

The Aroha Quartet

Haydn's Emperor Quartet and Dvorak's American Quartet

Wednesday Lunchtime Concert *providing lunchtime music in the heart of the city since 1974*

St Andrew's on The Terrace WELLINGTON

06

12

17
12.15pm

Welcome

It is wonderful that you have come. Thank you.

We want your experience today to be the best that it can be and would appreciate you taking a moment to read the following before the concert commences.

Keep safe by locating the exit nearest to your seat.

In the event of an earthquake, our recommendation is to **Drop, Cover and Hold**.

Bon appetit! You are welcome to have your lunch during the performance. Switching your cell phone to **silent** is important to the performers and other members of the audience.

Your support by way of a **donation** and telling others about the concerts would be fantastic and very much appreciated. It does make a difference.

If you wish to photograph or video today's concert, please ask for permission from the performer(s) before the concert begins. This is important.

We invite you now to sit back, relax and **enjoy** the concert.

Our Mission is to create a lively, open Christian faith community, to act for a just and peaceful world, and to be catalysts for discovery, compassion and celebration in the capital.

These lunchtime concerts are **advertised** through Radio New Zealand Concert's Live Diary at around 8.10 am on the day of the concert, and listed on St Andrew's website.

To be placed on the email **circulation list** for concert information, please email Marjan on marjan@marjan.co.nz

Check out the noticeboards in the foyer each time you come.

Programme *(programme notes supplied by performers)*

String Quartet in C Op 76 No 3 ‘Emperor’

Haydn (1732-1809)

Allegro

Poco adagio, Cantabile

Menuet: Allegro

Finale: Presto

The six String Quartets, Op. 76 by Josef Haydn were composed in 1797 or 1798 and dedicated to the Hungarian count Joseph Georg von Erdődy. They form the last complete set of string quartets that Haydn composed. At the time of the commission, Haydn was employed at the court of Prince Nicolaus Esterházy II. The Op. 76 quartets are among Haydn's most ambitious chamber works, deviating more than their predecessors from standard sonata form and each emphasizing their thematic continuity through the seamless and near-continual exchange of motifs between instruments.

In 1796, the year following Haydn's final return from London, the city of Vienna was under threat of invasion from Napoleon. Following a state commission, Haydn, a strong nationalist, contributed a beautiful, heartfelt national song to the cause. “Gott erhalte Franz den Kaiser” (“God Protect Emperor Franz”) was instantly adopted as the Austrian national anthem. So, universal was the appeal of Haydn's melody that it was later to be used as the “Brotherhood” anthem of Freemasonry; as the German national anthem “Deutschland, Deutschland über Alles”; and even as the Protestant hymns “Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him” and “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken.”

The third quartet in the set boasts the nickname ‘Emperor’, because in the second movement is a set of variations on this patriotic song. The melody also finds its way into the first movement. Its five-note theme derives from the German title of the song: G (Gott), E (erhalte), F (Franz), D (den), C (Kaiser).

[Sources: Wikipedia & St Lawrence String Quartet]

String Quartet No 12 in F Op 96 ‘American’

Dvorak (1841–1904)

Allegro ma non troppo

Lento

Molto vivace

Vivace ma non troppo

Czech composer Antonin Dvořák wrote his twelfth string quartet in 1893 during a summer holiday from his position as director (1892–1895) of the National Conservatory

in New York City. He composed the quartet shortly after the New World Symphony, before that work had been performed.

Dvořák sketched the quartet in three days and completed it in thirteen more days, finishing the score with the comment "Thank God! I am content. It was fast." The American Quartet proved a turning point in Dvořák's chamber music output: for decades, he had worked unsuccessfully to find a balance between his overflowing melodic invention and a clear structure. In the American Quartet, it finally came together.

Dvořák recorded "When I wrote this quartet in the Czech community of Spillville in 1893, I wanted to write something for once that was very melodious and straightforward, and dear Papa Haydn kept appearing before my eyes, and that is why it all turned out so simply. And it's good that it did."

For his symphony Dvořák gave the subtitle himself: "From the New World". To the quartet he gave no subtitle himself, but there is the comment "The second composition written in America."

A characteristic, unifying element throughout the quartet is the use of the pentatonic scale. This scale gives the whole quartet its open, simple character, a character that is frequently identified with American folk music. However, the pentatonic scale is common in many ethnic music's worldwide, and Dvořák had composed pentatonic music, being familiar with such Slavonic folk music examples, before coming to America. The one confirmed musical reference in the quartet is to the song of the scarlet tanager, an American songbird. Dvořák was annoyed by this bird's insistent chattering, and transcribed its song in his notebook. The song appears as a high, interrupting strain in the first violin part in the third movement.

[Source: Wikipedia]

Biography

Aroha String Quartet

Acclaimed as demonstrating "accomplished brilliance, soulfulness and sublime intensity in perfect balance and tonal unity" (The Dominion Post), the Aroha String Quartet is firmly established as one of New Zealand's finest chamber music ensembles. Founded in 2004, this versatile Wellington-based quartet is known for its passionate musicality, impressive technique, and multicultural innovation.

In 2009 **Robert Ibell** joined the group after the original cellist, Jiaxin Cheng, left for the UK. In 2012 **Blythe Press** joined them as second violin, taking the place of original quartet member, Beiyi Xue. Following Blythe's departure for further study in Europe in 2015 the Quartet was joined by Simeon Broom. Family commitments led to Simeon taking leave from the Quartet for the 2017 season and his resignation later that year. **Ursula Evans** has now joined the Quartet as second violinist.

The Aroha Quartet is committed to presenting string quartet works from western classical and avant-garde repertoire to traditional Chinese folk music, as well as works for larger forces through collaborations with numerous high-profile musicians.

The Aroha Quartet performs regularly around NZ in centres from the Deep South to the Far North. In 2014, they performed five concerts as part of Chamber Music New Zealand's Kaleidoscope series. Overseas trips have seen them participate in the prestigious International Summer Academy in Austria in 2010, give concerts and masterclasses in China in 2010 and 2013, and perform at the Huntington Music Festival in Australia in 2011.

The Aroha Quartet runs the annual ASQ International Music Academy, a week-long chamber music course. The fourth Academy will take place in Wellington in July 2018. The Quartet's first ASQ International Academy in Asia takes place in Zhongshan, China, in late January 2018.

Contact us



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Coming Up

December

13th 18th century chamber music - details to be confirmed

20th Concert of Christmas themed music

Check out the What's On and Concerts section on our website www.standrews.org.nz

The only place you'll find reviews of these concerts (and almost all other classical music in Greater Wellington) is at www.middle-c.org

Use it to find out what's coming up in classical music performance through the website's

Coming Events listings