



NEWSLETTER 3 – APRIL 2023

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LES VOISINS

SUNDAY 30 APRIL at 2:30pm

WAIKANAЕ MEMORIAL HALL, PEHI KUPA ST, WAIKANAЕ



Simon Martyn-Ellis
(theorbo & guitars)

Justine Cormack
(violin)

James Bush
(cello)

This programme is presented in association with Chamber Music New Zealand

Justine Cormack (violin), James Bush (cello) and Simon Martyn-Ellis (theorbo & guitars) take us on a musical journey through three centuries of French music. The diverse and vibrant programme will take us from the Baroque to contemporary New Zealand composition, from the vibrant colours of Ravel's impressionism to the irresistible swing of guitarist Django Reinhardt and the grandfather of jazz violin, Stéphane Grappelli, with the Hot Club de France.

Violinist Justine Cormack and cellist James Bush grew up next door to each other in Christchurch (voisins means neighbours) and have remained close friends throughout their diverse careers: Justine nurturing and promoting the best of New Zealand music through her performances with NZ Trio, James pursuing the freedom and energy of Baroque performance practice with many of Europe's top groups. While performing, they met Australian lutenist and guitarist Simon Martyn-Ellis, a sought-after theorbist who exudes musicality, warmth, and positivity. We are pleased to welcome such talented artists for an unusual but thrilling concert, one that will introduce an instrument unseen and unheard by most music enthusiasts here.

THE PERFORMERS



Justine Cormack. From 2002 to 2017, Justine was a founding member and violinist of NZ Trio, performing throughout New Zealand, Australia, Asia, South America, the USA, Europe, and Scandinavia. More recent highlights include a New Zealand tour of Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* and a significant cross-cultural project recording nine new piano trios by Chinese composers in China. In October 2021, she launched the *At the World's Edge Festival* with fellow London-based violinist Benjamin Baker, in the Queenstown Lakes region. In February 2020, she performed the complete Violin and Piano Sonatas of Beethoven, celebrating the 250th anniversary year of his birth, performing all ten sonatas within three concerts over three days. At her final performance with the NZ Trio, they were awarded the Lilburn Trust Citation for Outstanding Services to New Zealand Music.



Simon Martyn-Ellis, master of the Theorbo, Baroque Guitar, Lute, Baroque Lute, and Romantic Guitar. Simon began playing the lute after finding the classical guitar repertoire too restrictive for ensemble performance: continuo collaborations remain a mainstay of his activities. He returned to his native Australia in 2019 after 17 years abroad, having lived and worked in first Germany for a decade, and then the United States. He currently works within Pinchgut Opera, Latitude 37, the Australian Haydn Ensemble, Van Diemen's Band, ARCO, Salut! Baroque, Ensemble Galante, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Duo Corbetta, along with other small but special collaborations. His particular interests are in vocal works, either in opera or intimate recitals, baroque and romantic guitar repertoire, and finding the groove in Early Music, exploring the diversity and richness of the sounds of plucked strings from the 16th to the 19th Centuries.



James Bush. Born in Christchurch, James studied with Ellen Doyle before leaving to complete his undergraduate studies, graduating with first-class honours from the Royal Academy of Music, London. This was followed by a Master of Music degree at the State University of New York. James later studied baroque cello at the Hochschule der Künste, Berlin. Winner of the TVNZ Young Musicians Competition and the National Concerto Competition of New Zealand, James has performed as soloist with all of New Zealand's leading orchestras. He has worked regularly over the last 10 years with many of Europe's leading baroque orchestras including *Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin*, *Concerto Köln*, and as principal cello of *Al Ayre Español*. James has also collaborated over many years with renowned dance company *Sasha Waltz and Guests*, performing from the Bach cello suites in 50 performances worldwide of the work *Gezeiten*. He also founded a music school in the poorer eastern suburbs of Berlin, which he directed for 7 years.

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

The April programme will feature samples of music (quite a lot of theorbo) by de Visée, Marin Marais, Leclair, Ravel, and the Reinhardt/Grappelli/Hot Club.

Programme broadcast on Tuesday 11 April 6pm and Thursday 13 April 11.30am.

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

PROGRAMME

Robert de Visée (1650-1725)	Prélude and Passacaille in D minor for solo theorbo
Jean-Marie Leclair (1697-1764)	Sonata for Violin and Continuo, Opus 2, No 1 in E minor
Robert de Visée (1650-1725)	Suite in C minor for solo theorbo
Marin Marais (1656-1725)	Sonnerie de St. Geneviève du Mont-de-Paris (The Bells of St. Geneviève) for violin, cello and theorbo
Alex Taylor (NZ, 1988-)	" <i>on what grounds</i> " for violin, cello and theorbo (World Premiere. Commissioned with funding from Creative NZ)
Maurice Ravel (1785-1937)	Sonata for Violin and Cello (dedicated to Claude Debussy)
Tribute	To Django Reinhardt (1910-1953), Stéphane Grappelli (1908-1997) and the Hot Club de France: <i>Sweet Georgia Brown, Nuages, Minor Swing</i>

ARMSTRONG, JACOBS, LIU TRIO - March Concert

We do not often have the opportunity to experience the French Horn in chamber groups we bring you, but Sam Jacobs gave us a superlative performance last month. In his amusing introduction to the Beethoven Horn Sonata, Sam confirmed not only the story of the



composer's last-minute completion of the piece but also that Beethoven had no time at all to compose the piano part and contemporised at the keyboard for the whole first performance. The wonderful Brahms Horn Trio was beautifully played and the whole concert thoroughly enjoyed by a large audience.

In the photo, from left: Sam Jacobs, Donald Armstrong and Jian Liu.

Photo: Elizabeth Kerr

JUNE CONCERT: Sunday 11 June MICHAEL HOUSTOUN - what more do we need to say? Michael will be performing a wealth of wonderful piano music from Bach, Brahms, Chopin and Rachmaninoff. Nobody will want to miss another exciting performance from our most loved local artist.

THE THEORBO



Featured in our concert this month will be the theorbo, a unique Baroque, plucked instrument of the lute family, in fact a large bass lute, or "archlute", used from the 16th to the 18th century for accompaniments to singing and for basso continuo parts. Theorbos were developed in Italy, inspired by demand for extended bass range instruments for use in the then newly developed musical style of opera. The size of the instrument has its problems, not least in transporting it in aircraft as Simon Martyn-Ellis would explain. Happily, there is a foldable version of the instrument, hinged half way up the fret board without need to remove the many strings. Simon intends to use such an instrument for his New Zealand concerts.

PROGRAMMES FOR MEMBERS WITH LOW VISION.

We provide a very small number of programmes in large print for members who may have difficulty reading our standard programmes. Please ask at the concert door if you would like a large-print programme.

CONCERT ARRANGEMENTS

Masks are recommended but no longer required at our concerts.

Tickets cost \$40 for non-members, \$30 for members, and \$5 for students aged up to 25. Tickets are sold by New World (Waikanae) and Moby Dickens (Paraparaumu Beach) for cash; by direct credit to 02 0591 0018930 00 (use your name and phone number as the reference) for collection at the concert; by phoning 021 251 7030 with your credit card number; or at the concert door (cash, EFTPOS, or credit card). We have a limited number of volunteers to manage door sales, so it helps us if you use one of the pre-purchase facilities.

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.
