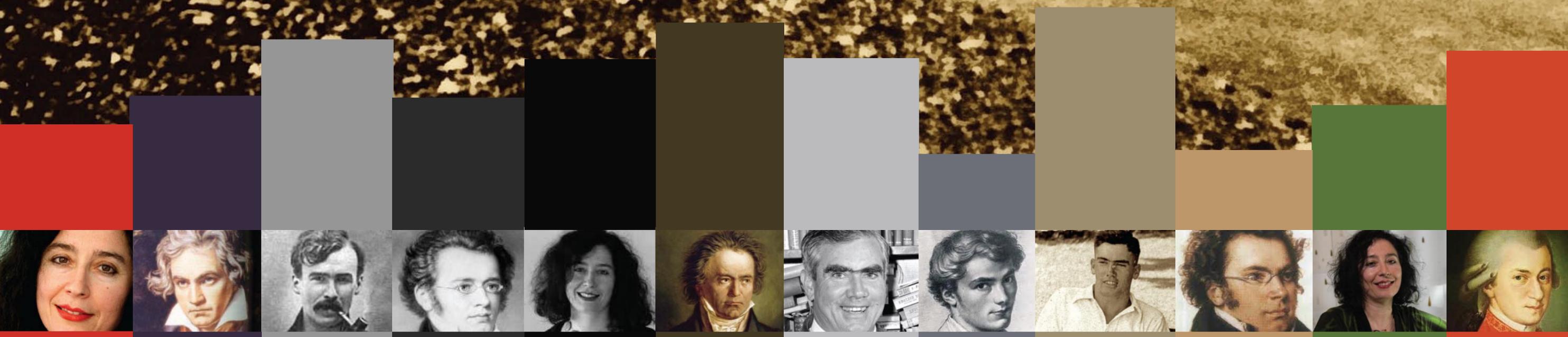


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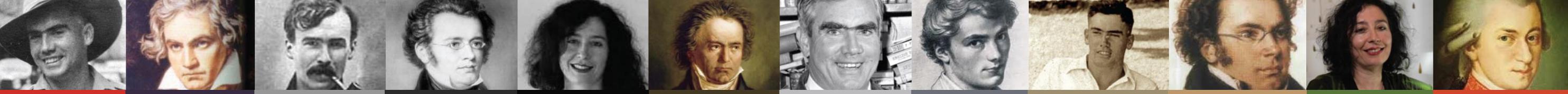
Dark Wind Blowing

WORLD RENOWNED TENOR
CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS IN CONCERT
WORLD PREMIERE PERFORMANCE

of
DARK WIND BLOWING A SONG CYCLE
BY ELENA KATS-CHERNIN WITH LYRICS BY VAL VALLIS



Arts Central Qld
Making Art Happen



CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS



A graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, Christopher Saunders is a student of Vera Rozsa and has also worked with Sir Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau. Rockhampton born and educated, Chris has sung roles for the Classical Opera Company at the Linbury Studio, Royal Opera, Covent Garden; the English Touring Opera; Opera North; Glyndebourne Festival Opera; English National Opera; Opera Holland Park; and the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company at the Queens Theatre in London's West End. Christopher is also an experienced concert artist. His engagements include singing Benjamin Britten at the Barbican Hall. He has also been featured as guest soloist on BBC Radio 2's Friday Night is Music Night and has appeared in BBC broadcasts of Lady Windermere's Fan with Penelope Keith at the Covent Garden Festival, Sweeney Todd, A Midsummer Night's Dream and La Traviata. Christopher returned to Australia briefly in 2001 to sing Elena Kats-Chernin's Rockhampton Gardens Symphony for Queensland Biennial Festival of Music in Rockhampton. Since returning to Australia to reside in 2005, Christopher has sung for the Victorian Opera, Opera Queensland, Pinchgut Opera and in many concert recitals with Australia's leading orchestras and choral ensembles.

