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# Note from the Producers

Welcome to Bloom.

Bloom, as the name may suggest, has been a wonderfully organic process. With an almost seasonal quality, ideas and relationships have emerged gradually over time; pieces have been (re)discovered; and collaborations have burst forth through a mutual admiration and artistic appreciation.



Being able to work alongside artists of this calibre is always a thrill, and it's a genuine pleasure to be able to invite you to share in tonight's experience. From the familiarity of a string quartet journeying through pieces old and new, local and international; through to the unique and riveting experience of live artistic creation, tonight sees new life springing forth from every corner.

Tonight also marks the beginning of a new journey for the producers of Bloom, as we embark on a brand new creative collaboration - Gestalt Arts. Working alongside established and emerging artists from across the creative spectrum, Gestalt Arts (led by Daniella Sicari and Karl Brown) seeks to curate and cultivate extraordinary and memorable artistic collaborations across Western Australia and beyond. We warmly welcome you to join us on that journey.

And so finally, enjoy all the Bloom has to offer this evening. May it be a delight, an escape, a reminder, and a refreshing, soothing balm - in equal measure.

With our best wishes -

Daniella Sicari & Karl Brown.



# Program

## Emma Jayakumar

*Bell Birds* – suite for string quartet (2020) - 13'30"

Performed by Darlington Quartet

## Florence Price

*The Deserted Garden* (1933) - 2'09"

Performed by Semra Lee-Smith & Adrian Soares

## Amy Beach

*Les Rêves De Columbine: Suite Française*, Op. 65,

*Sous les étoiles* (1907) - 3'30"

Performed by Adrian Soares

**Gabriel Fauré** - *Les Roses d'Ispahan* (1907) Op.39, No. 4 - 3'10"

**Sergei Rachmaninoff** - *Daisies* Op. 38 (1916) - 2'30"

**Jean Sibelius** - *Var det en dröm?* (1902) - 2'10"

Performed by Jesse Chester-Browne & Adrian Soares



## ---- GALLERY ----

## Lili Boulanger

*Clairières dans le ciel* (1914) - 18'00"

1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11

Performed by Daniella Sicari and Adrian Soares

## Giacomo Puccini

*Crisantemi* (1890) - 6'30"

Performed by Darlington Quartet





# Composer Highlights

**Emma Jayakumar** is an Australian composer of opera, ballet and chamber music. A gifted singer, Emma has been the recipient of several high profile Australian singing competitions (*Herald Sun Aria, Vienna State Opera Award*), studied classical voice at the Royal Academy of Music in London and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and has performed internationally in the UK and Europe, pursuing composition professionally in 2010 with the creation and premiere of her touring work *Rather Beastly* (2011). Emma holds a practice-led PhD in composition from WAAPA (2015-2018) and has become a sought-after composer of specially devised works for young audiences, including major commissions for the West Australian Ballet (*The Adventures of Snugglepoot and Cuddlepoot*), MusicBook Stories (*Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge, Just Larking About*) the ABC (*Bell Birds Suite for String Quartet*) and West Australian Opera (*Our Little Inventor*, to be premiered October 2022)

**Florence Price** was the first African-American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra. In 1932 she and her housemate – fellow composer Margaret Bonds – entered the Wanamaker Foundation Awards. Price not only took first prize for her Symphony in E minor, she also took the third prize. (Bonds, meanwhile took first place in the song category). Her Symphony was performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and she was catapulted into her life as a composer.

**Amy Beach** is inarguably one of—if not the most—prominently recognized and performed American women composers. Beach was established as one of New England's leading composers and pianists when she married prominent Boston physician H.H.A. Beach, who asked her to limit her recitals to two a year in keeping with what he considered fitting for a society matron of the day. She made one performance per year, with the proceeds donated to charity, and one of these performances was of her own piano concerto with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1900. Following the death of her husband in 1910, she resumed performing, and toured Europe to great acclaim, performing her own music, until the onset of WWI.

At her death she left more than 300 published works, and more of her music has been published in recent decades. She declared the MacDowell Colony as her estate executor, and all earnings from her music aid in the operations and continuation of the Colony.

Hannah Lee Tungate  
*Tenth Muse Initiative*





# Composer Highlights

**Lili Boulanger** was a French composer and the first female winner of the Prix de Rome composition prize. Her older sister was the noted composer and composition teacher Nadia Boulanger.

Lili Boulanger was a child prodigy, this became apparent when, at age two, family friend Gabriel Faure discovered she had perfect pitch. Boulanger accompanied her ten-year-old sister Nadia to classes at the Paris Conservatoire before she was five, shortly thereafter sitting in on classes on music theory and studying organ with Louis Vierne.

