Music Director  Nathan Waks

Theme music adapted from Schumann's 'Scenes From Childhood' and Piano Quartet in E Flat.

Performed by
Piano  Sharon Raschke  Judy Davis

The Sydney String Quartet
Violins  Harry Curby  and Dorel Tincu
Viola  Alex Todicescu
Cello  Nathan Waks

Bush Band
Fiddle and Melodion  Harry Cotter
Melodion  Mark Tandy
Bones  Ted Simpson
Banjo  Peter Hobson
Tea Chest Bass  Eric Eisler

Recorded by
Max Harding
at the
Sydney Opera House

Nathan Waks, who acted as music director on the film, has a brief wiki [here](#).

Waks was a prominent player in various quartets, and was for a time one of the co-principal cello players for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. He has also developed interests in the wine game, most notably Kilikanoon Winery in South Australia's Clare Valley.

According to director Gillian Armstrong, Waks was a cousin of producer Margaret Fink, who introduced him to Armstrong has an "incredible cellist" with an "extraordinary musical knowledge".

No decision had been made about how the music for the film would be composed but the creative team had to choose a key piano piece played by the character Sybylla so that Judy Davis could learn it in pre-production - Davis had told the creative team she was determined to perform all the pieces her character was to be shown playing. There would be no miming or cutaways in the piano scenes.

Accordingly Waks was consulted and he came up with the idea of using a piece by Schumann. He played Armstrong assorted pieces and they decided on Schumann's 'Scenes from Childhood' as the piece Davis would play, and it became the de facto theme for Sybylla and also for the film, a decision reinforced in the editing room.

Whenever I hear that music I think of Sybylla and in the end … it wasn't planned in the beginning to be used as part of the sound track but that was something that came up later in the editing room. but the key thing I was looking for was that the piece should in a lot of ways give you a sense of Sybylla and her yearning and her wants and desires and I think it did perfectly … (Armstrong's DVD commentary)
According to Armstrong, it was editor Nicholas Beauman who came up with the idea of putting the Schumann over the end titles, so Waks arranged for the recording of a more rich sounding orchestrated version.

For his contribution, Waks was given a music director credit (though this is frequently confused with a composer credit).

Sam Neill also learned to play the piano for the duet he plays with Judy Davis, but Wendy Hughes mimed her piano playing.

As part of his research for the film, Nathan Waks discovered the music of Harry Cotter, a country musician who played the fiddle and melodion, and whose band provided the music for the woolshed dance.

(Below: director Gillian Armstrong with country musician Harry Cotter)

(Below: Nathan Waks)
The assorted music assembled by Waks was put together in an LP:
LP stereo 7 Records MLF 416 (CA MCF 7416) 1980
Some track selections are not included in the film.
Musical Director Nathan Waks
Members of The Sydney String Quartet are - Harry Curby - Violin, Dorel Tincu - Violin, Alex Todicescu - Viola, Nathan Waks - Cello.
The Sydney String Quartet records by the courtesy of the N.S.W. Conservatorium of Music.
Robert Grubb’s vocals are performed as the film character Frank Hawden.
Musical arrangements and direction “Bless This House”, “The Holy City”, “Harry & Sybylla’s Duet” and “Traumerei” - Jack Grimsley.
All other tracks - Musical Direction Nathan Waks.
Recording & Post-production Sydney Opera House.
Recording Engineer: Max Harding.
Album Production: Graeme Rule.
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SIDE 1:

1. **Main Theme - Foreign Lands - From "Scenes From Childhood"** (3'36"
   (Robert Schumann, Arr: N. Waks), played by The Sydney String Quartet with Sharon Raschke - Piano (Matthews)
2. **Gavotte (2'23")** (Trad. Arr: N. Waks) Harry Curby - Violin Sharon Raschke - Piano (Matthews)
3. **Bless This House (2'42")** (May Brahe - Helen Taylor) Vocals: Robert Grubb, Harry Curby - Violin, Dorel Tincu - Violin, Alex Todicescu - Viola, David Pereira - Cello (Boosey & Hawkes)
4. **Traumerei - From "Scenes From Childhood"** (3'15") (Robert Schumann, Arr: J. Grimsley), Harry Curby - Violin, Dorel Tincu - Violin, Alex Todicescu - Viola, David Pereira - Cello, Elizabeth Powell - Piano (Matthews)
5. **Fascination Waltz** (1'57) (Arr: N. Waks) Harry Curby - Violin, Sharon Raschke - Piano (Matthews)
6. **Schottische (1'37")** (Trad. Arr: Harry Cotter) The Harry Cotter Bush Band (Matthews)
7. **Song Without Words In D Major** (1'35") (Felix Mendelssohn, Arr: N. Waks) Nathan Waks - Cello, John Harding - Piano (Matthews)
8. **After A Dream** (2'47") (Gabriel Faure, Arr: N. Waks) Nathan Waks - Cello, John Harding - Piano (Matthews)
9. **Main Theme** (Reprise) (0'53") (Arr: N. Waks) Sharon Raschke - Piano (Matthews)

SIDE 2:

1. **The Holy City** (4'46")
2. **Waltz From Piano Quartet In Eb** (1'26") (Robert Schumann, Arr: N. Waks) Harry Curby - Violin, Sharon Raschke - Piano (Matthews)
3. **Eumarella Shore Medley** (2'54") (Trad. Arr: Harry Cotter) The Harry Cotter Bush Band (Matthews)
4. **Harry & Sybylla’s Duet** (3'25") (Sharon Raschke). Harry Curby - Violin, Dorel Tincu - Violin, Alex Todicescu - Viola, David Pereira - Cello, Elizabeth Powell - Piano (Control)
5. **Romanza** (3'59") (Richard Wagner, Arr: N. Waks) Harry Curby - Violin, Elizabeth Powell - Piano, (Matthews)
6. **Largo - Sonata In G Minor** (2'53") ("Largo - Sonata In C Minor" is shown as "G" on sleeve listing) (Frederic Chopin, Arr: N. Waks) Nathan Waks - Cello, John Harding - Piano (Matthews)
7. **Main Theme** (Reprise) (0'53") (Arr: N. Waks) Sharon Raschke - Piano (Matthews)

The main theme, which is a recycling of Robert Schumann’s *Foreign Lands - From "Scenes From Childhood"*, turned up on any number of LP and CD compilations - a measure of the film’s international success is that some packaged the music with Hollywood scores. A few of these are shown below:
GREAT FILM CLASSICS Vol. II
Themes from "Ordinary People" "Kramer vs. Kramer" "Breaking Away" and others