

Ted Rust, oboe – Viva Knight, piano
Barbara Landt, guest flutist
Dolci by the Bay



Concert No. 54:
Sweet Madeleine

Madeleine Dring (1923-1977) 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 her own music as an actress, pianist or singer. She received a privileged education and studied at the London Conservatory under Ralph Vaughan Williams. She admired 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 hard rock in the '70s. 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. After her early death he tirelessly promoted the publication of her work.

Three-Piece Suite (1975)

Showpiece
Romance
Finale

Madeleine Dring composed *Three Piece Suite* for the British harmonica player Douglas Tate. After her death Roger transcribed it for oboe and piano. Lord’s transcription retained glissandos across wide leaps in the melody from the harmonica version. The piece has a breezy opening, but falls from a loving waltz into deep sadness in the *Romance*. It recovers its high spirits for the *Finale*, but ends quietly.

Trio for Flute, Oboe and Piano (1986)

Allegro con brio
Andante semplice
Allegro giocoso

This *Trio* was premiered in New York City after Madeleine's death by her oboist husband Roger, their friend Peter Lloyd on flute and André Previn on piano. Based on YouTube hits it is by far her most popular composition.

NEXT CONCERT: MAY 22 AT AQUATIC PARK