

RARE AND REMARKABLE FIRSTS FOR DUO



Peter Burdon, *The Advertiser*
August 22, 2018 6:09pm
Subscriber only

IT was a day of firsts at UKARIA with piano duo Bonnie Brown and Louisa Breen.

Their first visit to UKARIA, and one of many, we may hope.

The premiere of a new work by Ross Edwards.

And a rare and remarkable experience of hearing two Bösendorfer grands.

The Duo are featuring Edwards and Debussy in their touring program this year, and the first half included selections from Edwards' 2001 *A Flight of Sunbirds*, and the premiere of *Lake Dreaming*, of which more in a moment.

The 'bagatelles' that make up the former are perfect miniatures, all less than a minute in duration, but in these are captured much of what makes Ross Edwards such a popular composer.

The rhythmic edge, the catchy syncopations, and downright beauty. An affected, affectionate performances.

Edwards' new *Lake Dreaming* is a fine piece. Commissioned by the Lifeflow Meditation Centre (whose director, Graham Williams, is himself a concert pianist of mean repute), Edwards' affinity with ritual music is exploited to full extent.

In the first of three 'meditations', in particular, the repetition of rhythms serves a grounding and centring function, and is altogether captivating.

Debussy's *En Blanc et Noir* is a masterwork of the highest order, a distillation of the composer's genius, given a sublime performance. And as for Rachmaninov's piano duo version of the *Symphonic Dances*, well, it was astounding. And oh! those two Bösendorfers!

Brown & Breen Piano Duo
UKARIA Cultural Centre
August 19