STEFAN CASSOMENOS



Melbourne pianist, conductor and composer Stefan Cassomenos studied with Margarita Krupina, Stephen McIntyre, Ian Munro, and Michael Kieran Harvey. He completed his studies at the University of Melbourne and the Australian National Academy of Music. Stefan has appeared as a soloist in St Petersburg, Tallinn, Warsaw, Krakow, Athens, Rome, Milan, Amsterdam, London, Bangkok, and Tokyo. His 2007 London debut was described, in a Musical Opinion review by John Amis, as 'alive, passionate, and dramatic ... as if the pianist's life depended on it. This was a prodigious London debut by a formidable talent.' Stefan has performed concerti as a soloist with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria, and Youth Philharmonic Melbourne. In 2009, he was a grand finalist and prize-winner at the Trieste International Chamber Music Competition, and at the Melbourne Asia-Pacific Chamber Music Competition. Stefan's 2011 engagements include concertos with Melbourne Youth Orchestra, the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre Nouveau and a number of solo recitals throughout Australia.

ELENA KATS-CHERNIN

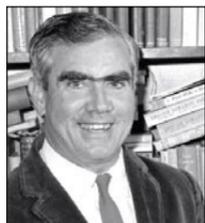
(Composer *Dark Wind Blowing*)



Born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Elena Kats-Chernin studied music in Moscow, Sydney and Hanover. Elena has created works in nearly every genre, from orchestral compositions to chamber works and choral music, among them pieces for Ensemble Modern, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Tasmanian, Melbourne and Sydney Symphony Orchestras, as well as soundtracks to three silent films. *Dark Wind Blowing* is her first song cycle. Her music featured at the opening ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games and the 2003 Rugby World Cup and she received several awards, among them the Green Room and Helpmann Awards in 2004 for the score to Meryl Tankard's ballet *Wild Swans* (Australian Ballet). Russian Rag was used as Max's theme in the 2009 'clay-mation', Mary and Max by Oscar winning director Adam Elliot. Her Eliza Aria (originally from *Wild Swans Concert Suite*) has been the music behind Lloyds TSB ads in the UK since 2007.

VAL VALLIS

(Lyric poems *Dark Wind Blowing*)



Val Vallis was born in Gladstone in 1916 and died in Brisbane in 2009. Raised and educated in Gladstone and Rockhampton (Gladstone had no High School in those days). He began writing poetry at an early age. On his return to Gladstone after graduation he took a job as a clerk with the Gladstone Council then after de-mobbing from the army after World War 2 he studied at University of Qld. Graduating with honours he then attended London University where he attained a Doctorate in the field of Aesthetics. On his return he taught philosophy and English (particularly Australian and Romantic poetry) at the University of Queensland and after retirement lectured in opera history and performance at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. He was also the Brisbane correspondent for the international Opera magazine and opera critic for Brisbane performances for The Australian.

DARK WIND BLOWING

(the song cycle)

Dark Wind Blowing is the title of Val Vallis' second collection of poetry first published in 1961, which has now been revived as the title of this song cycle by Elena Kats-Chernin. Poems from the original book have been selected as lyrics for the cycle and all bear their original titles. Many of Val Vallis' poems are love or 'broken-love' lyrics which imbue the reader with a desperate sense of impending loss. Many of these are firmly based in the imaginative geography of the Gladstone of the poet's memory but draw also on his war time and overseas experiences. The poems in the song cycle have been placed so as to create a loose narrative which traverses an arc from first love to the death of love. Val often commented that he would like to hear his lyric poems set to music and so, after his death, his estate, through his niece and nephew, Professor Susan Hamilton and Dr Bob Soltis, graciously agreed to commission Elena Kats-Chernin to compose this work. Friday night's performance is the world premiere of this atmospheric piece by one of Australia's leading composers. It is destined to become a well-loved part of the repertoire of Australian art song and a fitting memorial to a much admired poet, teacher, mentor and friend.

MOZART

Sehnsucht nach dem Fruhling
Wie unglueklich bin ich nit
Abendempfindung*
An Chloe

BEETHOVEN

Ich liebe dich*

SCHUBERT

Lied eines Schiffers an die Dioskuren
An die Laute
Standchen (Serenade)*
Nacht und Traume

QUILTER

Now sleeps the crimson petal*

BUTTERWORTH

(4 songs from *A Shropshire Lad* by A.E. Houseman)

Loveliest of trees

When I was one and twenty

The lads in their hundreds*

Is my team ploughing*

KATS-CHERNIN

(lyrics Val Vallis)

*Dark Wind Blowing: A Song Cycle**

Song for a Moonlit Night

For This, the Tide

At Tintagel

The Gull (from *Southend, Curtis Island*)

The Sleeper

*Songs performed at World Premiere Gladstone performance

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