

Market Sunday Concert Series, October 30, 2022. Uniting Church Armidale.

Stephen Tafra - guitar, with special guest, Rebecca Tafra

All the music in this programme speaks in some way of love. And where there is love, loss must inevitably follow. Calan Gaeaf, Samhain, All Hallows' Eve, Halloween (call them what you will) are soon to be celebrated. I hope that the music today will honour the ancient purpose of those celebrations by providing us with pause for the contemplation of those that have gone before us.

Rebecca and I would like to dedicate the first piece in the programme to the memory of my father Drago Tafra, Rebecca's 'Dida', who passed away a year ago and is deeply missed.

Slow Music (2004) - Phillip Houghton (1954 - 2017).

1. *Hope* 2. *Adoration*

"'Hope' is about humanity, peace, gentleness, compassion, kindness. 'Adoration' is a hymn to the spiritual essence of love ... beyond words, dogma, faith, desire and suffering, loving of all life" - Phillip Houghton.

Daring to Love (2009) - Robert Davidson (1965)

A tender, melodic work that unabashedly celebrates love, written for Karin Schaupp.

Five Bagatelles (2009) - Mark Isaacs (1958)

Dedicated to the composer's uncle, Ike Isaacs (1919 - 1996)

God of the Northern Forest (1989) / **Kinkachoo, I Love You** (1998) - Phillip Houghton.

Though written almost a decade apart, Phillip suggested these two pieces be played as a pair.

"God of the Northern Forest was written for ... Sebastian Jorgensen" (1938 - 2019) "... I drew inspiration from both Sebastian's Nordic heritage and his childhood experiences growing up in the Australian bush at Eltham, Victoria ... a few images brought these diverse backgrounds and elements together. One was ... the Eltham Copper Butterfly, and the other was a painting of a dark, brooding forest by the great 20thc Swiss painter Paul Klee."

Kinkachoo is dedicated "To Lyndall, to all my friends, life, love and the whole mysterious beautiful thing." - Phillip Houghton.

The final piece of the programme is dedicated to the memory of Bruce Bellingham who passed away very recently. Some of you may remember him as VB. Bruce was a great fan of Phillip Houghton's music and was lucky enough to have met him. Both Bruce and Phillip left us far too early.



Rebecca plays a Katoh 'Alex'
Stephen plays a Richard Howell (2008, #413) and on the last item, a Jeff Kemp (2001).