George Gascoigne (1525?–1577),
set by John Bartlet (fl. 1606–1610)

Of all the birds that I do know,
Philip my sparrow hath no peer.
For sit she high, or sit she low,
Be she far off, or be she near,
There is no bird so fair, so fine,
Nor yet so fresh as this of mine.

For when she once hath felt the fit,
Philip will cry still:
yet, yet, yet, yet, yet, yet,
yet, yet, yet, yet, yet, yet.

Come in a morning merrily
When Philip hath been lately fed;
Or in an evening soberly,
When Philip list to go to bed.
It is a heaven to hear my Phipp,
How she can chirp with merry lip.

She is content to stay and sing,
And is at home when I do call;
Through all the year her song doth ring,

Through winter, summer, spring and fall.
She chants, she chirps, she makes such cheer,
That I believe she has no peer.

4. *A widow bird*

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822)

A widow bird sate mourning for her Love
Upon a wintry bough;
The frozen wind crept on above
The freezing stream below.

There was no leaf upon the forest bare,
No flower upon the ground,
And little motion in the air
Except the mill-wheel's sound.

5. *'Hope' is the thing with feathers*

Emily Dickinson (1830–1886)

'Hope' is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –

And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –
And sore must be the storm –
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm –

I've heard it in the chillest land –
And on the strangest Sea –
Yet – never – in Extremity,
It asked a crumb – of me.



Purea nei

Hirini Melbourne (1949–2003)

Purea nei e te hau
Horoia e te ua
Whitiwhitia e te ra
Mahea ake nga pōraruraru
Makere ana nga here.

E rere wairua, e rere
Ki nga ao o te rangi
Whitiwhitia e te ra
Mahea ake nga poraruraru
Makere ana nga here.

Scattered by the wind
washed by the rain
and transformed by the sun,
all doubts are swept away
and all restraints are cast down.

Fly, O free spirit, fly
to the clouds in the heavens,
transforme by the sun,
all doubts are swept away
and all restraints are cast down.

Mass in C K.202 (“Sparrow” Mass)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis

Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi propter
magnam gloriam tuam.

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.

Qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis,

qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe
cum sancto Spiritu,
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Credo

Credo in unum Deum,
Patrem omnipotentem,
factorem caeli et terrae,
visibilem omnium et invisibilem.

Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum,
Filium Dei unigenitum,
et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula.

Deum de Deo, Lumen de Lumine,
Deum verum de Deo vero,
genitum non factum,
consubstantiali Patri,
per quem omnia facta sunt.

Qui propter nos homines et propter nostram
salutem descendit de caelis.

Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto

Kyrie

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks

for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Credo

I believe in one God,
The Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ the
Only-begotten Son of God.
Born of the Father before all ages.

God of God, Light of Light,
true God of True God.

Begotten, not made,
of one substance with the Father.
By whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven.

And became incarnate

ex Maria Virgine,
et homo factus est.
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis
sub Pontio Pilato,
passus et sepultus est,
et resurrexit tertia die,
secundum Scripturas,
et ascendit in caelum,
sedet ad dexteram Patris.
Et iterum venturus est cum gloria,
iudicare vivos et mortuos,
cujus regni non erit finis.
Et in Spiritum Sanctum,
Dominum et vivificantem,
qui ex Patre filioque procedit.
Qui cum Patre
et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur
qui locutus est per prophetas.
Et unam, sanctam, catholicam
et apostolicam Ecclesiam.
Confiteor unum baptisma
in remissionem peccatorum.
Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum,
et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
He was also crucified for us,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
and was buried.
And on the third day
He rose again according to the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and sits
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and Giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
Who together with the Father
and the Son is adored and glorified,
and who spoke through the prophets.
We profess the one holy, catholic
and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I await the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus

Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us,
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, grant us peace.

Tihore mai te rangi

Tihore mai te rangi tihore mai
Mao mao mao te ua whiti mai te ra

E rere kotare
Ki runga puwharawhara
Ruru parirau kei mate i te ua

E rere e noke mai to pokorua
Kei ki i te wai ka mate i te ua

E hi e whiti mai te ra

Clear the sky
Cease the rain, Let the sun shine

Fly kingfisher
Onto the puwharawhara (*astelia*)
Ruffle your wings, lest you catch a chill

Flee o worm out of your burrow
Lest it be filled with water and you drown

Let the sun shine

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Kondalilla

Words and music Stephen Leek

Kondalilla
Koo koo koo koo ka.
Ouyen watches the whspers of time,
passing over the black water in the breeze.
Ouyen listens,
Hidden in the shadows z-a-z-a-
Counting the splashes
and tracing the dream.
Kondalilla.

