

Silver Winds Ensemble – A Sonic Celebration of Style and Soul

3 June 2025 · [Live performance review](#)

(<https://www.2mbsfinemusicsydney.com/category/liveperformancereview/>) · [Xavier Bichon](#)

(<https://www.2mbsfinemusicsydney.com/category/xavierbichon/>) · Xavier Bichon



The Silver Winds Ensemble delivered a captivating performance at the Mosman Art Gallery on Sunday 18 May, *Bach to Brandman and Beyond*.

Flautists **Mark Underwood** and **James Fortune**, accompanied by the radiant composer-pianist **Margaret Brandman**, offered a musical experience that shimmered with diversity, finesse, and flair.

Set in the acoustically rich Grand Hall of the Mosman Art Gallery, the program masterfully bridged centuries of musical expression. From the structured elegance of **J.S Bach** and **Georg Philipp Telemann** to the vivid lyricism of **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** and the modern pulse of **Margaret Brandman's** original works, the audience was swept into a kaleidoscopic soundscape. The air sparkled with **Mark Underwood** and **James Fortune's** flutes' crystalline tones, buoyed by **Margaret Brandman's** eloquent playing but it was never overpowering, always empowering.

The crown jewel of the concert was the world premiere of Brandman's *Silver Winds Suite*, a luminous dialogue between **Mark Underwood's** refined articulation and **Margaret Brandman's** nuanced accompaniment. It was a celebration of musical partnership, intimate yet grand.

My favourite moment was **James Fortune's** performance of **Francis Poulenc's** *Sonata for Flute and Piano*, filled with emotional depth and a level of artistry that were deeply moving. **Margaret Brandman's** support on the piano added colour and some kind of French atmosphere without ever demanding the spotlight.

The unique interpretation of the cherished Australian folk song *Waltzing Matilda*, reimaged by both **Margaret Brandman** and **James Underwood**, delighted with charm and ingenuity.

The afternoon also featured selections from **Margaret Brandman's** *Cosmic Wheel of the Zodiac cycle* and the Latin rhythms of her latest album *La Vida Apasionada suite*, which indeed concluded the concert with an explosion of passion and life.

The Silver Winds Ensemble didn't just perform music; they painted it in vibrant, unforgettable strokes.

-Reviewed by Xavier Bichon

Click [HERE](#)

(<http://www.margaretbrandmanmusic.com.au>) to visit Margaret Brandman's website for the upcoming concerts.

Watch pianist **Margaret Brandman** and flautist **Mark Underwood** performing *Waltzing Matilda*:

1:12 / 1:16

