



Artist: Margaret Brandman
Labels: Navona Records, Ansonica Records,
ModernClassicalX, Ambition Records
**International
Publisher:** Furore Verlag

MARGARET BRANDMAN – BIO

"The music of Margaret Brandman is superb – modern works with a tonal basis, a melodic richness and yet possessed of a clear and innovative compositional voice, characterized by an engaging harmonic world, a great sense of architecture and a powerful and poetic expression." — *Marilyn Schock, Presenter FINE MUSIC FM Sydney, Australia*

Multi-award-winning composer **Margaret Brandman** has received wide acclaim for her powerful compositions, characterized by an original tonality, melodic richness and engaging expression. Her catalogue of works includes orchestral works, chamber works, piano works, solo instrumental pieces as well as vocal and choral works, composed across a wide range of genres from contemporary classical through to Jazz and Latin-American. Her music is performed regularly in concert by both herself and a cohort of highly skilled performers and receives world-wide and international airplay.

Margaret Brandman began her musical studies at age four, studying accordion and piano, taking up both guitar and clarinet in her teens. Her education, supported by formal studies in piano, clarinet, harmony and composition at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, covered many styles of music.

Ms. Brandman was awarded a scholarship to the University of Sydney, where she studied composition with Australian contemporary classical composer Peter Sculthorpe. In 1975 she was awarded the B. Mus (Composition), having already acquired her A. Mus A. (piano) and Teacher of Pianoforte diploma. She has since also been awarded the F. Comp. ASMC, F. Mus. Ed. ASMC and L. Perf. ASMC degrees by the Australian Society for Musicology and Composition, Hon. FNMSM (UK), the Dip. E in Piano Pedagogy of the World Piano Teacher's Association (Serbia) and the Hon. D.L from the IBC. She has also received the World Forum's *Distinguished Intellectual Contribution Award* (2012) for the continent of Australia for her performances and lectures in the UK. She has twice taken out the BEST FOREIGN COMPOSER award from the Artemis Film Festival in Los Angeles. In 2021 she won the award for SPIRT VISIONS Symphonic Tone Poem which appears on Polarities Vol.2 (nv 6353) and in 2019 she won the award for *Firestorm Symphony* (III) which appears on her solo album SENSATIONS – Wind, Waves, Birds and Fire (nv6041). In May 2023 her album *Binna Burra Dreaming* (cello with piano) released on the AMBITION LABEL (AMB (201) achieved number one position in the Australian Classical and Classical/Crossover ARIA charts. In March 2025 her album *La Vida Apasionada* version for small ensemble commissioned by Vov Dylan released on the AMBITION LABEL (AMB (292) and also achieved number one position in the Australian Classical and Classical/Crossover ARIA charts.



Margaret Brandman has been performing and recording in Australia and internationally for many years.

2026 concerts

- 1) Mundell Brandman Duo concert presented at Sydney Conservatorium on the 16th of April.
The major item was Brandman's eight movement *La Vida Apasionada* suite arranged especially for Clarinet and Piano, performed by Jared Mundell and the composer.
- 2) The DOLCE TRIO concert for Classics at Picton, on the 24th of May, with mezzo Soprano Désirée Regina who sang items from their collaborative work *Songs of Love and Desire*, and Jared Mundell who performed the *La Vida Apasionada* Suite, plus the premiere of a new work 'Towards the Light'

2025 concerts

- 1) The *La Vida Apasionada* Album Launch concert presented by Vov Dylan and the Palace Orchestra, 26th of March, at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre in Penrith, NSW.
- 2) Two concerts presented by internationally renowned Flautist Mark Underwood, Australian Flautist James Fortune, and Margaret forming the *Silver Winds Ensemble* on the 18th and the 25th of May. The ensemble performed Margaret's *Silver Winds* suite, a three-movement work commissioned by Mark Underwood, and several of Margaret's own arrangements of her works for two flutes and piano.
- 3) A performance with Mark Underwood of her *Silver Winds* suite at a concert at St Alfege Church in London on the 1st of November
- 3) A performance of Margaret's *Bossa Sonora* for Cello with Piano by Ovidiu Marinescu and Carl Cramer at Carnegie Hall in New York. Margaret attended the concert and was acknowledged on stage.