The Turtle Dove

English traditional arr. Victor C. Johnson

Fare you well, my dear, I must be gone,
and leave you for a while.
If I roam away, I'll come back again,
though I roam ten thousand miles, my dear,
though I roam ten thousand miles.

So fair thou art, my bonny lass,
so deep in love am I,
but I never will prove false
to the bonny lass I love,
'til the stars fall from the sky, my dear,
'til the stars fall from the sky.

The sea will never run dry, my dear,
nor the rocks melt with the sun,
but I never will prove false
to the bonny lass I love,
'til all these things be done, my dear,
'til all these things be done.

Oh, yonder doth sit that little turtle dove,
he doth sit on yonder tree,
making a moan for the loss of his love,
as I will do for thee, my dear,
as I will do for thee.

Sweet Suffolk owl

Thomas Vautor (fl.1592–1619)

Sweet Suffolk Owl, so trimly dight
With feathers like a lady bright,
Thou singest alone, sitting by night,
Te whit, te whoo! Te whit, te whoo!

Thy note, that forth so freely rolls,
With shrill command the mouse controls;
And sings a dirge for dying souls,
Te whit, te whoo! Te whit, te whoo!

The Eagle's force

William Byrd (1540–1623)

The Eagle's force subdues each Bird that flies:
What metal may resist, the flaming fire?
Doth not the Sun dazzle the clearest eyes?
And melt the ice, and make the frost retire?
Who can withstand a puissant King's desire?
The stiffest stones are pierced through with tools:
The wisest are with Princes made but fools.

Of all the birds (Philip my sparrow)

John Bartlet (fl. 1606–1610)

(See words on page 3)

The blue bird

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

The lake lay blue below the hill
O'er it, as I looked, there flew
Across the waters, cold and still
A bird whose wings were palest blue.

The sky above was blue at last
The sky beneath me blue in blue
A moment, ere the bird had passed
It caught his image as he flew.

Everyone suddenly burst out singing

Music: Jonathan Berkahn

Words: Siegfried Loraine Sassoon (1886-1967)

Everyone suddenly burst out singing;
And I was filled with such delight
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,
Winging wildly across the white
Orchards and dark-green fields;
On: on: and out of sight.

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted;
And beauty came like the setting sun:
My heart was shaken with tears;
And horror drifted away...
O but everyone was a bird;
and the song was wordless;
the singing will never be done.

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Festival Singers

Musical Director: Ingrid Schoenfeld

Accompanist: Jonathan Berkahn

Sopranos: Robyn Bridge, Heather Easting*,
Heather Garside, Anne Neal, Helen Willberg.

Altos: Cathy Edge, Karen Espersen*,
Jan Hamill, Christine Hudson, Helen Jackman,
Margaret Seconi, Heloen Tripp, Rita Urry.

Tenors: Joe Fecteau*, Martin Haa, Paul Kilford.

Basses: Robert Easting*, Philip Garside,
Alex Jeune, Ian Livingstone.

* Soloists

Our Plans for the remainder of 2023

- **Movie Fundraiser** – June/July
- **Combined concert with St Mary of the Angels choir at St Mary's** – August 2023
- **Recording of new arrangements by Jonathan Berkahn of NZ Hymnbook Trust hymns/songs** 14-15 October, at St James, Lower Hutt
- **Christmas Concert – A French Christmas** – December 2023:
Saint-Saëns: Christmas Oratorio. Charpentier: Messe de minuit pour Noël (Both in Latin)
- **Seatoun Community Carols event** at St Christopher's that fundraises for the Wellington City Mission. December 2022

Sing with us in 2023

We rehearse from
7-9pm on Monday nights
from February to early December
at Newlands Christian Assembly,
126 Newlands Road.

All singers welcome.

Learn a wide variety of sacred & secular music.

Joining is easy. No formal audition is required.

Come to 3 rehearsals without obligation,
to try us out.

There is free parking at the church and car
pools operate from several areas

We're an affordable choir.

Annual subs are currently \$250 for adults,
(\$225 each for those in the same household).
Full time students pay just \$100 for a full year.

We know you will make new friends
in our supportive greater Wellington
community choir.

For more details contact:

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Digital Album (2020) \$10



CD (2015) \$20



CD (2007) \$20



CD (2000) \$20