

Emma Farquharson – A Feather on the Breath of God

The concert is called "A Feather on the Breath of God" after a comment written by the 11th century theologian Bernard of Clairvaux, upon hearing Hildegard of Bingen's lyrical anthems for the first time. With the intention of being an all-female cast (violinist TBA), this special classical music concert showcases and celebrates the exquisite and profound compositions of women, anywhere between the year 500 AD to the 1980s. Beginning with an a cappella rendition of the first woman-of-colour composer, Kassia, highlights also include Fanny Mendelssohn, Amy Beach, Madalena Casulana, and the Comtesse de Dia. Accompanying Emma will be pianist Nina van Schoor, and a violinist (TBA). Details regarding Arena and Spirit Festival performances TBA shortly.

A SAMRO scholarship, and Standard Bank Encore Ovation Award (*Opera Found* 2017) recipient, KZN-born Emma Farquharson is currently midway through her Honours in Music at Rhodes University. Known for her "extraordinary stage presence, musicality, and acting abilities", Emma has successfully staged five solo shows during her 3 years as an Undergraduate. She hopes to continue putting on shows that involve interesting instrumental and/or cross-genre collaborations, as well as celebrate the music of South African, and female, composers.

Nina van Schoor is a piano teacher and the accompanist for St Andrews Senior Prep. In 2000 she won the Betty Shuttleworth Piano Scholarship from Rhodes University and is currently studying towards her MMus. Her public piano appearances include performing in the New Music Indaba on the main programme in the Grahamstown festival in 2001 and in the Rhodes University Gala Concert in 2017.