

Chris Villars

Alex

Performing

Morton Feldman's

"Triadic Memories"

at the

National Opera Center

Old York 2017



Alex had gotten up unusually early to read about and listen to Feldman's music. He sat there on the sofa with his Walkman and his little earphones, eagerly turning the pages of Feldman's writings. But his head felt unusually heavy! He rested it gently on the page.

Then suddenly he snapped out of it! He was in danger of drifting off to sleep again! But he had to practice, the concert was tonight!

He jumped over to the piano, lifted the lid and started in: "Triadic Memories"! For months he had been practicing this prodigious piece. He loved it! The idea of butterflies filled his mind as he negotiated the opening bars. He LOVED chasing butterflies! An hour later he had lost all sense of time. He could have been playing for ever, and he felt he could go on forever too! It was wonderful! Then suddenly he stopped! HE WAS READY! He carefully folded up the sheet music and laid it aside. Then he started again, WITHOUT THE MUSIC! Once again the butterflies. Once again the timeless drifting. With complete confidence he played the piece from memory!

And there he was at the National Opera Center that night, playing "Triadic Memories" from memory! The house was full. Molly, Emma, Lucy and Zoey were on the front row. They were all SO proud of Alex! The first stuffed cat to play "Triadic Memories" in public, and from memory too!!

For Alex, time had stopped. He was floating, soaring, somewhere way up there! Then his little paws began to signal the end. The butterfly fluttered upwards and disappeared. Sadly, he laid his paws in his lap. He didn't want the dream to end!

There was a long silence. The audience was spellbound! Then the applause began! There was even cheering!

He looked at the radiant faces of his family and his heart raced with joy! Then suddenly, as he was preparing to stand and bow, he felt himself whisked up in the air.

"Come on Alex," cried Zoey, "You can't sleep there all day!"

The New York Stuffed Cat, Alex, his sisters Molly, Emma and Lucy, and their friend Zoey, are famous for their adventures with their friends in Old York, England.

Less well known is their passion for the music of Morton Feldman....

This concert program was designed by Alex' s sisters Molly, Emma and Lucy with a little help from Zahra Partovi.

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