

TEDDY TAHU RHODES IN HIS ELEMENT AT UKARIA CONCERT WITH ACCOMPANIST KRISTIAN CHONG



Stephen Whittington, *The Advertiser*
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Teddy Tahu Rhodes is a big man with a big voice. In the modest confines of UKARIA, his voice more than filled the room.

This interesting program began very seriously with Mahler's *Ruckert-Lieder*.

Excellent accompanist Kristian Chong struggled at times to produce an orchestral texture from a fairly compact piano, while Rhodes had no trouble either being heard or conveying the late romantic drama of the music.

In Gerald Finzi's Shakespearean song cycle *Let Garlands Bring*, Chong and the Australian String Quartet provided a lovely backdrop for songs that ranged from meditations on mortality to lighthearted love songs.

Rhodes was in his element here, capturing the emotional nuances of the lyrics, and especially delightful in rollicking numbers such as *O Mistress Mine*, with its Percy Grainger-like bounce.

Vaughan William's *Songs of Travel* revealed a splendid artistic partnership between Rhodes and Chong. Loosening his tie, Rhodes inhabited these songs so completely that he became the embodiment of the wayward traveller.

The Australian String Quartet came back for a set of familiar Celtic songs, ending with a trudging rather than wistful version of *Loch Lomond*, harking back the mood of *Songs of Travel*.

Teddy Tahu Rhodes
UKARIA
November 25