2024 concert

In September 2024 her work *Fiesta de la Luz*, commissioned by the Beecroft Orchestra, received its premiere performance at their "New Sounds for Spring" concert.

2023 concerts

- 1) The *Binna Burra Dreaming* Album launch concert (26th of March);
- 2) The *Century of Australiana* Concert (June 25th);
- 3) Two international concerts of her songs, piano solos and violin works presented in Amsterdam (September 9th and 10th)
- 4) the premiere of her *Look Around Suite* for Clarinet Ensemble at the Sydney Conservatorium (October 25th).

Earlier Australian concerts include the **Highlights & Premieres** concert held on the 18th of September 2022 in which her music for solo strings, string ensemble, voice and piano were performed, the *Rhapsodies to Rhumbas* concerts (2013 & 2015), the 2016 concert in Sydney with Baritone Martin Cooke of the Bavarian State Opera Company, who premiered the solo settings of *Cosmic Wheel of the Zodiac* song cycle, composed to the lyrics of Astropoet Benita Rainer.



In September 2017, in the concert hall at the Czech Music Museum, the Prague Mixed Chamber Choir under the direction of Jiří Petrdlík, premiered the choral settings of Cosmic Wheel of the Zodiac. In 2018, to celebrate the launch of the Cosmic Wheel of the Zodiac album, Coro Austral presented the Australian premiere of the work.

Her early albums include **Sonorities**, **Images** and **Songs of Love and Desire**, a song cycle of six passionate songs composed to the lyrics of Désirée Regina. Since 2016 Parma Recordings (USA) has produced five albums of her music - **Sensations - Wind, Waves, Birds and Fire** (NV6041) featuring orchestral and chamber works recorded by the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, **Abrazo** (AR0001), recorded in Cuba that includes the suite *Warm Winds in Havana* for saxophone quartet and percussion, **Cosmic Wheel of the Zodiac – a song cycle for the 12 signs of the Zodiac** (NV 6160), **Polarities Vol.2** (NV 6353) including her award winning symphonic tone poem *Spirit Visions*, also recorded by the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra and her orchestral work *Gentle Summer Rain*, on **Symphonic Chronicles Vol 2**, (NV 6584)

String recordings

In 2021 Margaret Brandman was commissioned by Australian concert violinist Vov Dylan and the Palace Orchestra to compose LA VIDA APASIONADA, a suite of eight Latin-American influenced dance movements. The suite was recorded by the ensemble in September 2021 and received its premiere concert performance in September 2022. In 2024 the album of the violin and piano settings of the suite performed by Margaret together with Vov Dylan was CD of the week on FINE MUSIC 102.5 FM in June 2024. The album of the ensemble arrangements of the suite recorded by Vov Dylan and the Palace Orchestra was launched at a concert at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre in Penrith, NSW on the 26th of March 2025 and reached Number One on the ARIA Classical/Crossover Charts that month. In December 2024, American cellist Ovidiu Marinescu together with pianist Carl Cramer, recorded Margaret's Cello version of the second work in the suite '*Bossa Sonora*' for Resurgence Vol.2 on the Navona label. (nv6729) The work was performed at Carnegie Hall in November 2025. Margaret travelled to New York for the performance and was acknowledged on stage.

In 2022 Margaret Brandman composed and recorded five works for cello and piano, with cellist Ariel Volovelsky, for her **Binna Burra Dreaming** album on the by Ambition Records label (Amb201). This album achieved Number One position on the ARIA classical and classical crossover charts in Australia in 2023. Three previous works for cello: '*Lady of Grace*', '*As Blue as Turquoise Pearls*' and '*Jucaro Rhumba D'Amor*' were released in 2021 on the ModernClassicalX label.

Margaret is a respected pedagogue and author of an extensive range of innovative music education materials. Many of her compositions are listed in examination syllabuses in Australia and the UK. The Australian Guild of Music and Speech included over 40 of her piano compositions in their 2025 syllabus and have published her arrangement of *Waltzing Matilda* in their 3rd to 6th grade Piano Odyssey publication. In 2022 '*Jucaro Rhumba D'Amor*' was included in the AMEB Series 10 Grade Seven, Violin publication, while '*When Spirits Soar*' was listed on the ABRSM (Associated Board - UK) syllabus for eighth grade Soprano Saxophone. All the works in the *La Vida Apasionada* Suite and all the 'cello releases are included in the Australia Music Centre's recommended lists for HSC and VCE examinations for 2024 and the entire *La Vida Apasionada* solo piano suite is set for performance for L.Mus (AGMS).

