

# CONTEMPORARY PIANO MUSIC

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL  
COMPOSERS CONCERTS  
2020

7:30 Friday, 18 December 2020

TLC Theatre  
Baulkham Hills High School  
Sydney Australia



## INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the Sydney International Composers Concerts 2020! I am very glad that we can realise this event during these difficult times. I would like to thank the Hills Shire Council and Baulkham

Hills High School for their great support physically and financially.

Due to COVID restrictions, we have postponed the Contemporary Chamber Music Concert and the Contemporary Orchestral Music Concert to 2021. This year, we will only host two concerts: Contemporary Piano Music 2020 and Contemporary String Quartets 2020.

Contemporary Piano Music 2020 will be performed by celebrated Sydney based pianist Benjamin Kopp. He will premiere 5 contemporary compositions contributed by composers from Italy, USA, Taiwan and Australia.

Contemporary String Quartets 2020 will feature 4 contemporary compositions by composers from China, Mexico, Italy and Australia. All of these dreamlike new works will be premiered by the wonderful musicians of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, featuring the fabulous soprano, Laura Wachsmann.

I continue to be inspired and encouraged by those composers and musicians who dedicate themselves to the creation of new music. You are welcome to join us at these concerts in a celebration of new musical ideas, new compositional techniques, and different cultural experiences.



Dr Brian Chatpo Koo  
Artistic Director  
Sydney Contemporary Orchestra

## MAYORAL MESSAGE

Welcome to the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra's 2020 program.

I'm thrilled that we are now in a position where can once again come together and enjoy wonderful music, produced by our talented locals.



It's been a tough year, but it's been a year that has really made us stop, think and reconsider our actions.

It's been a year, where we've reclaimed some of our time and really focused on reconnecting with others.

And it's also been a year, where some of us have discovered new talents, learnt new skills or pursued new hobbies.

I want to thank the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra for their tenacity throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and for discovering new ways of sharing their music with others.

I also want to thank event organisers, the talented musicians and everyone else who has contributed to making tonight a very special evening.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Thank you.



Mayor of The Hills Shire  
Dr Michelle Byrne

# PROGRAM

CONTEMPORARY PIANO MUSIC 2020  
SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL COMPOSERS CONCERTS 2020  
SCO CONCERT No.13

PIANIST  
**BEJAMIN KOPP**

**Mutazioni**  
Matteo Tundo (Italy)

**graspinginFINity**  
Zaq Latino (USA)

**Three Moods for Piano**  
Brian T Field (USA)

## INTERVAL

**Impromptu for Piano**  
Brian Chatpo Koo (Australia)

**Piano Sonata: Psychiatric Interview**  
Chen-Hsin Su (Taiwan)



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## PIANIST Benjamin Kopp

Pianist Benjamin Kopp has performed as soloist with many major Australian orchestras, including The Metropolitan Orchestra, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria and



WASO. In 2007 he was the winner of the keyboard section of the Symphony Australia Young Performer's Awards.

In 2009, Benjamin co-founded the Streeton Trio, an all-Australian piano trio. As part of this trio, he has released four CDs (Mendelssohn Complete Piano Trios, Brahms/Ravel, Haydn/Beethoven/Smalley, Kats-Chernin) which received favourable reviews in Limelight Magazine. The trio also received positive reviews in The Strad magazine. In 2014 the trio performed in Wigmore Hall in London.

He has toured extensively throughout Europe, China, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Scandinavia, New Zealand and Australia.

While living in Europe, Benjamin performed with the Lemanic Modern Ensemble, Ensemble Contrechamps, and as part of the European Chamber Music Academy.

Recently, Benjamin has also been performing with Ensemble Offspring, Umberto Clerici, Daniel Herscovitch and the Sydney Chamber Opera.

Benjamin has studied with Daniel Herscovitch, Pascal Devoyon, Avedis Kouyoumdjian, Rita Reichman and Jennifer Hammond.

Benjamin moved back to Australia in 2013 to follow his dream of building a straw-bale home with a chamber music hall in the Blue Mountains. He now lives there with his young family.



