

In celebration of UCT Summer School 2023

# MUSIC ACROSS TIME

*Showing the tipping  
points in musical history*

BAXTER  
CONCERT  
HALL  
WEDNESDAY  
25TH JANUARY  
19:00



**VOX Cape Town**

*Directed by John Woodland*

**The Kirby Quartet**  
**Gabriele von**  
**Dürckheim (flute)**



*Works by:*

Brahms

Debussy

Jeremy Dale Roberts

Arvo Pärt

Grant McLachlan

Eric Whitacre

Henryk Górecki

Kim André Arnesen

PRESENTED BY

**GRANT  
MCLACHLAN**



One theory of evolution is that rather than effecting changes gradually, changes may happen rapidly after long periods of slow development. This pattern can also be used to explain the history of Western music over the last 500 or more years.

The music selected for this concert will demonstrate some of these rapid changes. We will contrast music from the Late Romantic period with music from Early Modernism and the beautiful ethereal choral music from Eastern Europe which arose as a reaction against the extreme avant-garde of the mid-twentieth century.

We will contrast the music of Johannes Brahms with the most reactionary composer from the turn of the twentieth century, Claude Debussy.

The warm resonance of the music of Arvo Pärt, Henryk Gorécki and others will be juxtaposed against movements from *Croquis*, a work by the British composer, Jeremy Dale Roberts, originally commissioned for BBC Radio 3 in 1979. It consists of many short movements which were conceived to be interspersed with the rest of the programme.

We will also present a performance of *Of Light* by Grant McLachlan, which is a setting of four poems by South African female poets.

We will be joined by VOX Cape Town, which has gained a considerable reputation for their innovative and high quality performances, by the Kirby Quartet, a group of young up and coming musicians, and by Gabriele von Dürckheim, a well-known flautist.

## PROGRAMME

JEREMY DALE ROBERTS (1934–2017)

From *Croquis* Chant

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833–1897)

*Liebeslieder* Rede Mädchen, all zu liebes  
Wenn so lind dein Auge mir

CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862–1918)

*Syrinx*

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833–1897)

*Liebeslieder* Am Donaustrande  
Nein, es ist nicht auszukommen

JEREMY DALE ROBERTS (1934–2017)

From *Croquis* Preciptoso

GRANT McLACHLAN (1956–)

*Of Light* The morning sun is shining (Words: Olive Schreiner)  
Hardly a star (Words: Ingrid de Kok)

JEREMY DALE ROBERTS (1934–2017)

From *Croquis* Sommeil

GRANT McLACHLAN (1956–)

*Of Light* Back in the benighted kingdom (Words: Isobel Dixon)  
come day! (Words: Antjie Krog)

JEREMY DALE ROBERTS (1934–2017)

From *Croquis* Adagio

ARVO PÄRT (1935–)

*Summa*

KIM ANDRÉ ARNESEN (1980–)

*Even when he is silent*

JEREMY DALE ROBERTS (1934–2017)

From *Croquis* Centering

ERIC WHITACRE (1970–)

*Alleluia*

HENRYK GORÉCKI (1933–2010)

*Totus Tuus*

JEREMY DALE ROBERTS (1934–2017)

From *Croquis* Fusées

**GRANT McLACHLAN** is a South African composer based in Cape Town. He holds music degrees from Magdalen College, Oxford; King's College, London; and a film music degree from Bournemouth University.

He is known for composing for natural history films, and has scored music for more than 120 wildlife and feature films over the last three decades. He has composed for many broadcasters, including the BBC, National Geographic, Smithsonian, Animal Planet and Discovery. In 2007 the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra performed *Ocean Voyagers* live to picture for Animal Planet's 10th anniversary. He won a Best Music Award for the Australian film *The Jammed*. Capetonians may recall a documentary on the penguins at Boulder's Beach called *City Slickers*. Other films Grant has composed for include *Cosmic Africa* (best music, Stone awards); *Faith Like Potatoes*, and *Killer Whales*.

