

In Your Neighbourhood

MARIMBA MAGIC

6.30pm, Tuesday 16 July
St Heliers Church & Community Centre

Piazzolla (arr. Pius Cheung) *Verano Porteño*
Joey Eng *Saudade Fantasia*
Piazzolla *History of the Tango*

I. Bordel, 1900
II. Café, 1930
III. Nightclub, 1960
IV. Concert d'aujourd'hui

Paul Smadbeck *Virginia Tate*
Bob Becker *Bye Bye Medley*

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| Featuring | Steven Logan, Principal Timpani |
| Violin | Lauren Bennett Christine Haeun Lee |
| Viola | Robert Ashworth |
| Cello | Ashley Brown |
| Flute | Luca Manghi |

Programme Notes

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992) (arr. Pius Cheung) *Verano Porteño*

The Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla's signature style melded traditional Argentinian tango with jazz, Bach, Stravinsky and a madly diverse range of other influences. His resulting 'tango nuevo' style was wildly popular and brought international recognition and acclaim to the tango as an art form. *Verano Porteño* translates to 'Summer of Buenos Aires', and was written as incidental music for a play. Piazzolla went on to write three further pieces depicting the other seasons, which became the extraordinary collection of tangos *Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas* or *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*.

Pius Cheung's adaptation for marimba begins with Piazzolla's original material, then gradually becomes more and more exciting, developing in a new direction distinctive of Cheung's signature sound.

Joey Eng (b. 2001) *Saudade Fantasia*

From the composer: "Saudade is a Portuguese word that very loosely means 'the love that remains'. It is a term that is used to denote the melancholic feeling of missing someone or something; a bittersweet emotion, as it is both a feeling of sadness due to their absence and a feeling of nostalgic joy from their memory. This piece is my attempt at painting this feeling in music."

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992) *History of the Tango*

Originally written for flute and guitar, the master of the tango himself sought to chronicle the 100 years of evolution of the tango in this piece. Each movement depicts a different stage of the tango's development, from its high-spirited origins in Buenos Aires, it's expansion to encompass shades of melancholy and romance, through to its intertwining with the bossa nova and modern music.

Paul Smadbeck (b. 1956) *Virginia Tate*

This piece, named after the composer's mother-in-law who passed away tragically in 1986, is characteristic of Paul Smadbeck's compositional style. Smadbeck writes: "Musically, I wanted to initially create for the listener a mood of quiet reflection... In all of my compositions for marimba, I tend to utilize an arpeggiated style of playing which brings out both the percussive strength of the instrument as well as its legato capabilities and richness of tone."

Bob Becker (b. 1947) *Bye Bye Medley*

Bye Bye Medley, arranged by Bob Becker in 2000, features two great Tin Pan Alley songs from the 1920's – Ray Henderson's famous stop-time melody 'Bye Bye Blackbird' which is still popular as a jazz standard, and 'Bye Bye Blues', an old banjo favourite.

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