In 1912, Boulanger competed in the Prix de Rome but during her performance she collapsed from illness. She returned in 1913 at the age of 19 to win the composition prize for her cantata *Faust et Hélène*, becoming the first woman to win the prize. The text was written by Eugene Adenis based on Goethe's *Faust*. The cantata had many performances during her lifetime. Because of the prize, she gained a contract with the publisher Ricordi.

Many of Boulanger's works touch on themes of grief and loss. Her work was noted for its colourful harmony and instrumentation and skilful text setting.

She suffered from chronic illness, beginning with a case of bronchial pneumonia at age two that weakened her immune system, leading to the intestinal tuberculosis that ended her life at the age of 24. Although she loved to travel and completed several works in Italy after winning the Prix de Rome, her failing health forced her to return home, where she and her sister organised efforts to support French soldiers during World War I. Her last years were also a productive time musically as she laboured to complete works. Her death left unfinished the opera *La princesse Maleine* on which she had spent most of her last years.

Lili Boulanger finished her *Pie Jesu* (1918) towards the end of her life, but the first sketches for the piece were found in a composition book she used between 1909 and 1913. As noted by Lili's sister, Nadia, she dictated the work to her, from her death bed.

Hannah Lee Tungate  
*Tenth Muse Initiative*





# The Music



## **Emma Jayakumar**

Bell Birds – suite for string quartet (2020) - 13'30"  
Selections performed by Darlington Quartet

The Bell Birds Suite for string quartet is inspired by Henry Kendall's poem Bell Birds, first published in 1869, in a book of collected poems entitled Leaves from Australian Forests. Each movement of the work is loosely programmed around the five stanzas of Kendall's poem, and although the work itself contains compositional elements that mimic Australian birdsong (Bell Birds, Golden Whip Birds, Djidi Djidi or Willy Wagtails, Currawongs and Bar shouldered doves) the intention of the piece is that this is the poet's experience of the bush, an emotional and profound expression of their love for the Australian bush and its animals. The focus of the piece is the expression of the rich melodies that underpin the poet's feelings portrayed in the text.

i. Largo tranquillo — "By channels of coolness the echoes are calling"

iii. Lento sognando — "Loiters knee deep in the grasses to listen"

v. Largo con dolore — "Charming to slumber the pain of my losses"

## **Florence Price**

*The Deserted Garden* (1933) - 2'08"

Performed by Semra Lee-Smith & Adrian Soares

Florence Price was the first African-American woman composer to earn national recognition in the USA. Her musical style represents her cultural heritage, but also the national Romantic style of the period.

This piece *The Deserted Garden* was inspired by blues and jazz harmonies. Price incorporates Western classical structure with modal folk like harmony. Throughout the piece Price uses the dorian mode and the pentatonic scale, which gives the piece the bluesy feeling.

After the more serious introduction, the main theme then pours out of the violin. Price's use of blue notes adds to her combination of Western classical and American South musical traditions. As the melody and accompaniment blend together the rich and sonorous writing by Price shines through the texture.

Hannah Lee Tungate  
*Tenth Muse Initiative*







# The Music

## Amy Beach

*Les Rêves De Columbine: Suite Française*, Op. 65, No. 4

*Sous les étoiles* (1907) - 3'30"

Performed by Adrian Soares

Amy Beach premiered the suite *Les Rêves de Columbine* during one of her semi-annual recitals in Boston in 1907. The five movements paint the picture of the dreams of *Columbina*. *Columbina* was the stock comic servant character married to Pierrot and the mistress of Harlequin. *Sous les étoiles*: "Under the stars," is the most dream-like and contemplative movement of the suite. It is undulating and serene but with an intense rise and return. The musical style is a very attractive late Romantic one, accomplished with exceptional imagination and skill.



**Gabriel Fauré** - *Les Roses d'Ispahan* (1907) Op.39, No. 4 - 3'10"

**Sergei Rachmaninoff** - *Daisies* Op. 38 (1916) - 2'30"

**Jean Sibelius** - *Var det en dröm?* (1902) - 2'10"

Performed by Jesse Chester-Brown & Adrian Soares

These three composers are likely more familiar to audiences than Price, Beach or Boulanger, you will often hear a Sibelius or Rachmaninoff symphony echoing through the concert halls, though less often will you hear their stunning art songs. Sibelius' *Var det en dröm?* tells a tale of betrayed love in a sad dreamy reflection. Rachmaninoff's *Daisies* is a simpler setting of being transfixed by nature and its beauty. Fauré will be the most familiar of the art song composers and *Les Roses d'Ispahan* is one of his most-loved and most-performed songs. The speaker in the poem is transfixed by Leila, so floral with his language you can almost smell her perfume. However, the magical Leila's absence causes the oranges trees and the roses to lose their fragrance, this leaves the lover pining after her.