Discovery of your materials has been a gold mine for many of us here in Phoenix, Arizona; its work is catching on like wildfire. The music educators in my circle are just over the moon trying to get your materials and it isn't always easy to get. Retailers are selling out of your stock. That's great!

*Thank you for what you have done for millions of students and teachers around the globe.
All the best, Gary Moss*

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Throughout her illustrious career, Margaret has found joy in every facet of her musical journey. She is constantly invigorated and inspired to create new works and attributes her creative vitality to collaboration with fellow musicians, cherishing the opportunities to record and perform her compositions alongside a community of talented artists.

Margaret Brandman is a represented composer at the Australian Music Centre. Her works are published by Furore Music in Germany and JazzEM Music in Australia. Her music is represented by Navona records, Ansonica Records, ModernClassicalX, JazzEM, and Ambition Records.

MARGARET BRANDMAN – MUSIC REVIEWS

The Brandman catalogue includes orchestral works, chamber works, vocal and choral works, as well as solo instrumental pieces, composed across a wide range of genres from contemporary classical through to Jazz and Latin-American. "The music is melodious and intricate, beautifully played.... pieces straddle that indefinable line between jazz and contemporary classical / new music." *Jane Mann, London Jazz News 2017*

SENSATIONS – Wind, Waves, Birds and Fire

"The music ... is a continuous celebration of life, of nature, and hope for a better future. Brandman is not afraid to express herself in a tonal language ... The ingredients of this musical palette are persuasive and clear melodic lines, clear and sunny harmonies, a steady rhythmic energy that sometimes draws on syncopated accents of jazz and South American music, an orchestration clear and bright." ***Kathodik Webzine***

"Full confidence in a bright future for art-music is assured after hearing "Firestorm Symphony" by the accomplished international composer, Margaret Brandman. An elegant rich tonality, along with a generous serving of Australiana describe how Margaret and her family endured the heat, wind and flames of the bushfires that surrounded Glenbrook located in the lower Blue Mountains to the west of Sydney in 1994." ***Edward Rodgers, Studio Magazine***

ABRAZO

"My favourite on this disc is Australian Margaret Brandman's suite 'Warm Winds in Havana'... written for saxophone quartet and percussion. The music is melodious and intricate, beautifully played.... pieces straddle that indefinable line between jazz and contemporary classical / new music." ***Jane Mann, London Jazz News***



COSMIC WHEEL OF THE ZODIAC – a song cycle for the 12 signs of the Zodiac

"With the solo songs firmly implanted in the listener's ear, the disc shifts into full choral arrangements. The music has a deeper harmonic fullness as one might suspect. Most telling are the closer harmonic clusters that lend the music an almost ethereal quality from time to time and add an extra level of dissonance to the music." **Stephen A Kennedy, *Cinemusical***

"Margaret Brandman writes gracefully for the voice and her music is always appealing and welcoming, displaying a variety of compositional techniques to suit each of the 12 astrological signs....The Cosmic Wheel concept is certainly a stimulating idea and well realised."

Colin Clarke, *Fanfare Magazine*

SPIRIT VISIONS for orchestra

Sydney-based composer Margaret Brandman features on this international label (Parma Recordings) with her Spirit Visions (Symphonic Tone Poem) composed in 2019 and recorded by the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Pavel Šnajdr. With a distinctive Hollywood flavour incorporating a Latin American flair, this work won for Ms Brandman the Best Foreign Composition in the Artemis Women in Action Film Festival in Los Angeles (2021). Ms Brandman has made a real impact in this style of composition and through recordings and performances has secured an international following."

Barry Walmsley,

Music Teacher's Association 'Studio Magazine' November 2012

LA VIDA APASIONADA

Her suite of 8 new Latin-American influenced works for small ensemble was commissioned by violinist Vov Dylan. This reduction of the ensemble score has also been arranged for violin and piano, solo piano and other instruments including cello.