# Mutazioni

tre brevi studi per pianoforte

**Matteo Tundo** (Italy)

**SYDNEY  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMPOSERS  
CONCERT  
2020**

**Contemporary  
Piano Music**

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## Matteo Tundo (Italy)

Matteo Tundo is an Italian composer. His primary interest in composition is the perception and cognition of the sound event, the neural mechanisms that lead to the signification of sound. His work is focused on the application of the neuroaesthetic in music composition. After his early studies in classical guitar, he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Jazz guitar, studying with Umberto Fiorentino at the Conservatory "Luigi Cherubini" in Florence and then a Master's degree in Music and New Technologies. Later he specialized in the Master Sound Technologies and Music Composition at the Conservatory "Arrigo Boito" in Parma. He studied with Marco Ligabue, Alfonso Belfiore, Javier Torres Maldonado, Alvise Vidolin, Laura Zattra, Giorgio Colombo Taccani, Angelo Farina, Esther Lamneck, Emilio Ghezzi and many others. He attended master classes in composition with Yan Maresz, Achim Bornhoeft, Daniel D'Adamo, Inaki Estrada, Karlheinz Essl, Gianvincenzo Cresta and others.

His music has been played in several Countries: Italy, Germany, Spain, United States, Iran, Korea, Japan and He participated as composer at international music festivals: Mise-En Festival (2019), Labirinti Sonori (2018), Diffrazioni Festival (2014, 2016), Estate Fiesolana (2016), Cluster Music Festival (2018), MUSLAB (2018), OUA-EMF (2017), New Music Day (2017), Mise-En Festival (2019), IISuono Contemporary Music Week (2019).

Matteo is a member of ESCOM (European Society for the Cognitive Sciences of Music).

He has released three albums: Acatalepsy (Music Republic 2014), Zero Brane (Aut Records 2015) and Equilibrio di Hardy-Weinberg (Antimateria Lab 2017).

## MUTAZIONI, for piano

In these studies for piano the term "mutation" (mutazione) refers not so much to the musical material itself, but to the perception that this process activates in the listener. The possibilities of mutation are explored through the repetition of well recognizable figures, which undergo changes sometimes evident, sometimes hidden. The form of the studies arises from the activated mutation processes, with some external elements that momentarily interrupt the flow by varying its development.



## Zaq Latino (USA)

Zaq is an artist of many mediums, originally from Philadelphia, who is making waves in the New York City music, art, and alternative-performance scenes. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Ithaca College in Composition and Voice and often jokes about having 'half a Masters' from Boston University.

As composer, Zaq has had pieces performed in New York City; Brunswick and Waterville, Maine; Saratoga Springs and Ithaca, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and St. Petersburg, Russia. Zaq's sound is genre-bending and unique, combining his love of metal, alternative rock, and Indian Hindustani music with his Western-Classical training. He makes music for the sake of music; for the excitement of discovering, exploring and organizing sound; and for the joy it brings audiences. Most recently, he collaborated with YouTube personality, "The Cello Doll" on a mutli-commission project entitled *dollHauz: f our non-piano trios for violin and cello*. The collection will be performed in its entirety and recorded in New York City summer of 2020.

Zaq will be completing his Master of Arts degree from Colorado State University this coming August.

## grasping inFINity for solo piano

grasping inFINity take sits name from the phenomenal Ada Limoñn poem, *The Noisiness of Sleep*. The first stanza reads as follows...

