



NEWSLETTER 2 – MARCH 2024

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MICHAEL HOUSTOUN

SATURDAY 23 MARCH at 2:30pm

WAIKANAЕ MEMORIAL HALL, PEHI KUPA ST, WAIKANAЕ

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY, THE CONCERT WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY 23 MARCH, NOT SUNDAY.



It gives us very great pleasure to once more welcome this Waikanae Music Society favourite back to our stage. He needs no introduction to our audiences. On receiving an Honorary Doctorate from Victoria University, it was observed that "he has contributed substantially to raising the standard of expectations for classical performance, and helped to establish an international standard of musical excellence in New Zealand". For this concert he has, as usual, selected a stunning programme for our delight, opening according to his custom with J S Bach. The fantasy and fugue in G minor, one of the most magnificent of Bach's organ works, will be heard transcribed by Liszt for piano. Liszt was very generous in transcribing and performing the works of other composers in order to promote their music, in this case remaining very faithful to Bach's original.

The programme continues with a selection of Liszt's own works, displaying contrasted facets of this complex composer's skill, ranging from the colourful and extroverted Concert Etudes to the deeply contemplative Bénédiction.

The programme continues with Chinese composer Gao Ping who has very strong connections with New Zealand. His *Outside the Window*, a set of three short pieces, provides a charming interlude before we return to the music of the romantics with Chopin's famous and very beautiful Sonata in B minor.

PROGRAMME

Bach/Liszt	Organ Fantasy and Fugue in G minor
Liszt	Two Concert Etudes: 'Waldesrauschen' and 'Gnomenreigen'
Liszt	Bénédiction de Dieu dans la Solitude
Gao Ping	'Outside the Window'
Chopin	Sonata No 3 in B minor

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

For February and March the programmes focus on Michael Houstoun and the composers he is playing at his concert in March, plus other composers including some little-known Russian romantics and 20th century Frenchman Francis Poulenc. The February programme is available online. The March programme will be broadcast on Tuesday 19 at 6pm and Thursday 21 at 11.30am, then available online.

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

CONCERT ARRANGEMENTS

If you have not joined or renewed for 2024, please do so before the next concert. Pay by direct credit to 02 0591 0018930 00 and use your name and membership number as the reference. You do not need to return the form from the brochure unless you are a new member. Alternatively, phone 022 345 5316 with your credit card number. Regular membership is \$35 per person; season tickets are \$200 per person for membership plus admission to the 8 scheduled concerts.

Concert tickets cost \$40 for non-members, \$30 for members, and \$5 for students aged up to 25. Buy in advance from New World (Waikanae) or Moby Dickens (Paraparaumu Beach) for cash; by bank payment to 02 0591 0018930 00 (use your name and phone number as the reference); by phone 022 345 5316 (credit card only); or at the concert (cash, credit, EFTPOS).

The doors open at 1:45pm. 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.

Large print programmes are available. Please ask at the concert door.

Mobile Phones must be switched to mute or turned off entirely before the concert begins.

NEXT CONCERT

Our April concert will feature firm Waikanae Music Society favourites the Amici Ensemble, featured frequently in our programmes over the years. The makeup of the group is flexible and the long standing and close relationship we have had with its leader Donald Armstrong has led to some very innovative and exciting combinations and performances over the years. Last year was perhaps the most spectacular when Amici was expanded to 17

players to present all six Brandenburg concertos. This year the Amici numbers will be a little more conventional and a string quintet will play for us. Favourite Mozart and Brahms quartets, and New Zealand compositions from different generations will round out this very exciting programme. Get Saturday 27 April in your diaries now.

FEBRUARY CONCERT



Dénes and Izabella after the concert.

Photo: Roscoe Turner

The Dénes Várjon and Izabella Simon concert was a massive success and an incredibly exciting start to our 2024 programme.

Concertgoers are still talking about it nearly a month later. "The best Pathétique I have ever heard" a common remark. "Watching that dark clothed figure crouching over the keyboard I thought I was watching Beethoven himself " heard from one. Those feet literally dancing on the pedals during the Bartok work was recalled by another. But most praise was reserved for the Mahler "symphony". It seemed an unlikely idea, transposition of a favourite Mahler symphonic work for piano, but most agreed it really worked.

"The music of the Symphony and its performance here were, both for people like myself familiar with the orchestral version, and for those coming to the work for the first time, a revelation, judging from the reaction at the

concert's end of those who sat all around where I was situated – shouts of approval and exhalations of amazement of all kinds abounded, which must have gratified the two by then well-nigh exhausted players who had given their all over the best part of the previous hour!"

- *Peter Mechen for "Middle C" Classical Music Reviews*