



Zoe Knighton/Pia Johnson Bach Project

fortyfivedownstairs
performed on 21 April 2021

Suite No. 1 in G BWV 1007

Prelude (*Optimism I*)
Allemande (*Grandma's blanket*)
Courante (*A dog's life*)
Sarabande (*Precious gifts*)
Menuet 1 (*Discoveries*)
Menuet 2
Gigue (*Twirling*)

Suite No. 2 in D minor BWV 1008

Prelude (*Contemplating crossroads*)
Allemande (*But it's art*)
Courante (*Toast*)
Sarabande (*She's there*)
Menuet 1 (*Someone's treasure*)
Menuet 2
Gigue (*Forgotten dreams*)

Suite No. 3 in C BWV 1009

Prelude (*The joy of industry I*)
Allemande (*Only me*)
Courante (*Winter nights*)
Sarabande (*Clarity within I*)
Bouree 1 (*Journeys I*) Bouree 2
Gigue (*The joy of industry II*)

Suite No. 4 in E flat BWV 1009

Prelude (*Journeys II*)
Allemande (*Strength*)
Courante (*Joy in numbers*)
Sarabande (*It's home*)
Bouree 1 (*Conversations*)
Bouree 2
Gigue (*Solo twirling*)

Suite No. 5 in C minor BWV 1011

Prelude (*Until next time*)
Allemande (*Domestic exhaustion*)
Courante (*Loud*)
Sarabande (*Light*)
Gavotte 1 (*Until morning*)
Gavotte 2
Gigue (*Tomorrow*)

Suite No. 6 in D BWV 1012

Prelude (*Fire*)
Allemande (*Clarity within II*)
Courante (*Youth*)
Sarabande (*Holding yourself*)
Gavotte 1 (*Survival*)
Gavotte 2
Gigue (*Optimism II*)

Pia Johnson is a photographer and visual artist whose practice emerged out of a concern with issues of cultural identity and difference, stemming from her mixed background of Chinese and Italian-Australian descent. These themes have underpinned her interest in memory, cultural spaces and performance – where she often features her works – to investigate notions of transcultural identity, belonging and otherness through photography, moving image and installation. Her work has been exhibited across Australia and internationally and is collected in private and public collections including the National Gallery of Victoria.

Known as one of Australia's distinctive performance photography and portrait artists, Pia has commissions from all the major and small to medium performing arts organisations in Australia. Pia has been a finalist in many photography awards and is regularly invited as a guest speaker and artistic advisor for a range of organisations. She currently teaches at RMIT University School of Art in undergraduate and Master programs.

Pia holds a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual arts) and Diploma of Modern Languages (Mandarin) from the University of Melbourne and is currently a PhD (Fine Arts) candidate at RMIT University.

'Pia Johnson's work not only references feminism and transculturality, and from my point of view, a remarkable precision, in questioning the well worn assumptions of identity discourse and its sentimentality. Rather these works are, to me, elegant and acute reworkings of our observations towards heritage, and an opening out to multiple and heterogeneous possibilities of linkages where the dynamics of difference, becoming and resonance form our relation to our fore bearers, through the eyes, as if from the innocence of a child seeing the world anew.'

... taken from John Young Zerunge's opening night speech from *She that came before me* (2018)

Zoe Knighton is a founding member of Flinders Quartet, one of Australia's finest chamber ensembles. Flinders Quartet has toured internationally, nationally and appears regularly in Australian festivals as well as their own celebrated subscription series. The group has commissioned many works, been nominated for an ARIA for best classical album and continues to be a champion of Australian Chamber music.

Zoe has played numerous concertos with Melbourne Orchestras, and with pianist Amir Farid made an impressive debut at the Melbourne Recital Centre to great critical acclaim in 2009. Their partnership has resulted in recordings for ABC, concerts throughout Australia and the release of six CDs on the MOVE label. Zoe's three other titles on the MOVE label include the complete suites for solo cello by J.S Bach.

Zoe has been praised for her *'thrilling tenor sound'* (Limelight Magazine), *'sublime phrasing'* and for *'carrying off great technical demands with ease.'*

Recent projects have included expanding Flinders Quartet's regional engagement by becoming Artistic Patrons of the John Noble Quartet Program and initiating a secondary school residency at Footscray City College that incorporates the study of Shostakovich and Bartok quartets with other areas of the curriculum such as dance, media, art and drama.

'Knighton has produced a reading of great artistic integrity.' Gordon Kerry

'She radiates confidence in her work and participates with personality and no little finesse. "Well worth hearing for the pleasure given through this player's familiar warmth and honesty of musical character.' Clive O'Connell

Zoe is artistic patron of Resonance String Ensemble in Woodend and plays on a 2020 cello made by Australian maker Rainer Beilharz. In order to maintain conversations with her children, she is a proud supporter of Hawthorn Football Club and Yarraville Seddon Eagles.

A huge thank you to everyone at fortyfivedownstairs – what a team!

A shout out to David and Polly at Delatite Winery, total champs for supporting this event.