

MARGARET BRANDMAN
BINNA BURRA DREAMING

FIVE WORKS FOR CELLO WITH PIANO



ARIEL VOLOVELSKY
VIOLONCELLO

MARGARET BRANDMAN
PIANO



MARGARET BRANDMAN COMPOSER/PIANIST

Highly awarded composer and recording artist Margaret Brandman has achieved international recognition for her substantial body of works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, piano, solo voice, and choir that have been published, recorded, performed and broadcast world-wide.

ARIEL VOLOVELSKY

Is held in high regard internationally as solo 'cellist, and as 'cellist of the award-winning Felix Quartet, performing in such prestigious festivals as the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival (Finland) and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music 2022.



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A painting of a landscape with gnarled trees and a path. The scene is set in a wooded area with several large, weathered trees in the foreground. A dirt path winds through the trees towards a green field in the background. The lighting is soft, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

BINNA BURRA DREAMING 9:10

FOUR CASTLES OF STONE 2:49

ARIEL'S DREAM 6:05

UNIVERSAL TRUTH REMAINS 2:43

SNOW GUMS IN SILVER MOONLIGHT 3:38

BINNA BURRA DREAMING

'Binna Burra' is the Australian aboriginal place name for
'where the Beech Tree grows'

Margaret Brandman has composed two versions of this work - one for 'cello recorded for the Binna Burra Dreaming album (Elk0009). and another for violin recorded in the Czech Republic by Vít Mužík the concert master of the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra together with pianist Lucie Kaucká. The violin version appears on her **SENSATIONS - Wind, Waves, Birds and Fire** on the Navona Label (nv6041).

Inspiration for the composition.

In 1988 composer Margaret Brandman moved to Glenbrook in the Blue Mountains where she spent 16 years raising her young family. She really enjoyed living amongst the trees, listening to native animal and bird sounds, for instance the noisy possums at night and the cockatoos and the Eastern Spinebill birds during the day. While living there she and her family experienced two major bush fires after which she composed the award-winning work Firestorm Symphony (also available on SENSATIONS). Since then Margaret Brandman has composed several pieces which reflect the Australian landscape, flora and fauna.

One of the piano pieces in her collection is **Minnamurra Rainforest Dreaming**, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5oEPyONRmA> . As she was composing the work for cello, she wondered if there were another rainforest area in Australia? She discovered the world-heritage site among the Gondwana Rainforest of Australia, located in Queensland near the Gold Coast called **Binna Burra**, a site that has been used by the local indigenous peoples for shelter and cooking since ancient times.

BINNA BURRA DREAMING FOR CELLO WITH PIANO

As you listen to this work you may hear various aspects connected to the landscape incorporated into the music. The work presents equally challenging roles for the two performers. The very first motif is a didjeridoo-like rhythmic figure played by the cello. After each statement of the motif on the cello, the piano responds with gentle chords suggesting the breeze blowing through the Beech trees.

As you are transported on this musical journey through the ancient forest, the slow and delicate sections using ethereal sounds, may conjure up the ancient spirits, while in the bravura sections and lively sections with contemporary rhythms, you may imagine the sounds of the myriad of plant, bird and animal life in the forest area. Or you may prefer to just sit back to enjoy a purely musical and ear-tingling experience.

FOUR CASTLES OF STONE

Four Castles of Stone for cello is a re-imagining of Margaret Brandman's original art-song for the Taurus star sign, inspired by the lyrics of Astropoet Benita Rainer. The vocal version is one of twelve songs in their **Cosmic Wheel of the Zodiac** song cycle performed by the Prague Mixed Chamber Choir in 2017 and released on the Navona Label (nv 6041). The lyrics ' We will build four castles of stone, to keep us safe and warm ' influenced the choice of the warm and dusky key of F minor for the song. The added cello effects including tremolos and harmonics add an ethereal quality to the work.

ARIEL'S DREAM

Ariel's Dream is a reflective and emotional work dedicated to cellist Ariel Volovelsky for whom the piece was composed. The melodic material extends over the entire 'cello range, from the low and resonant sounds of the bass strings, through to the high register where the 'cello is able to emulate a violin. The work includes many expressive string techniques including harmonics, ponticello and pizzicato, as well as some challenging bravura sections.

The composition revolves around two tonal centres, C minor and G minor. Throughout the work the supporting piano part includes pleasant and sonorous modern harmonies. The cello and piano parts are interwoven with equally challenging roles. The piece is composed in a broad ternary form, with an introduction and closing section.

UNIVERSAL TRUTH REMAINS

Universal Truth Remains is another of Margaret Brandman's songs re-imagined for cello and piano. This stirring song for the Aquarius star sign, was inspired by the lyrics of Astropoet Benita Rainer, as part of the **Cosmic Wheel of the Zodiac** song cycle. The song cycle set both for solo voices and for choir, was performed and recorded by the Prague Mixed Chamber Choir in 2017.

The album is released on the Navona Label (nv 6041).

The masterful playing of Ariel Volovelsky in this arrangement for cello explores the wide range of the cello, from the deep tones of the low register to delicate passages in the upper register of the instrument.

SNOW GUMS IN SILVER MOONLIGHT

Snow Gums in Silver Moonlight is an extended and enhanced arrangement of 'Snow gums in the Moonlight', included in Margaret Brandman's album of solo piano pieces titled 'Twelve Timely Pieces'. The key chosen for this rather ethereal work, is G minor. The time-signature is 7 quarter notes per bar.

At times the theme is derived from the subtle Aeolian mode while at other more dramatic moments the melody and harmonies include the raised seventh from the harmonic form of the minor scale. The introductory measure is peppered with jazz-influenced chromatic harmonies leading to the arpeggiated piano accompaniment figure, establishing the twilight mood. The flowing lines and wide range allow for expressive performance, ably performed by Ariel Volovelsky.

The music is quite fluid with the melody and accompanying lines shared equally between the instruments. The introductory material recurs at the end of each section which helps to define the form and unify the work.



Painting courtesy Sylvie Carter www.artwithsylvie.com

To purchase the sheet music for each of these pieces, please visit
String Works | Margaret Brandman Music

Recorded in high definition at Elkwood Studios,
The Blue Mountains Australia Original Audio 32bit 384kHz

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ELKWOOD

ADDITIONAL ALBUM CONTENT



ELK0009