



NEWSLETTER 5 – MAY 2022

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NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER SOLOISTS

SUNDAY 26 JUNE at 2:30pm

WAIKANAE MEMORIAL HALL, PEHI KUPA ST, WAIKANAE

The New Zealand Chamber Soloists have been performing regularly throughout New Zealand and overseas since 2006. The core group is the piano trio combining the talents of **Katherine Austin (piano)**, **Lara Hall (violin)**, and **James Tennant (cello)**. They have welcomed many other renowned New Zealand musicians and composers under the New Zealand Chamber Soloists' banner. The group is dedicated to presenting classical music as a spontaneous and vivid experience, in which the audience and performers are connected through the universal language of music. The New Zealand Chamber Soloists celebrate the unique voice of New Zealand's new generation of composers, alongside the works of the classical and 20th century traditions. The group brings a unique blend of virtuosity, colour and a full-on, spontaneous energy to music old and new. As lecturers at the University of Waikato Conservatorium of Music, the New Zealand Chamber Soloists are also committed to developing the next generation of musicians through a performance-rich curriculum which includes over 70 student-based concerts per year, a world-leading 'soloists specialisation' course and the regular commissioning of new New Zealand works."



Katherine Austin

James Tennant

Lara Hall

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Katherine Austin "... mercurial, alert and a supreme colourist.. I'd put her among the top six pianists in the country and almost unrivalled as a chamber ensemble pianist." Ian Dando, *The Listener*.

Head of Piano Studies for the University of Waikato Conservatorium of Music, Katherine is one of New Zealand's leading pianists and performs regularly around New Zealand and overseas, touring frequently for Chamber Music New Zealand, and broadcasting regularly on Radio New Zealand Concert. She graduated Master of Music with First Class Honours in Piano Performance from Auckland University, under teachers Janetta McStay and Bryan Sayer. In 1982 she won both the TVNZ/NZSO New Zealand Young Musician of the Year, and the New Zealand Young Performer of the Year.

Seven years of study and performance in London and Europe followed, including a full scholarship to the Royal College of Music London, to study with renowned Russian pianist and teacher Irina Zaritskaya, as well as postgraduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. In 1987, Katherine won the Top Duo Prize in the Stresa International Chamber Music Competition in Italy, performing with cellist Vincenzo Giuliani.

Dr Lara Hall. Leading NZ violinist Lara Hall began performing as soloist around New Zealand at a very early age, having won the New Zealand National Schools Chamber Music Competition at age 15 and 16. She has gone on to become recognised nationally and internationally as a vibrant and virtuosic performer - in demand equally as soloist, orchestral concert-master, chamber musician and baroque specialist. She gained her BMus at the University of Auckland, while studying with Mary O'Brien, and then an Advanced Diploma in baroque violin, which she studied with Graham McPhail.

Lara then studied extensively in the USA, starting in the Dorothy Delay studio at the Aspen Summer School. She then gained her Masters and Doctoral degrees at the University of Michigan where she studied with Paul Kantor and Yehonatan Berick.

James Tennant is currently Head of Cello Studies, Chamber Music and Orchestral Studies at the Conservatorium of Music of the University of Waikato. He has created a unique Soloist Specialisation course and, along with other performance staff, offers over 70 concerts a year for the students to develop their expressive personalities through regular performance opportunities. With his Conservatorium of Music students, he has created the ensemble *Cellophonics* - New Zealand's highly regarded cello ensemble - and for the past 14 years has been its Musical Director.

He has enjoyed an esteemed and lively career as a concert cellist, chamber musician, teacher and arts instigator. He graduated with Distinction from the Interlochen Arts Academy and the University of Michigan, and during these years performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under such inspirational conductors as Klaus Tennstedt, Fruhbeck de Burgos and Leonard Bernstein, and for pocket money he recorded with all the Motown greats of the 1970s.

