

DANTE & BEATRICE

Lovers and Visionaries

PART ONE

Après une lecture du Dante

Fantasia quasi Sonata (1849)

Music by **Franz Liszt** · from *Années de pèlerinage*, Deuxième année: Italie

Ben Fu, PIANO

PART TWO · WORLD PREMIERE

Dante and Beatrice

Music by **Gordon Kerry** · Story by **Margot Costanzo**

English translation from Sir Samuel Griffith's *La Divina Commedia* (OUP, 1911), revised by
Margot Costanzo & Gordon Kerry

Rachael Joyce, SOPRANO · **Dimity Shepherd**, MEZZO-SOPRANO · **Boyd Owen**, TENOR ·
Christopher Hillier, BARITONE · **Coady Green**, PIANO

I. *I fear for Dante*

BEATRICE — **RACHAEL JOYCE** · VIRGIL — **CHRISTOPHER HILLIER**

Beatrice from Heaven beseeches Virgil to save Dante from the Dark Wood.

II. *Are you ghost or mortal man?*

DANTE — **BOYD OWEN** · VIRGIL — **CHRISTOPHER HILLIER**

Dante finds himself in the Dark Wood and gives himself over to despair and death.
Virgil saves him.

III. *You came through the purple air*

DANTE — **BOYD OWEN** · **FRANCESCA DA RIMINI** — **DIMITY SHEPHERD**

Having reached the fire of Purgatory which Dante fears above all, he
disconcertingly dreams of the woman condemned to hell for adultery — the famed
Francesca da Rimini.

IV. *You may not go beyond this wall of fire*

DANTE — **BOYD OWEN** · VIRGIL — **CHRISTOPHER HILLIER**

Dante wakes more fearful than ever of the fire, but accepts Virgil's assurances that
it will not burn. With the encouragement of angels — and the thought of seeing
Beatrice's eyes — he finally gets through. Virgil crowns and mitres him as a
graduate of his ordeal, and sends him off to find Beatrice in the Terrestrial
Paradise.

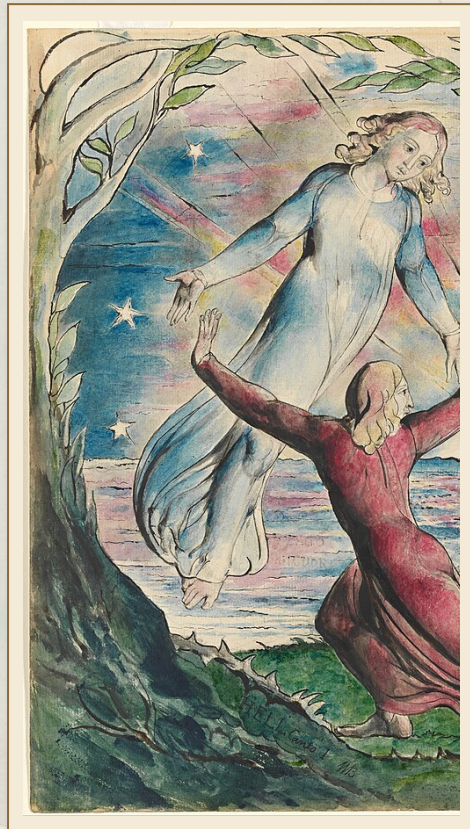
PART THREE

The Many Faces of Francesca

Paper Love (2026) · Music by **Gulliver Poole**

The latest aria added to a compilation of arias for Francesca da Rimini by Mercadante,
Zandonai, Granados and Rachmaninoff.

Rachael Joyce, SOPRANO · **Coady Green**, PIANO



William Blake,
Dante running from the Three Beasts (detail)
1824–27 · *Inferno I*

“Midway upon our life’s journey
I found myself again
deep in a dark wood...”

DANTE · INFERNO I

CREDITS

Dante and Beatrice — composition © 2025 Gordon Kerry; adaptation for performance © 2025 Margot Costanzo; English translation
from Sir Samuel Griffith (OUP, 1911) © 2025 Margot Costanzo & Gordon Kerry.

William Blake, *Dante running from the Three Beasts* (detail), 1824–27, illustration for *The Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri (*Inferno I*, 1–
90). National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Felton Bequest, 1920. Image courtesy NGV, Melbourne.

William Blake, *Dante at the Moment of entering the Fire* (used as background), 1824–27, illustration for *The Divine Comedy* by Dante
Alighieri (*Purgatorio XXVII*, 46–48). National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Felton Bequest, 1920. Image courtesy NGV, Melbourne.

WITH THANKS

With heartfelt thanks to the artists, to the National Gallery of Victoria, and to all who have made tonight's concert — and this world
premiere — possible.