Chamber music compositions include *Oesterwal Landscape*, a piano quintet, performed in the Purcell Room in 1992; and *Umbhioso Wase Afrika* for harpsichord and African percussion, commissioned by Polish harpsichordist Elisabeth Chojnacka, which has been performed by several times around Europe. In June 2020 the Cape Chamber Music Collective performed *Music For The Beginning of Time*. He has also written much choral music, and the Christmas anthem *Come, Colours Rise* has become a classic with choirs around the world.

In 2020 he presented a lecture series for the UCT Summer School entitled *A brief history of harmony, the universe, and everything*.

**THE KIRBY QUARTET** was formed in 2022, with members Nicholas Bruiners (violin 1), Kaitlin Visser Downie (violin 2), Micaela Arries (viola) and Ashlin Grobbelaar (cello). All four members study at the South African College of Music (SACM) at the University of Cape Town. The quartet is named for the Kirby Collection at the SACM which houses over 600 African, European and Asian instruments, as well as sound recordings, field notes, photographs and correspondence.

In October 2022 they won the 15th Annual Schock Prize for Chamber Music with their performance of Shostakovich's *String Quartet No. 3, Op. 73 in F Major*. They were presented as the Cape Chamber Music Collective's eighth project with pianist Gerhard Joubert, and performed five concerts in Cape Town and Stellenbosch, including at Spier Wine Estate's Jazz and Classical Encounters. They have also performed at Oude Nectar, No. 6 Spin Street, Erin Hall and Casa Labia.

**VOX CAPE TOWN** was founded in 2015 with a vision to create fresh, mesmerising choral experiences to enrich the musical life of the Mother City and to continue the legacy of the St George's Singers, led for over fifty years by Barry Smith. Since then, it has been written that VOX has 'developed a reputation for its imaginative programming and performances of seldom-heard choral music in unconventional spaces, and has continually impressed audiences both with its fresh approach to new and interesting repertoire, including commissioning several new works by local composers, and its approach to concert staging including lighting and visual effects'. Over the past eight years, VOX has presented scores of immersive performances in venues ranging from the intimacy of the Irma Stern Museum and the Tasting Cellar at Groot Constantia to the breath-taking grandeur of the Norval Foundation and St George's Cathedral. Flagship performances have spanned millennia, juxtaposed the classical and the contemporary, and taken the choir on a voyage to the mystical Northern Lights. Through special relationships with Fine Music Radio and CapeTown Sound, VOX aims to promote South African choral music locally and across the globe. To find out more, visit [www.voxcapetown.com](http://www.voxcapetown.com).

**GABRIELE VON DÜRCKHEIM**, principal flute of the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra since 2002, received her first flute lessons from Eva Tamassy while still at primary school. After finishing her Higher Licentiate at the University of Stellenbosch, she continued her studies in England with renowned flautist Trevor Wye. During her studies, Gabriele won several prizes and awards including the category prize of the ATKV Musiq competition and the Oude Meester music competition.

She regularly performs as soloist and ensemble player in and around Cape Town notably with Luis Magalhães as duo partner, and most recently as soloist as well as in a double concerto with principal violist Petrus Coetzee with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra. She also performed as a member of the Cape Town Philharmonic Wind Quintet in online concerts with Pieter Grobler, in the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra's highly successful chamber concert series, *Symphonic Masterpieces in Miniature*, and in Concert Connect's fundraiser for the Red Cross Children's Hospital Trust with Nina Schumann, Francois du Toit and Gloria Bosman. She has also been a member of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Malaysian Symphony Orchestra and the South African National Youth Orchestra.

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)

*Liebeslieder*

Rede Mädchen, all zu liebes

Tell me, my sweetest girl,  
who with your glances  
have kindled in my cool breast  
these wild, passionate feelings!

Will you not relent, will you,  
with an excess of virtue,  
live without love's rapture,  
or do you wish me to come to you?

