

Paul Kopetz

THE BOOK OF ZODIAC

Performed by OPUS 5

Violin – Margaret Connolly
Viola – Nicholas Tomkin
Clarinet – Dr Rianne Wilschut
Bass Clarinet – Paul Kopetz
Piano – Mark Hooper

Recorded on 23 May 2021 at Ghostgum Audio in Brisbane, Australia
Sound Engineer – David Quinn

CHAPTER 1
Chrysomallus the Ram

CHAPTER 2
The Bull of Heaven

CHAPTER 3
Castor and Pollux

CHAPTER 4
Beta Cancri

CHAPTER 5
The Lion of Nemea

CHAPTER 6
Shala the Goddess of Fertility

CHAPTER 7
Lady Justice

CHAPTER 8
Urania's Mirror – Scorpius

CHAPTER 9
Chiron the Centaur

CHAPTER 10
Enki the God of Creation

CHAPTER 11
Ganymede the Son of Tros

CHAPTER 12
Alpha Piscium

PROGRAM NOTES

This suite of 12 miniatures (chapters) was written during the first COVID lockdown and was inspired by all my friends and family scattered around the world. The pieces' character either draws on the mythological origins of a sign or its astrological significance. Several are dedicated to members of my family and as such are their musical portraits.

The work comprises 12 chapters of approximately two minutes long, 12 key signatures, and an eclectic range of musical styles. The pieces are arranged and internally structured according to the four elements. All 'fire' sign movements are tempestuous, fast and turbulent. All 'earth' signs are grounded, reserved and moderately paced. All 'air' signs are frivolous, light-hearted and buoyant. All 'water' signs are expressive, wistful and moody.

This performance by Opus 5 marks the world premiere of The Book of Zodiac.

ABOUT OPUS 5

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Bass Clarinet – Paul Kopetz
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Opus 5 began its concert life as an ensemble-in-residence on a cruise ship treating audiences to an array of chamber music recitals. Due to popular demand, the group decided to continue its activities beyond the cruise culminating in a residency with the Brisbane Classical radio station 4MBS in 2021.

Opus 5 boasts a truly international pedigree with two ensemble members having studied and worked in Austria, one in Germany, one in the Netherlands, and one in the UK. When not making chamber music together, the ensemble members hold positions as orchestral musicians, lecturers, clinicians and soloists.

For this performance at the International Clarinet Conference, the ensemble's cellist Deborah Davis has been replaced by composer and bass clarinetist Paul Kopetz.