

NOCTURNE
For violin & piano

PROGRAMME NOTES

Nocturne was originally conceived as a contrasting companion piece for a lively and more complex work called *The Flame*. Both violin and piano scores are inspired by the writings of Rabindranath Tagore and the listener will discern the influence of classical Indian raga from time to time. The *Nocturne*, though, is substantial enough to be performed alone. Structurally, the music mirrors the layout of Tagore's poem depicting a night journey of the soul addressed as a bird; its repeated refrain "Bird, O my bird, listen to me, do not close your wings" corresponds with a repeated musical refrain creating a loose rondo-like form.

Australian violinist, Carolyn Lam, and the composer gave the premiere on 12 April 2007 in Berlin. The Australian premiere followed in 2010 with Sophie Rowell (violin) accompanied by the composer at the Australian Chamber Music Festival in Townsville, Queensland.

An English version followed when I was invited to be Composer-in-Residence at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in 2010. The Festival's Director, Piers Lane, had devised a morning family concert and requested an English version of the text. On this occasion, the Australian premiere was performed by the Belgian Gardens State School Choir conducted by Malcolm Cook with Piers Lane and the composer at the piano on 31 July 2010 in the Townsville Civic Theatre.