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# The Music

## **Lili Boulanger**

*Clairières dans le ciel* (1914) - 18'00"

1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11

Performed by Daniella Sicari and Adrian Soares

When Boulanger was on her way to Italy after winning the Prix de Rome, she started reading the poetry collection *Tristesses* by Francis Jammes. Identifying strongly with a recurring character, she immediately set to work on a new song cycle. This litany of love, longing, and loss became a collection of intoxicating moments. The cycle stands with some of the best French art song, though it is rarely performed (though becoming more so in recent years). The rich harmonies wash over the listener as the music reflects the Symbolist poetry through an elaborately and masterfully woven texture of voice and piano.

Selecting thirteen of the twenty-four poems, Boulanger captures the stages of enchantment, passion, insecurity, hope, disappointment, and abandonment that form the timeless emotional progression of romantic yearning—an inexhaustible theme for artists. Tonight, you will hear eight of the songs. Each mentions a different flower, perhaps symbolising the different stages of love. The first song is the poet's tender remembrance of the heroine in a meadow. The second continues his description in a more personal vein. The fourth the poet speaks of anointing his love with "the colour of a perfume that will be nameless". Doubt returns in the fifth where he feels unworthy of the heroine's love. The seventh is a tender description of the poet's desire for a love in which no words are necessary; only a touch is needed to convey the lovers' feelings for one another. Eight recalls an impassioned calm shared with his love whilst the ninth is full of anguish, there is something lacking that he cannot describe. The final song reflects the poet's realisation that his own suffering has helped him to understand the suffering of others. This depicts the poet's anguish and resignation that the loss of his love is irrevocable.

## **Giacomo Puccini**

*Crisantemi* (1890) - 6'30"

Performed by Darlington Quartet

Puccini wrote this string quartet in just one night, dedicating it to the memory of Prince Amadeo di Savoia. He named it *Crisantemi* because in Italy chrysanthemums are associated with funereal ceremonies and events.

Hannah Lee Tungate  
*Tenth Muse Initiative*





# Creatives

## **Darlington String Quartet**

[www.darlingtonconcerts.com.au](http://www.darlingtonconcerts.com.au)

The Darlington String Quartet (DSQ) name came about through its association with the very successful Darlington Chamber Music Series (DCMS), celebrating its 19th year in 2022. Darlington is a small village in the Perth Hills known for its artists, writers and musicians. Having played together for decades, the members of DSQ officially formed the ensemble in 2018, uniting their passion for classical repertoire with strong friendship. The members of the DSQ—Semra Lee Smith (Violin 1), Zak Rowntree (Violin 2), Sally Boud (Viola) and Jon Tooby (Cello), are all highly accomplished musicians with extensive performance histories across all aspects of classical music, as soloists, chamber musicians, orchestral section principals and mentors.

The quartet regularly plays to sold-out audiences and has firmly cemented its place in the classical music landscape of WA. As well as performing much of the standard quartet repertoire, the ensemble is also a strong advocate for new music and has close associations with a number of composers, most prominently James Ledger. Most recently, they recorded Bell Birds Suite by Emma Jayakumar for ABC Classic and featured on the soundtrack to the film *Breath*, based on Tim Winton's novel. The DSQ made their Musica Viva debut in 2021 and recently performed for Musica Viva again at the Perth International Arts Festival 2022. They are also ensemble in residence at the University of Western Australia's (UWA) Conservatorium of Music.

## **Adrian Soares - Pianist**

Adrian Soares is a seasoned performer and educator, graduating from UWA with First Class Honours in 2019. While at UWA, he was awarded the prestigious Tunley Music Scholarship, VOSE Memorial Concerto Prize, Waveney Wansborough Memorial Prize and Flora Bunning Chamber Music Prize. Adrian also received the Lady Callaway Award from the Australian Society of Music Education in recognition for outstanding service as an accompanist in the field of music education.

He works as a piano tutor and accompanist for Iona Presentation College, and as a freelance pianist for many ensembles and soloists in Perth, including Perth Symphony Orchestra, WA Symphony Orchestra, Irwin Street Collective, WA Young Voices, WA Opera, WAAPA and UWA. Adrian has been a member of the Young Artist Program at WA Opera as a repetiteur, and the Graduate Artist Program at St Georges College as a collaborative pianist. He has also been a member of VOYCES, Giovanni Consort and the National Youth Choir of Australia, and has recently been music director for Priscilla Queen of the Desert at the Regal Theatre with Platinum Entertainment. Upcoming performances include *Symphony of Colour* at the Perth Concert Hall.



# Creatives

## **Daniella Sicari - Soprano**

[www.daniellasicari.com](http://www.daniellasicari.com)

Australian/British Soprano Daniella Sicari has built an international reputation as an engaging performer with a warm and sparkling tone. The emerging soprano grew up in Perth, Western Australia and works in both Australia and the UK. Daniella's recent performances include Gianetta in *The Elixir of Love* (Waterperry Opera Festival), Anne Egerman in *A Little Night Music* (Buxton International Festival), Narrator/Soldier/Devil in *The Soldier's Tale* (Banksia Ensemble), 'Sticks' in the UK premier of *The Orphans of Koombu* (BIF) and Chorus in *Sweeney Todd* (Bergen Nasjonale Opera).