*Careful of what I carry*

*In my head and in my hollow*

*I've been a long time worried about  
grasping infinity*

*and coaxing some calm*

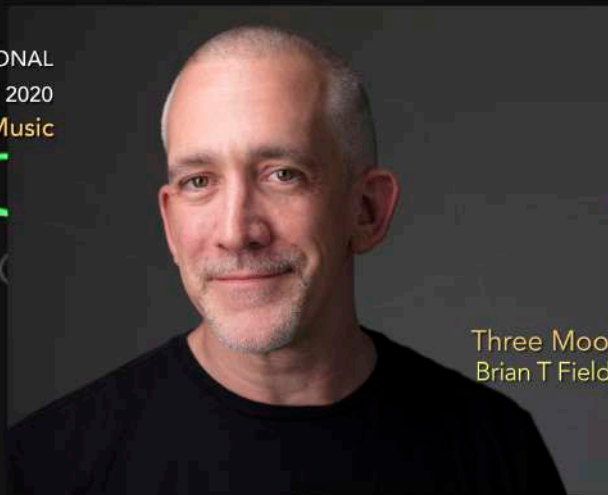
*out of the softest part*

*of the pins and needles*

*of me.*

Even now as I cite this stanza I have tears in my eyes— this is my favorite poem I have ever heard. This idea of forever grasping for something just out of reach, or grasping for the everything that is all around us, clung to me and loosely inspired the composition of this piece, not in terms of programaticism but in ideal, in feeling. The repeating parts are never exactly the same upon their return; there is something always dynamic, shifting, and evolving within this music.

Originally written for the Sigma Alpha Iota Piano Composition Competition in 2018, this piece has remained in my performance repertoire and is one of the few pieces of my own I can [attempt to] play. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do, and thank you for listening.



Three Moods for Piano  
Brian T Field (USA)



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## Brian T. Field (USA)

Dr. Brian Field's music is an eclectic fusion of lyricism and driving rhythm that brings together elements of post-romanticism, minimalism and jazz. He has received a host of awards, including the RMN Classical recording prize, the Benenti Foundation recording prize; First Prize, Briar Cliff Choral Music Competition; and First Prize, Victor Herbert ASCAP Young Composers' Contest among many others.

Dr. Field began his musical endeavors at age eight with the study of piano, and began his first serious compositional efforts at sixteen, earning his undergraduate degree in music and English literature from Connecticut College, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa. At Connecticut, he studied composition with Noel Zahler, piano with the Polish pedagogue Zosia Jazinovich, organ with John Anthony, and harpsichord/figured-bass realization with Linda Skernick.

Devoting himself to composition, Dr. Field continued his musical studies at the Juilliard School in New York City where he was awarded his Master of Music degree. At Juilliard he was a student of Milton Babbitt. From Juilliard, Dr. Field attended Columbia University, earning his Doctorate. At Columbia, he was a President's Fellow and studied composition with George Edwards and Mario Davidovsky.

Dr. Field's musical works include music for television and stage; solo acoustic, chamber, ballet, choral, electroacoustic and orchestral works. His compositions have been performed throughout the United States and internationally and are recorded on RMN Classical, Parma Recordings and Ablaze Records.

Compositions by Dr Field have been performed by the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra:

From the Clash of Race and Creed in Sydney International Composers Concerts 2018 - Contemporary Orchestra Music

"A Letter from Camp" A Civil-War Tableau for Soprano and Orchestra in Sydney International Composers Concerts 2020 - Contemporary Orchestra Music

Three Moods for Piano in Sydney International Composers Concerts 2020 - Contemporary Piano Music

Three compositions by Brian T Field have been performed by the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra:

## Three Moods for Piano

Three Moods for Piano are brief movements that explore unique rhythmic and melodic themes in sometime angular, sometime more sweeping and accessible manners.

The first movement, "Interior Dialogue," alternates a principle rhythmic theme between right and left hands; the second movement "Upon Remembrance," is a sentimental post-romantic tribute; while the last movement "Wind Dance," is a rapid flurry of rhythmic motion.



# Impromptu

Brian Chatpo Koo (Australia)

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL COMPOSERS CONCERT 2020

## Contemporary Piano Music

18 December 2020 7:30 p.m.

TLC Theatre Baulkham Hills High School  
Sydney Australia



Dr Brian Chatpo Koo is a Sydney based musician. Having studied music at the University of Hong Kong and the University of Sydney, Brian was the first person in Australia to receive a PhD degree in music composition. Supported by the Hong Kong University Grant, Brian also studied music at the International Summer Course for New Music in Darmstadt, Germany, and obtained his Licentiate and Fellowship Diplomas from the Trinity College of Music in London.