THE PROGRAMME

Bohuslav Martinů	Piano Trio No. 2 in D minor, Opus 45
Helen Bowater	Black River (part of NZ Chamber Music Society's 7x7 Project)
Leoš Janáček	Violin Sonata
Antonín Dvořák	Piano Trio No. 3 in F minor, Opus 65

CONCERT ARRANGEMENTS - COVID PROTECTION AT OUR CONCERTS

The committee has legal responsibilities relating to health and safety at our concerts. Our audience is predominately elderly and thus at higher risk from Covid than the general population. Vaccine passes, required for the last few concerts, have shown that our audience is overwhelmingly vaccinated. The original vaccine passes have expired (although you can download a new one if your vaccinations are up-to-date), so consequently, we have decided that there is little benefit in continuing to check vaccine passes. However, we continue to require that masks be worn at our concerts (except, of course, for children under 12 or those who present a new-style mask exemption card). We will keep this under review, but it is likely that the policy will remain in place until the Covid risk declines significantly.

Tickets will be available at the door, through our agents New World (Waikanae) and Moby Dickens (Paraparaumu Beach), and by direct credit to our bank account 02-0591-0018930-000. The doors open at 1:45pm, and seating for season ticket holders is protected until 2:15pm. The concert starts at 2:30pm. Latecomers may not be admitted until a suitable break in the performance.

Photography and sound recording of our concerts are strictly forbidden. This is a requirement of the artists, their agents and the Waikanae Music Society itself. Committee members may, from time to time, and with the artists' permission, take photos for the Society's records.

CONCERT NOTES: OUR OWN MUSIC PROGRAMME on COAST ACCESS RADIO 104.7FM

This month: Tuesday 14 June (6pm) and Thursday 16 June (11.30am). The programme will focus on a selection of music by Czech composers.

To replay this programme, go to our website <https://www.waikanaemusic.org.nz> and click on the Concert Notes link on the front page. If you have music you would like to hear on Concert Notes, email concertmanager@waikanaemusic.org.nz

FOLLOWING CONCERT: Sunday 24 July: Levansa Trio

The brilliant young cellist Lev Sivkov will be visiting New Zealand to play concertos with regional orchestras, and chamber music concerts with Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra Concertmaster Andrew Beer and the highly respected pianist Sarah Watkins. Lev Sivkov has won numerous awards, most notably in 2015 when he won the prestigious Naumburg International Cello Competition, described by the New York Times as “the most prestigious of them all.” Combining their musical talents to form the Levansa Trio, the group will be playing an attractive programme of works by Bach, Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Beethoven.

Since the last newsletter we have enjoyed two superb concerts.

Michael Houstoun charmed our members once more with a wonderful display of his well known virtuosity and enthusiasm for the music we all love to hear. Nearly 300 members and visitors filled the hall for a bravado performance of a comprehensive programme of baroque and romantic works, and for good measure a modern and charming piece from China. Michael is a most favourite performer for our members and it is hoped we can look forward to a return performance before too long.

TrioNique. We had great pleasure from the unusual music of this 'unique trio' at our last concert. No less unique than the music was the nationalities of the performers themselves. A pianist from Poland, flautist from Hungary and a classical saxophonist from Japan. There is not a large repertoire for this instrumental combination but TrioNique gave us a spirited rendition of much of it, from classical composers Louise Farrene to Francis Poulenc, interspersed with more modern pieces. These included a classical Japanese work and the whole rounded off by a very popular jazz suite from Bernstein's West Side Story. The audience was encouraged, and responded, to shout "Mambo!" at appropriate



places in the Bernstein and great fun was had by all. If there were any doubts about the unusualness of the programme they were completely dispelled by this talented and charming group of young women, and the afternoon was much enjoyed by the audience.

KAPITI STUDENT MUSICIANS' CONCERT

The concert held on Saturday 28th May was a showcase for the talents of a number of Kapiti students, performing on piano and/or violin, with a variety of items. Thanks go to music teachers, parents and supporters who encourage these young people, and to Kathy Hutchinson and Wendy van Delden for their organisation.

LOST AND FOUND: A pair of glasses were left at the last concert. Anyone missing them can phone Wendy on 04 905 6070.
