



Lord Byron's DON JUAN

DUNSTAN PLAYHOUSE ♦ 12 AUGUST 9PM

AUSTRALIA ♦ ADELAIDE PREMIERE

Scintillating Romance, Passion, Humour and Intrigue

Lord Byron's self-described 'epic satire' of *Don Juan* transforms the legendary womaniser into the one easily seduced. Reimagined by writer and director Tama Matheson with soloist Karin Schaupp, it is an extraordinary interlocking blend of music, poetry and extracts from Byron's own intriguing and scandalous life. Karin Schaupp interweaves solo guitar music from Turina, Pujol, Tárrega and more with Matheson's performance, resulting in an adventurous musical, theatrical and literary experience filled with love, hilarity and high drama. It becomes almost impossible to distinguish the poem from real life stories.

"... [Karin] shows that she is not only a superb musician, but an accomplished actress and comedienne" – **Weekend Notes**

"The lyrical and moving music worked sublimely well as a counterpoint to the often rumbustious tales of Byron's hectic life, as portrayed in his epic poem *Don Juan*. Tama's performance thoroughly fulfilled the poet's intention in writing *Don Juan*—which was to "giggle and make giggle"—by keeping the audience in a ripple of amusement. Karin's amazing versatility was shown in the wonderful moment where she leaves her instrument to join Tama in a lively vignette, feigning the part of self-righteous wronged woman berating her cuckolded husband for his lack of trust" – **4MBS Classic FM**

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY Tama Matheson

STARRING Tama Matheson & Karen Schaupp

KARIN SCHUAPP

One of the most outstanding guitarists on the international scene. She performs widely on the international stage as a recitalist, concerto soloist and festival guest, and has given countless recitals in Australia, Europe, Asia, the US, Mexico and Canada. Karin's playing receives the highest acclaim from critics and audiences alike and she is held in great esteem by her peers worldwide. Her unique stage presence and magical, passionate playing have inspired several composers to write works especially for her.

Karin's guitar training began at the age of five and she first performed in public the following year. While still in her teens she won prizes at international competitions in Lagonegro, Italy and Madrid, Spain, where she was also awarded the special competition prize for the Best Interpretation of Spanish Music. Taught almost exclusively by her guitarist mother, Isolde Schaupp, Karin completed her tertiary music studies at The University of Queensland with First Class Honours, a Masters degree and was the recipient of a University Gold Medal. In 2003 she was awarded the Music Council of Australia Freedman Fellowship in recognition of her achievements, and in 2013 was awarded the prestigious Music Fellowship (2014-2015) from the Australia Council for the Arts. Karin has recorded an extensive discography for Warner Music International and ABC Classics. Her acclaimed solo debut *Soliloquy* (1997) for Warner Music was praised by UK Classical Guitar Magazine as "a pace-setting performance in all respects...". This was soon followed by the ARIA nominated bestseller *Leyenda* (Warner 1998), and then *Evocation* (Warner 2000), *Dreams* (ABC Classics 2004), *Lotte's Gift* (ABC Classics 2007), and *Cradle Songs* (ABC Classics 2010).

Her chamber music collaborations have also led to a number of recordings including three albums with the ARIA award winning ensemble Saffire, The Australian Guitar Quartet, a duo album with Genevieve Lacey (recorders), the ARIA nominated *Fandango* (ABC Classics 2011) with Flinders Quartet and most recently the double ARIA nominated *Songs of the Southern Skies* (KIN 2012) with Australian songstress Katie Noonan. Karin's orchestral recordings include the award-winning world premiere recordings of Phillip Bracanian's *Guitar Concerto* (1995 with The Queensland Symphony Orchestra), which was written for her, and Ross Edwards' *Concerto for Guitar and Strings*

(2004 with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra). Karin has also recorded Peter Sculthorpe's *Nourlangie* (2005) for guitar and orchestra with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, and *Spain* (2009 ABC Classics) featuring works by Rodrigo, Bacarisse and Castelnuovo-Tedesco with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, and the choir Cantillation. Gramophone Magazine (UK) praised the recording, saying "By combining the lapidary precision of Williams with the expressiveness of Bream, Schaupp here brings us an *Aranjuez* fit to stand alongside the best of them...". In 2014, ABC Classics released Karin's *Mosaic: Australian Guitar Concertos* album.

Karin has appeared live on television in many parts of the world: most notably performing solo to twenty million viewers and listeners in China, on the occasion of China Radio International's 50th Anniversary celebrations and solo as part of a prestigious line-up of international artists in the opening Gala of the Goodwill Games, which was broadcast live on international television. She has also appeared on German, American and Canadian television and some of her Australian television appearances have resulted in an overwhelming response from viewers with record numbers of viewers calling in. Karin also plays regularly on radio, including numerous broadcasts of live recitals, as well as countless interviews and guest appearances. Following training at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), The Australian Acting Academy, and most extensively, private tuition with Martin Challis, Karin has extended her performance activities to the theatrical stage. Combining her love of music and passion for acting, Karin starred in some 150 performances of *Lotte's Gift*, a play written especially for Karin by David Williamson, Australia's best-known and most prolific playwright. The work enjoyed its international premiere with a four-week season at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2009.

Other recent performance highlights include concertos with the London Philharmonic Orchestra (UK) in London's Royal Festival Hall, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra (USA), the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, and performances at the World Expo (Aichi, Japan), Hong Kong Arts Festival, and APEC Summit in Sydney, Australia, and her 2013 International Concert Season tour with Pavel Steidl for Musica Viva Australia.

Karin is Head of Classical Guitar at the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University. She lives in Brisbane with her husband Giac and two young children.

TAMA MATHESON

Tama is the director of Classic Productions Theatre Company in Brisbane, as well as Artistic Director of the Brisbane Shakespeare Festival. His directing credits include *Falstaff* (Oper Graz), *The Love of the Nightingale* (Opera Australia); *Amadeus* (Classic Productions); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Garnet Productions, Sydney); *Henry V* (Shakespeare on Oxford); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare on Oxford; Queensland Symphony Orchestra); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Shakespeare on Oxford); *The Tempest* (Classic Productions); *A Christmas Carol* (4MBS Christmas Festival); *The Night before Christmas* (4MBS Christmas Festival); *Prometheus Unbound* (Classic Productions); *Don Giovanni* (4MBS Music Festival); *Tosca* (4MBS Music Festival); and *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Queensland Conservatorium).

He has worked with directors such as Franco Zeffi relli (*I Pagliacci*, Covent Garden), Elijah Moshinsky (*Lohengrin*, Covent Garden), and Ian Judge (*Tannhäuser*, Teatro Real, Madrid; *Der fliegende Holländer*, Markinsky Theatre, St. Petersburg; *The Mikado*, D'Oyly Carte, London).

His production of *Amadeus* in 2013 won Brisbane's prestigious Matilda Award for 'Best Production'.

As an actor he has performed in *Heartbeat* and *Eastenders*, and played the roles of Romeo and Lysander (British Touring Shakespeare Co.), Ariel (*The Tempest*), Oberon (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Mozart (*Amadeus*) – for which he received a Matilda Award nomination for Best Actor – Sgt. Troy (*Far From the Madding Crowd*), Henry V (*Henry V*), Duke Ferdinand (*Duchess of Malfi*), and Otto in Noël Coward's *Design for Living*, with the Queensland Theatre Company.

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