Daniella is the recipient of numerous awards such as the WA Young People & The Arts International Award, Amanda Rookroft Prize, The Joyce & Michael Kennedy Strauss Prize, The James & Mary Glass Scholarship, John Cameron Award for Lieder, The Elizabeth Harwood Prize and Robin Kay Memorial Prize. In 2019 she came second at the Bampton Opera Competition and in 2020 was a finalist for the JSRB Bel Canto Awards.

She completed her postgraduate studies at RNCM under the tutelage of Mary Plazas and previously trained at WAAPA with Patricia Price, receiving a Bachelor of Music and Post-Graduate Diploma in Classical Voice.

Upcoming engagements include 'quartet' and cover Beth in the UK premiere of *Little Women* (Adamo) at Opera Holland Park and Anabel Richter in the new opera called *A Most Wanted Man* (Davismoon).

## **Jesse Chester Browne - Emerging Artist**

Jesse Chester Browne is a 22 year old Perth based soprano, recently graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts with a Bachelor of Music in Classical Voice where she studied under highly acclaimed Australian Soprano Emma Matthews.

In 2020 she made her opera debut as Juno in WAAPA's production of *Orpheus in the Underworld*, directed by Nicole Stinton. In 2021, Jesse debuted her first soprano leading role as Mabel for WAAPA's 2021 operetta, *The Pirates of Penzance*, directed by Brendan Hanson.

Jesse featured as a finalist in the 2020 Royal Overseas League (ROSL) Art Song Competition, as well as the 2021 ROSL Art Song Competition and ROSL Bach competition. Most notably in 2021 she was also awarded first place in the annual WA Opera Lovers' Aria Prize, and featured as a Young Artist with the Perth Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra.

Recent performances include singing with The Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, The Motif Collective in their Fringe World production "Wheatfield with Crows" and featuring as an emerging artist in The Rotary Club of Freshwater Bay's annual Australia Day Concert. Jesse looks forward to making her debut with Freeze Frame Opera as Gretel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, Freeze Frame's 2022 touring Opera.





# Creatives

## Honey Bunch Botanicals - Florist

[www.honeybunchbotanicals.com](http://www.honeybunchbotanicals.com)

Honey Bunch Botanicals grew from a small side hustle of putting together florals for friend's weddings to a thriving & full time creative endeavour. We are all about gloriously wild, unstructured, seasonal and statement blooms full of intention. Thoughtfully crafted and woven together to bring unique visions to life. Whether it be an intimate gathering or an extravagant celebration, our goal is to create something truly memorable and unique for every project we encounter.



## Jules Hancock - Visual Artist

[www.juleshancock.com](http://www.juleshancock.com)

Jules Hancock b.1985 is an emerging visual artist from Perth, Western Australia. Hancock's practice explores the existentialism of the human condition through the mediums of oils, drawings & watercolours. Hancock has exhibited in Juniper Galleries, The Orangery & has participated in various community art awards. For a detailed list of exhibitions, please visit Jules' website.



# Thank you

Oh behalf of all the creatives and producers at *bloom*, we would like to thank some people who have supported us. Thank you for your encouragement, contributions, time and invaluable advice.

**Randal Humich**

**Richard Evans**

**Harriet Marshall**

**Tury Sicari**

**Cheyne Buczek**

**Dave & Christine Dix**

**Minii Hair**

**Our Front of House Volunteers and amazing bar staff.**

## Thank you to our project partners:



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May 8 - The Schumann League

Piano Trio  
Piano Graeme Gilling  
Violin Semra Lee-Smith  
Cello Jon Tooby



# DARLINGTON CHAMBER MUSIC

June 12 - Bell Birds and Princes

String Quartet  
Violin Semra Lee-Smith  
Violin Zak Rowntree  
Viola Sally Boud  
Cello Jon Tooby

Darlington Town Hall, Owen Road, Darlington  
3pm start, includes an incredible afternoon tea.

# NEW WORKS

ANNI LAGOON LONA MCGUIRE  
JULES HANCOCK ROBERT HANCOCK  
MJHILO MARK RAATS

THE ORANGERY GALLERY 

OPENING FRIDAY  
MARCH 25TH 6PM-8PM

SHOW CONTINUES  
SAT 26TH, SUN 27TH MARCH &  
SAT 2ND, SUN 3RD APRIL 2022



# Symphony OF Colour

7pm Saturday 9 April 2022  
Perth Concert Hall

SYMPHONY OF COLOUR

Perth Concert Hall

Adrian Soares will be performing with  
Western Australian Wind Symphony



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