

During his short life Don Banks (1923–80) enjoyed a reputation as the leading modernist among Australian composers. Studies with Mátyás Seiber, Milton Babbitt and, especially, Luigi Dallapiccola helped refine his serial technique, but his music never retreated into academic abstraction, as this recital of chamber and vocal works demonstrates: it retained a keen sense of drama, an ear for atmosphere, a rather angular lyricism and, occasionally, a touch of humour.



DON BANKS Vocal and Chamber Music

Trio for Horn, Violin and Piano (1962)

- 1 I *Lento – Allegro moderato*
 2 II *Adagio espressivo*
 3 III *Moderato*

Five North Country Folk Songs (1953)*

- 4 No. 1 Buy Broom Buzzems
 5 No. 2 My Bonny Lad
 6 No. 3 King Arthur's Servants
 7 No. 4 Bonny at Morn
 8 No. 5 O the Bonny Fisher Lad

Prologue, Night Piece and Blues for Two for clarinet and piano (1968)

- 9 Prologue
 10 Night Piece
 11 Blues for Two

- 16:10 **Three Studies for Violoncello and Piano** (1954) 7:26
 6:43 12 No. 1 *Andante – Moderato* 2:47
 5:38 13 No. 2 *Lento espressivo* 2:36
 3:49 14 No. 3 *Allegro con brio* 2:03

9:17 Sonatina in C sharp minor for piano (1948) 12:15

- 1:10 15 I *Allegro con spirito* 3:38
 2:21 16 II *Largo con espressione* 3:11
 1:20 17 III *Risoluto – Lamentevole* 5:26
 3:08 18 **Sonata for Violin and Piano** (1953) 15:05
 1:18

7:02 Tirade for mezzo-soprano and chamber ensemble (1968)* 14:17

- 2:07 19 I *Lento* 5:01
 2:28 20 II *Adagio – Allegro – Tempo* 5:46
 2:27 21 III *Vivace – Lento* 3:30

TT 81:34

Robert Johnson, horn 1–3

Ole Böhn, violin 1–3 18

Jenny Duck-Chong, mezzo-soprano 4–8 19–21

Francesco Celata, clarinet 9–11

Geoffrey Gartner, cello 12–14

Rowan Phemister, harp 19–21

David Kim-Boyle, siren 21

Alison Pratt, Daryl Pratt and

Joshua Hill, percussion 19–21

Daniel Herscovitch, piano

*FIRST RECORDINGS

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