

Western University

Scholarship@Western

Inspiring Minds – A Digital Collection of
Western's Graduate Research, Scholarship and
Creative Activity

Inspiring Minds

September 2023

Two Australian Composers, Two Sonatas, Two Canadian Pianists

Ryan Baxter

Western University, rbaxte@uwo.ca

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/inspiringminds>

Citation of this paper:

Baxter, Ryan, "Two Australian Composers, Two Sonatas, Two Canadian Pianists" (2023). *Inspiring Minds – A Digital Collection of Western's Graduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity*. 518.
<https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/inspiringminds/518>

Two Australian Composers, Two Sonatas, Two Canadian Pianists

Sonatas for piano four hands (two pianists, one piano) fell out of favour with composers and pianists in the twentieth century. In 2009 and 2013 respectively, contemporary Australian composers Carl Vine and Stuart Greenbaum each resurrected this neglected genre with new visions for its compositional and performance value. This research includes in-depth theoretical analysis and a public performance of each composer's *Sonata for Piano Four Hands*. The analyses through formal, motivic, rhythmic, harmonic, textural, narrative-based, and performance-related perspectives demonstrate the compositional worth of this undervalued genre, and the recital will be the Canadian premiere for both works. Vine and Greenbaum have different compositional ethos and technique, the former insisting upon pure music and the latter using a highly narrative approach. These two works make excellent companions for analysis and performance, showcasing in unique ways the full pianistic, compositional, and emotional expression available through the four hands genre in this century.