

Dr. Jeanell Carrigan

Sydney Conservatorium of Music (Australia)

Biography

Dr Jeanell Carrigan is currently an Associate Professor in the Collaborative Piano Unit at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. She has performed throughout Australia and Europe as a soloist, chamber musician and collaborative duo partner. Her area of research is Australian solo piano repertoire and more recently the piano music composed by early 20th Century Australian women composers. In May, 2019 she released her twenty-third CD of Australian solo piano and chamber works. Publications include several books, most recently, *Composing against the Tide* and over twenty critical editions of piano and chamber music written by Australian Women.

Topic Presented

Revisiting the Music of my Cultural Heritage

Abstract

A surprisingly large number of women born in Australia between 1860 and 1915 became composers of piano music. For most of them this was not a task easily accomplished. They did not always receive encouragement, let alone earn a living from their creative work. Many of these composers have been largely forgotten, some of their works irretrievably lost.

Although some achieved certain renown in their lifetime and their music was performed and published, most are completely forgotten today. Why have most of them been forgotten, their music relegated to library archives? Was it because their music has since been classified as old-fashioned - or because they were women composers? Were their battles any harder than those of their male peers at the same time? Was it because they wrote using outdated idioms? This lecture recital will present some of the amazing works for piano written by composers such as Iris de Cairos- Rego, Kitty Parker, Dulcie Holland, Margaret Sutherland, Esther Rofe and Meta Overman all of which have been recently rediscovered, recorded and published. The compositions are well-crafted and appealing, addressing pedagogical concerns while at the same time establishing a portrait of Australian musical society of the early twentieth century.