Who can fail to be transported by these tantalisingly sultry, inspired dances?

Mary Nemet

AUSTA *Stringendo*, Volume 46, Number 2024



JUCARO RHUMBA D'AMOR

"Wow Margaret - I like your composition Jucaro Rhumba d'Amor very much! It's a very impressive composition and I can almost imagine it as music from some epic movie! Keep them coming - hope to hear your compositions in a live concert one day. Thank you Margaret for kindly sharing it with me - I am so amazed and proud that we have such great music talents in Australia! Congratulations".

David Chin (Luthier in Melbourne)

WARM WINDS IN HAVANA – Version for Strings and percussion Furore Edition 10423
Selected by the American String Teacher's association for their Virtual String Teacher's Summit 2024

Originally composed for saxophone quartet, *Warm Winds in Havana* has been adapted for string quartet with an optional third violin part that doubles the viola part. There is also a percussion part for two of the movements, thus offering plenty of scope for teachers to use for students' ensemble development, and very approachable for an intermediate level ensemble. Featuring jazz and Latin-American influences Apart from the sheer delight to be found in playing these pieces, there is great educational value here, particularly in controlling/commanding the more unusual rhythms.

Mary Nemet

AUSTA Stringendo, Volume 46, Number 2024

BINNA BURRA DREAMING – 6 works for cello with piano

"A pure delight to listen to. The title track named for a forest area in Gold Coast Hinterland where beech trees grow incorporates both indigenous and natural influences... Snow Gums in Silver Moonlight reveals subtle Jazz influences in its harmonies and pizzicato passages"

Paul Cooke,

Fine Music Magazine April 2023

"Brandman features on piano with young Australian cellist Ariel Volovelsky, combining virtuosity to create a joyful listening experience."

Robert Jackson

AUSTA Stringendo, Volume 46, Number 2024



Margaret Brandman: Binna
Burra Dreaming
Ariel Volovelsky, cello;
Margaret Brandman, piano
Ambition
AMBITION201

★ ★ ★ ★



Binna Burra Dreaming is a collection of music for cello with piano. The cellist is Ariel Volovelsky, highly regarded as a soloist and as a member of the Felix Quartet. The composer and pianist is Margaret Brandman, also from Sydney and well-known as a music educator. The album is actually a mini album, with six tracks and half an hour of music, mostly rearrangements of works originally composed for other forces, but it is a pure delight to listen to. The title track, named for a rainforest area in the Gold Coast hinterland where beech trees grow, incorporates both Indigenous and natural

influences, with the cello playing a didgeridoo-like figure and the piano emulating the sound of a breeze through those trees. *Snow Gums in Silver Moonlight*, originally written for piano, reveals subtle jazz influences in its harmonies and pizzicato passages. As *Blue as Turquoise Pearls*, one of three arrangements from her song cycle *Cosmic Wheel of the Zodiac*, features legato passages occasionally interrupted by cascading notes and suggests diving into the depths of the ocean.

– Paul Cooke

Artist page and album links

<https://www.navonarecords.com/artists/margaret-brandman/>

ABRAZO

<https://www.ansonicarecords.com/catalog/ar0001/>

Binna Burra Dreaming

<https://ffm.to/binnaburradreaming>

Cosmic Wheel of the Zodiac

<https://www.navonarecords.com/catalog/nv6160/>

La Vida Apasionada – Ensemble

<https://greatmusiclivesforever.com/products/vov-dylan-margaret-brandman-la-vida-apasionada>



La Vida Apasionada – Violin and Piano

<https://gig-alliance.com/artist/margaret-brandman/>

Polarities Vol.2

<https://www.navonarecords.com/catalog/nv6353>

Resurgence Vol.2

<https://www.navonarecords.com/catalog/nv6729>

SENSATIONS – Wind, Waves, Birds and Fire

<https://www.navonarecords.com/catalog/nv6041/>

Symphonic Chronicles Vol.2 (Gentle Summer Rain_ Track 5)

<https://www.navonarecords.com/catalog/nv6584/>

Songs of Love and Desire

<https://www.margaretbrandman.com/sld.html>

For More Information on

MARGARET BRANDMAN
visit

www.margaretbrandmanmusic.com.au