

Maria Grenfell

Program Note

A Feather of Blue (2000)

Commissioned in 2000 by the New Zealand Trio, *A Feather of Blue* takes its title from a phrase in a poem called “A View From A Window” by New Zealand writer Kevin Ireland. I have always admired the wry humour and brightness of Kevin Ireland’s writing and many years ago set three of his poems for soprano and mixed ensemble. As a kind gesture Mr Ireland sent me a copy of his book of poems “Skinning A Fish”, and I was particularly struck by the imagery of colours, flowers, feathers and birds in this poem, which illustrates rain pouring down a window pane and giving way to a burst of sunshine after a storm.