



NEWSLETTER 5 – JULY 2023

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AMICI ENSEMBLE "BRANDENBURG"

SUNDAY 23 JULY at 2:30pm

WAIKANAЕ MEMORIAL HALL, PEHI KUPA ST, WAIKANAЕ



**Expanded Amici
Ensemble led by
Donald Armstrong
(front row centre)**

Donald Armstrong and his Amici Ensemble have been great friends and regular performers for our Society over many years. The Amici is a movable and multi-talented group, not any regular size or type of ensemble. What makes it unique and incredibly valuable is that the size and personnel is decided by the music, rather than choosing music for a set group of players. Because of that we have had, over the years, all the big octets - Schubert, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and so on, a nonet plus many quintets, sextets and septets for all sorts of woodwind, brass, piano, harp, voice, etc. instruments. We've already had one Brandenburg Concerto and a Bach Keyboard Concerto both needing numerous players. And sometimes trios, string quartets, duos and mixes of various sizes in one concert. Donald picks the music, then his performers, drawing from his 'amici' (friends) at the NZSO and elsewhere if necessary.

This year Donald has excelled himself with a group of 19 players, as required for Bach's wonderful group of six "concerti grossi" for various instrument groupings, dedicated to Christian Ludwig, Margrave of Brandenburg in 1721. We are greatly indebted to Donald for

this unique and rare opportunity to enjoy the complete set of "Brandenburgs" on our own stage in one much anticipated concert.

THE PERFORMERS AND PERFORMANCE



Donald Armstrong and his Amici Ensemble need no introduction as they are regular favourites in Waikanae - no season would be complete without them. This time they comprise probably the largest assembly of associated top class players yet, mostly from the NZSO plus other top New Zealand artists. To perform all the Brandenburg concertos as many as 19 players are required and will be on stage during the upcoming concert. They include a harpsichord continuo player which will add to the interesting lineup of instruments which will be on display.

PROGRAMME

Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F Major BWV 1046
Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F Major BWV 1047
Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major BWV 1048
Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G Major BWV 1049
Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D Major BWV 1050
Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 in B Flat Major BWV 1051

More information on the specific instruments that will be heard in each of the concertos will be given in the programme available at the concert. Also please note that the concertos may not necessarily be played in the order shown above. Again this will be explained in the concert programme.

This concert, although a little longer than normal, should finish around 4.30pm.

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

The July programme will feature the Amici Ensemble, Bach and the Brandenburg Concertos. Programme broadcast on Tuesday 4 July at 6pm and Thursday 6 July at 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

AUGUST CONCERT

Yes, there is life after Brandenburg and in August we will be pleased to bring you an exciting newly-formed ensemble called the Ākarana Piano Quartet who are making their debut this year. Award-winning musicians Andrew Beer, violin, and Sarah Watkins, piano (Best Classical Artist 2020, NZ Music Awards) will be joined by two outstanding colleagues from the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra – principal violist Robert Ashworth and sub-principal cellist Chen Cao. They will perform a programme including two of the most popular piano quartets in the repertoire, namely Mozart's K478 and Dvořák's Opus 87.

MICHAEL HOUSTOUN



Michael and Bella

Photo: Roscoe Turner

We expected a big audience at our May concert and we certainly got it. At one stage we thought we were going to run out of chairs but managed to seat all comers. Those comers came from as far as Auckland to hear Michael play at Waikanae and he did not disappoint. The audience was treated to exciting interpretations of a wide range of the wonderful music of Bach, Brahms, Chopin and Rachmaninoff.

Michael brought with him a special guest in the person of the Hungarian-American violinist Bella Hristova, who joined the audience. Bella will take the stage herself with Michael for our special concert in August, and was in New Zealand as a judge at the Michael Hill Violin Competition in Queenstown, which she won in 2007. She will return to New Zealand for our concert in August.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Unfortunately, Kapiti Coast District Council is replacing the floor in the Waikanae Memorial Hall and we are required to move to another venue during the months of August and September 2023.

We have considered all options available in the Kapiti area before settling on the RAUMATI CHURCH, KAPITI UNITING PARISH at 10 Weka Rd RAUMATI which offered the most suitable hall with a suitable piano.

It is not ideal but we feel it is a better option than cancelling our concerts.

The Sunday concerts scheduled for August and September will now be held in the Raumati church hall at the scheduled time, 2.30pm.

Ample parking is available in the immediately surrounding streets and there is disabled access by vehicle that can deliver people to the church door.

However, the church hall seats only 200, which is less than our usual limit, so we do advise early arrival.

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 Hristova/Houstoun concert in August is additional to our regular season. All tickets will be \$30 and holders of season tickets will need to buy a \$30 ticket.

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.

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.

Mobile Phones - Important notice. At the Michael Houstoun concert in June at least two mobile phone events occurred when ring sounds were clearly audible from the stage. All artists are entitled to silence from the hall. We must insist that phones are switched at least to mute and preferably turned off completely before the concert begins. We ask everybody to comply with this important matter and thank you for your cooperation.

Emergency Procedures Please note your nearest exit and follow the directions of the wardens in an emergency. Please keep the emergency exits clear. Wardens will direct you to assembly points outside the hall.

VENUES FOR UPCOMING CONCERTS

To be clear on venue changes mentioned on the previous page, please note the following planned venues for the remainder of the year:

AMICI ENSEMBLE "BRANDENBURG"	23 July	Waikanae Memorial Hall
ĀKARANA PIANO QUARTET	20 August	Raumati Church
BELLA HRISTOVA / MICHAEL HOUSTOUN	27 August	Raumati Church
ARGYLE TRIO	17 September	Raumati Church
NEW ZEALAND STRING QUARTET	8 October	Waikanae Memorial Hall
STUDENT MUSICIANS' CONCERT	12 November	Waikanae Memorial Hall