

DOLCI BY THE BAY, CONCERT NO. 4

March 15, 2013

Ted Rust, oboe — Viva Knight, piano — Barbara Landt, flute

Vocalise, Opus 34 No. 14

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Sergei Rachmaninoff was one of the last great Romantic composers, and a superb pianist. He grew up in an impoverished aristocratic family in Czarist Russia, and attended conservatories in St. Petersburg and Moscow. Most of his compositions were written in Russia before he emigrated to the west in 1917. He wrote this *Vocalise* (a song without words) in 1912, and dedicated it to the famous Russian soprano Antonina Nezhdanova, who made it a highlight of her repertoire. It has since been arranged for a wide variety of solo instruments with piano. This arrangement was made by the great Brazilian-American oboist Humbert Lucarelli.



Trio for Flute, Oboe and Piano

Madeleine Dring (1923-1977)

Madeleine Dring grew up in a music-loving London family. Her father, an architect and amateur pianist, was a skilled improviser, with a wicked taste for “wrong-note humour” in which unexpected notes are added to conventional chords. Madeleine became fluent in the idioms of jazz, pop and musical theater, often performing in her own compositions as an actress, pianist or singer. She received a privileged education and studied at the London Conservatory under the eminent Ralph Vaughan Williams. She greatly admired the work of George Gershwin, Francis Poulenc and Sergei Rachmaninoff. The gentle humor in her music echoes that of her contemporaries Dudley Moore and the Beatles, but she considered herself an old-fashioned composer and hated the nihilistic outlook of ‘70s hard rock and extreme modernism. At nineteen, she met the promising young oboist Roger Lord to accompany him for an audition. They married two years later and had a son. She wrote many pieces to showcase Roger’s gifts, including this Trio. It was premiered in 1968 in New York City, with their friend Peter Lloyd on the flute part, Roger Lord on oboe and André Previn on piano.