He has worked as a violinist, cellist and as a conductor in several professional symphony orchestras before settling down in Sydney in 1993. His music has been performed worldwide, including both his operas. Other notable performances include those by Sendai Philharmonic Orchestra (Japan), Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (Hong Kong), Taiwan National Symphony Orchestra, Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (Taiwan), Tasmania Symphony Orchestra (Australia), Hong Kong Symphonic Winds, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Zelanian Ensemble (New Zealand), Hong Kong New Music Ensemble, Ensemble Kochi (Tokyo Japan), Taiwan National Ensemble, Hamburg New Music Ensemble (Germany), Darmstadt Ensemble (Germany), Accordes Quartet (Toronto Canada) .

As a composer, he has been commissioned by a variety of organisations, including the Hong Kong Composers' Guild, the Hong Kong Arts Festival, and the Symphony Australia. His compositions have been performed and broadcasted over Asia, Europe, North America and Australia. He won the Hong Kong Young Musicians' Award in 1985 and the Himalaya Cup Award in the

First International Competition for Piano Composition in Beijing in 1995.

As an academic member, he has worked as a tutor/teaching assistant for the Music Department in the University of Hong Kong, a senior faculty member of the Australian Institute of Music, (where he established curricula for the Bachelor degree in Music Composition), and an external examiner for the University of Wollongong.

### Impromptu

for piano solo

Written in 1997, this Impromptu consists of three movements. Based upon the same materials of a series of major triads, these three movements are linked, related to and contrasted with each other.

The first movement, Prestissimo, is a running movement. After the thematic statement, a pouring sound erupts and it runs throughout the entire movement in a very fast tempo.

The 2nd movement, Adagio moderato is a singing movement. Contrasted with the first movement, it is slow in pace and soft in dynamic.

The 3rd movement, Allegro con brio is built upon a theme and six variations. It brings up a brilliant character and sonorities of the instrument by constantly using large range changing and contrasting high and low registers combining.



### Chen-Hsin Su (Taiwan)

SU, Chen-Hsin was born in Chiayi City, Taiwan in 1989, He graduated from the Department of Medicine at China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan, in 2015.

Dr. Su began to compose music during the university period. During 2016-2017, he has 2 musical publication ("States of Mind" and "Wanders") available at Amazon.com, including 24 Concert Etudes in all 24 key. His Piano Suite "Specific Psychopathology Studies" was awarded with an HONORABLE MENTION specially given by Maestro Artur Cimirro in the 4th Opus Dissonus Competition 2018.

Dr. Su has begun receiving psychiatry residency training programs at the Taoyuan Psychiatric Center, Taiwan since August 2017. As a holiday composer, he enjoyed composing piano pieces especially.

### Piano Sonata: Psychiatric Interview

This Piano Sonata including 2 movements. Clinical psychiatric terms are incorporated to each piece in order to associate the audience with human emotions and behaviours.

### <Explanation of the psychiatric term>

#### Paranoia:

A psychiatric syndrome marked by the gradual development of a highly elaborate and complex delusional system, generally involving persecutory or grandiose delusions, with few other signs of personality disorganization or thought disorder.

When the pianist plays this piece, he needs to imagine a picture: an eccentric and suspicious person who gradually produces a systematic delusional system.

Mood disorder, is a group of emotional disturbance that describe a serious change in mood. Special arrangements have also been made for the conversion between various emotional disorders.

#### Neuroticism:

a personality trait involving tendencies to respond with negative emotions to threat, frustration, or loss.

#### Dysthymia:

A mild, chronic form of depression that lasts at least 2 years, during which, on most days, the individual experiences depressed mood for most of the day and at least two other symptoms of depression.

#### Euthymia:

Normal range of mood, implying absence of depressed or elevated mood.

#### Hypomania:

Mood abnormality with the qualitative characteristics of mania but somewhat less intense.



