Trio in B flat
For violin, violoncello and pianoforte
England - 1911

Frederick Septimus Kelly
Sydney, 1881 – France, 1916

Edited by
Richard Divall

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Introduction

Australian F S Kelly's brief life uniquely encompassed the highest levels in sport (he won gold for Britain as a rower at the 1908 Olympics) and music (as pianist, composer, conductor and patron). It ended with a hero's death. Kelly was a Lieutenant-Commander in the Royal Naval Division's Hood Battalion. He was twice at Gallipoli, where he was wounded, receiving the DSC for his bravery under fire. He was with the burial party when Rupert Brooke (1887-1915) was interred on the island of Skyros, the poet having died as the Royal Naval Division was making its way to the Dardanelles. Devastated by this loss, Kelly wrote his Elegy: in memoriam Rupert Brooke. He was killed during one of the last great battles of the Somme at Beucourt-sur-Ancre, on 13 November 1916 when he was shot in the head while taking a machinegun post.

Kelly was born in Sydney on 29 May 1881, into a wealthy Irish family. Thomas Hussey Kelly, father of F S Kelly, was a wool broker and company director and a mining promoter. From 1893 he studied at Eton where he developed a precocious talent in both rowing and piano. I quote here from Thérèse Radic's book Race Against Time.

There his musical talent flourished under the tutelage of Dr Charles Harford Lloyd. He came to the notice of the French pianist and teacher Antoine Francois Marmontel, a friend and pupil of Chopin. By then Marmontel was nearly eighty and no longer teaching at the Paris Conservatoire where he had been on staff for fifty years. His legion of students there included Albeniz, Bizet, d'Indy, Dubois, Guiraus and Wieniawski. Marmontel offered to teach the boy for nothing if he would devote himself to music. Kelly was fourteen, and though he may have wished to leave Eton and follow his chosen profession, his parents decided against it. As some kind of substitute for this thwarting of ambition, a passion for rowing temporarily replaced his passion for music. Sep set about the business with characteristic determination and discipline. He rowed in the Eton Eight in 1897 and was Stroke for that crew when it won the Ladies' Plate at Royal Henley Regatta in 1899. In 1898 he was awarded Balliol College's Nettleship Scholarship for music. What were to remain the two loves of his life were already making opposing demands on his time and attention.

Kelly went to Oxford and in 1898 was awarded a Nettleship Scholarship at Balliol College. Here he participated in the successful Balliol rowing team, where he was also a member of the Leander Club. His solo sculling record of 1905 stood unbeaten until 1938. In 1908 he was a member of the British Gold Medal winning eight in the London Olympic Games.

From 1903 to 1908 Kelly was a student at Das Hoch'sche Konservatorium at Frankfurt-am-Main where he studied composition under Iwan Knorr – Percy Grainger’s teacher, and piano with Ernst Engesser. Kelly kept a daily diary where he commented on his musical colleagues and activities, as well as his wide circle of acquaintances. These diaries, up to 29 April 1915 together with Kelly's life are thoroughly documented in...
Thérèse Radic’s book *Race Against Time The Diaries of F.S. Kelly*. At the time of publication, the final volume of the diary, covering May 1915 until his death was missing. Recently a typescript of the last of these, with annotations by Arthur Asquith DSO, son of the British Prime Minister H H Asquith, was obtained by the National Library of Australia, and is currently being edited by Thérèse Radic. Arthur Asquith (1883-1939), also served in the Hood Battalion. In 2014 the NLA was able to buy one of the last original handwritten Kelly diaries from a British bookseller. It covers three months in early 1916. This, too, will be incorporated in the edited Kelly war diaries. A large collection of Kelly’s published works and manuscripts were also obtained by the National Library and some forty of Kelly’s works have been edited and published by The Marshall-Hall Trust.

There are mentions of a couple of Trios by Kelly, including one in B minor dated 1911, which is mentioned in his diary note of 17 June 1914, when this Trio was played at Kelly’s sister Mary’s [Masie] home at Bisham Grange Marlow. One of the performers in this particular home event was the composer and violist Frank Bridge, who later taught the young Benjamin Britten. The Trio in B flat major is unusual in that it only contains two movements, the first [Allegro] Legato and the second a Scherzo and Trio in Presto. Thérèse Radic provides the date of May 31, 1911, Glenyarrah, Double Bay (Sydney) and comments that it is unfinished. The Trio is dedicated to the composer’s brother, Thomas Herbert Kelly (1875-1948). In the Trio section I cannot determine whether Kelly writes a long section for solo pianoforte, or has omitted to put in missing parts for the violin and Violoncello. This passage occurs from the beginning of the Trio movement in bar 155 and lasts until bar 189 with the entrance of the solo violoncello. The work is in manuscript on nineteen pages of score, including a cover page. The work is undated on the manuscript. There are some problematic passages which are addressed in the Critical Notes.

Richard Divall
August 2014

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2 These include the 24 Monographs and 12 Studies for solo piano, the incomplete Sonata for piano, two works for organ and the *Elegy* for Rupert Brooke for solo violin, harp and strings. The violin sonata composed for Jelly d’Arányi will be published in this series.
3 Radic, 31
Frederick Septimus Kelly 1915 by John Singer Sargent
CRITICAL NOTES

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Scherzo da Capo
senza replica
e poi la coda