The Sweets of May

Jane Austen in the Garden

Gillian Dooley (soprano) Fiona McCauley (piano) Charlotte Fletcher (violin)

St John's Church, Reid, Sunday 17 April 2011, 2pm

Programme

Love in the Garden

William Shield, 'The Thorn'
Thomas Moore, 'Here's the Bower'
G.F. Handel, 'Ask if yon Damask Rose be Sweet' (from Susanna)

La Rose (Cotillion) (Piano solo)

Figurative Flora

Thomas Percy, 'Sweet Smells the Briar' (Ancient Sonnet by Spencer) Hush-aby Baby (with violin) Stephen Storace, 'The Sapling Oak' (from The Siege of Belgrade)

J. Woelfl, A Favorite Polonaise, no. 2, 'Bouquet de Flore' (Piano and violin)

Nymphs and Shepherds

Thomas Arne, 'Nymphs and Shepherds' 'Laisse la sur l'herbette' Thomas Carter, 'Oh Nancy' (with violin) Krumpholtz, 'Hither love thy beauties bring'

Thomas Arne, 'Lotharia' (Piano solo)

Joys of the Country

Charles Dibdin, 'The Joys of the Country' (with violin)
J. Ambrose, 'Their Groves of Sweet Myrtle' ('Song from Burns') (solo voice)
James Hook, 'Dear is my little native vale'

The Music

The music presented today is selected from the Austen family music collections owned by the Jane Austen's House Museum, Chawton, and descendants of the Austen family, and held at the Hampshire Records Office, Winchester, and at Chawton House Library. Many of these transcripts were made directly from the manuscripts during a research trip to England in 2010. Most are available online in the Flinders Academic Commons http://dspace.flinders.edu.au/dspace/handle/2328/15193

Almost all the music dates from the second half of the 18th century, and much of it is English, reflecting the tastes of the typical domestic music-maker of the time. Pastoral and botanical themes often appear in these songs, which make them ideally suited to the theme of the 2011 Jane Austen Festival in Canberra – Jane Austen in the Garden – where this concert was presented in April.

The Musicians

Gillian Dooley began piano lessons at the age of 6, and has studied singing with Eleanor Houston, James Christiansen, Roger Howell, Beverley Peart and, more recently, Cheryl Pickering. She sings with Graduate Singers, Adelaide, and has appeared as a soloist with Adelaide Baroque and at Flinders University's 'Fridays at the Library' and Music Advisory Committee concerts. Gillian is Special Collections Librarian at Flinders University Library, and an Honorary Research Fellow in English at Flinders University.

She first devised Jane Austen's Music for the Flinders 'Fridays at the Library' series in May 2007, and, with a variety of co-performers, has presented versions at the 2008 and 2010 Adelaide Fringe Festivals, the Adelaide Lyceum Club, and the Jane Austen Festival in Canberra in 2009 and 2010. In 2010 she sang and played at the Jane Austen Festival in Bath and the Jane Austen Society Conference in Harrogate, UK.

Fiona McCauley is a graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music in Glasgow. She was a senior classroom music teacher for over forty years in Scotland, England and Adelaide. Since retiring from the education sector, she has been able to pursue her love of accompanying, and has played for choirs, vocalists and instrumentalists. She has been playing the piano for Jane Austen's Music since 2009.

Charlotte Fletcher is a biological sciences student, currently based in Sydney, with a passion for all things Austen and all associated topics. She has been involved with the music side of the festival since its beginnings four years ago.