# SYDNEY CONTEMPORARY ORCHESTRA



Founded in 2013 and led by its Founding Conductor, Artistic and Executive Director Dr Brian Chatpo Koo, the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra (SCO) is dedicated to exploring and promoting new music of contemporary composers.

Based in Sydney Australia and comprised of about 100 of Sydney finest professional musicians, the SCO offers high standard professional video recording service for contemporary orchestral music providing significant incentives for composers to pursue creative endeavours in new music and to enrich the music culture of our times.

Since 2013, the SCO has hosted 12 concerts - Music Contemporary 2013, 2014, 2015, Contemporary Piano Music 2014, Chamber Music 2014, and the Sydney New Music Festival 2016 which consists of six open rehearsals and 3 public concerts (Contemporary Piano Music 2016, Contemporary String Quartets 2016 and Contemporary Chamber Music 2016), Sydney International Composers Concerts 2017, Sydney International Composers Concerts 2018, and has performed and promoted

56 new works of the composers from 40 countries and regions around the world. The SCO also hosted and video recorded a Chinese New Year Concert for the celebration of the Chinese Spring Festival in 2015 which was highly acclaimed.

The vision of the SCO is to enrich the cultural life of Sydney, and to establish Sydney's reputation as a leading centre for the performance of contemporary music. The SCO promotes the music of today's composers from Australia and around the world. It is the only Australian orchestra dedicated to the performance of new music by today's contemporary composers.

The Sydney Contemporary Orchestra Inc. (ABN 83 708 568 952) and The SCO Foundation it operates is listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations under Subdivision 30-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

All Board members of the Management Committee and Managers are volunteers, enabling us to keep our funding towards employing the finest musicians and ensuring that our concerts are of the highest quality.

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Funding Conductor, Artistic and Executive Director **Dr Brian Chatpo Koo**, founded the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra in 2013. Together with about 100 of the finest Sydney professional musicians and a volunteer management team, Brian is dedicated to creating a platform where more new orchestral works can be written, performed, heard, recorded, published and became a part of our

music culture, as he believes music development history is written by composers' creativities. To encourage and to reach the pinnacle of this creativity and art, Brian believes that it must be through devotion, perseverance, determination, and most importantly through constant performances. Since 2013 the SCO has held 11 concerts, performed 38 new works of the composers from 22 countries.

Brian founded the SCO Youth Symphony (SYS), a training arm of the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra, in order to provide professional orchestral training to young musicians, as he believes with classical music training and carefully selected programs covering a variety of cultural perspectives, young musicians can be equipped to broaden their vision and to enhance their understanding of culture, civilisation and human society. With its levels of orchestras - the Sydney Hills Youth Orchestra (SHYO) and the Sydney Hills Junior Orchestra (SHJO), more than 200 young musicians have been trained and some of them became professional musicians.

He also founded a community symphony orchestra, Western Sydney Symphony Orchestra (WSSO) in 2019. To enrich the music cultural life of the Western Sydney by providing fantastic opportunities for the local music lovers to play and to enjoy classical music, the WSSO has hosted two concerts that brought a more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive local community for lovers of classical and symphonic music.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*We gratefully acknowledge our supports and our volunteer members of the Management Committee, without them nothing would have been done!*

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE BOARD

President - Dr Brian Chatpo Koo  
Vice President - Rawah Dorranean  
Secretary - Rajishwar Datt  
Treasurer - Lalesh Chand  
Linda Haworth  
Rita Lee  
Eva Lau

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Office Manager - Rajishwar Datt  
Finance Manager - Lalesh Chand  
Publicity Manager - Rawah Dorranean  
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Orchestra Manager - Rebecca Caffyn  
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Concert Manager - Rita Lee



The Hills Shire Council



Baulkham Hills High School



The SCO Foundation

[office@sydneycontemporaryorchestra.org.au](mailto:office@sydneycontemporaryorchestra.org.au)

[www.sydneycontemporaryorchestra.org](http://www.sydneycontemporaryorchestra.org)

Sydney Australia