To live without love's rapture,  
is a bitter fate I would not suffer.  
Come, then, with your dark eyes,  
come, when the stars beckon!

Wenn so lind dein Auge mir

When you gaze at me so tenderly  
and so full of love –  
all the gloom that assails me  
fades away.

Oh, do not let this love's  
sweet ardour vanish!  
No one will love you  
as truly as I.

Am Donaustrande

On the Danube's shore there stands  
a house,  
from its windows a rosy girl looks  
out.

The girl is excellently guarded,  
ten bolts are fixed to her door.  
Ten bolts of iron – a mere trifle!  
I'll break them down,  
as though they were glass.

Nein, es ist nicht auszukommen

No, it is not possible  
to put up with these people;  
they interpret everything  
so spitefully.

If I'm happy, they say  
I harbour lewd desires;  
if I'm quiet, they say  
I'm madly in love.

Translations by Richard Stokes

GRANT McLACHLAN (1956--)

*Of Light*

Olive Schreiner

*The morning sun is shining*

The morning sun is shining on  
The green, green willow tree,  
And sends a golden sunbeam  
To dance upon my knee.  
The fountain bubbles merrily,  
The yellow locusts spring,  
Of life and light and sunshine  
The happy brown birds sing.  
The earth is clothed with beauty,  
The air is filled with song  
The yellow thorn trees load the wind  
With odours sweet and strong.  
There is a hand I never touch  
And a face I never see;  
Now what is sunshine, what is song,  
Now what is light to me?

Isobel Dixon

*Back in the benighted kingdom*

I'm sorry to see  
my mosquito bumps fade:  
the love bites of a continent,  
marks of its hot embrace.

If anything is dark,  
it's this damp island  
with its sluggish days,  
its quieter, subtler ways  
of drawing blood.

From *A Fold in the Map* by Isobel Dixon  
(Jacana, 2007)\*

Ingrid de Kok

*Hardly a star*

Because of the mossy air  
Tonight there is hardly a star  
To lead us on,  
Lend a hand

But every so often  
The Milky Way  
Weeps thinly overhead,  
Leaks colostrum light

And then land's half-lit prints,  
Firebreaks, branches, rocks,  
Can be read, can lead us on  
A little further into night.

From *Other Signs* by Ingrid de Kok (Kwela  
Books 2011)\*

Antjie Krog

*From four summer poems for Cape  
Town*

come day! come mountain  
bloused in blue  
come make me yours  
gather me against yourself  
lightsoft bundles  
of blue breast sky  
fathoms and fathoms thereof

From *Down to My Last Skin* by Antjie Krog  
(Random House, 2000)\*

\*Poem used by permission of the author

**ARVO PÄRT (1935-)**

*Summa*

I believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of  
heaven and earth,  
and of all that is, seen and unseen.  
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true  
God from true God,  
begotten not made, of one being  
with the Father.  
Through Him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation He came  
down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit He  
was born of the Virgin Mary  
and became man.  
For our sake He was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in  
fulfillment of the Scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven and is  
seated at the right hand of the  
Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge  
the living  
and the dead, and 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.  
With the Father and the Son He is  
worshiped and  
glorified. He has spoken through the  
Prophets.

I believe in One, Holy, Catholic and  
Apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.  
I look for the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

**KIM ANDRÉ ARNESEN (1980-)**

*Even when he is silent*

I believe in the sun, even when it is  
not shining.  
I believe in love, even though I feel it  
not.  
I believe in God, even when he is  
silent.

**ERIC WHITACRE (1970-)**

*Alleluia*

Alleluia

**HENRYK GORÉCKI (1933-2010)**

*Totus Tuus*

Totus tuus sum Maria,  
Mater nostri Redemptoris.  
Virgo Dei, virgo pia  
Mater mundi Salvatoris.  
Totus tuus sum, Maria!  
I am completely yours, Mary,  
Mother of our Redeemer.  
Virgin Mother of God, loving virgin,  
Mother of the Saviour of the world.  
I am completely yours, Mary!