

Viola Students of the NZSM

(New Zealand School of Music at Victoria)

Performers: Zephyr Wills, Debbie King, Charlotte Lamb, Grant Baker,
Lauren Jack, Catherine Norton

Wednesday Lunchtime Concerts *providing lunchtime music in the heart of the city since 1974*
St Andrew's on The Terrace WELLINGTON

13

06

18

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. Also join our facebook group Friends of St Andrew's on The Terrace Lunchtime Concerts, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/315497448862287/>.

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

Programme

Potpourri for Viola and Orchestra Johann Hummel (1778-1837) **Zephyr Wills - viola Catherine Norton - Piano**

This piece is the perfect display of an 18th century mash-up. Hummel achieves this musically by intertwining his own melodies with popular music of the time, such as Mozart's *Il mio tesoro* from *Don Giovanni*. The final section allows the composer's creativity to overwhelm all in a glorious and virtuosic finale. Hummel's congregation of dried petals and spices intermixes to create a truly delightful work that all audiences can enjoy.

Allegro Appassionato (1916) Paul Rougnon (1846-1934) **Debbie King - viola Catherine Norton - Piano**

Paul Rougnon was a professor at the Conservatoire de Paris from 1873-1921 and a prolific composer. Although most of his works are for piano, the *Allegro Appassionato* you will hear today is a brilliant example of idiomatic virtuosic writing for viola.

Prelude from Suite no. 1 in G major J.S.Bach (1685-1750) **Charlotte Lamb - viola**

A Fantasia like prelude opens the G major Suite with a steady pulse of sixteenth notes, which gradually builds to a great climax. It is the responsibility of the performer to explore and breathe musical life into the notes, which would otherwise be bare sequences of steady notes. Bach utilises the resonant sound of the open G throughout the movement, and in a nice touch, the finishing bars are an inverted version of the opening.

When Gravity Fails Philip Norman (1953-) **1. Flingamango Tango - 2. Evening Romance - 3. Isla's Blues**

Grant Baker, Zephyr Wills, Lauren Jack – viola, Catherine Norton - Piano

Originally written in 2010, these three pieces were later orchestrated and made more virtuosic by the composer for Bryony Gibson-Cornish to perform with APO in 2014. The first movement is a classic tango, the second is a slow waltz one would hear at the end of a night, and the third is an improvisation on a twelve bar blues.

Suite Hebraique Rhapsodie Ernest Bloch (1880-1959) **Lauren Jack - viola Catherine Norton - Piano**

This is the final composition in Bloch's "Jewish Cycle". This piece was part of Bloch's musical reflection on his Jewish heritage. Throughout the suite Bloch uses Jewish themes, expressing his own interpretation on what Jewish music should be.

Blues for Benni (1991)

Eduard Pütz (1911-2000)

Debbie King - viola Catherine Norton - Piano

Pütz, a German composer, wrote this piece for Benjamin von Gutzeit, a jazz violist. This piece has three main sections: a mellow singing section, an energetic rhythmic section, and then a slightly different version of the opening singing section.

Elegie for Viola and Piano

Henri Vieuxtemps (1820-1881)

Grant Baker - viola Catherine Norton – Piano

This Elegie was published in 1854. The opening piano chords turn into the accompaniment of a poignant singing melody, after which a viola cadenza ushers in a joyful passage in A-flat major. The opening theme returns and finally launches into a whirlwind coda.

Biographies:

Zephyr Wills is a first-year performance student at NZSM. He has been playing a mixture of violin and viola since the age of nine under a number of tutors including Douglas Beilmen and Gioia Brunoro. Past concertmaster of the Kapiti Youth orchestra and an avid enjoyer of chamber music, Zephyr has always loved classical music and all it entails. Zephyr loves a discussion on Bach and Paganini, but Hummel is acceptable too. Along with writing a novel, he intends to continue his studies and perform regularly at St. Andrews in the future.

Originally from Auckland, **Debbie King** began her journey into music when she was 5, learning the violin through Suzuki method. After 7 years of not liking it all that much, she decided it was time for a change and picked up the viola and accidentally discovered a lifelong passion. Since then she has received numerous accolades including an APO Scholarship (2015) and an associate diploma (ABRSM, 2016). Currently she is completing second year studies at NZSM under Gillian Ansell, and is eager to return next year for round three!

Charlotte Lamb is in her fourth year studying at NZSM towards her bachelor of music with honours in classical violin performance, at present studying with Monique Lapins. This year Charlotte has taken up viola as a way to further develop her playing technique and sound. This is her debut performance on the viola. Charlotte enjoys playing in chamber groups and orchestras, as well as teaching a number of beginner violin students on the weekends.

Grant Baker is a Wellington-born violist in the third year of his degree in music performance on viola with Gillian Ansell. Over the last few years, he has performed with most of the professional orchestras in Wellington and across the country. He also enjoys playing chamber music with friends. In 2017, Grant made his Concerto debut with Wellington Youth Orchestra.

Lauren Jack started violin at the age of 7 with Lynley Culliford through the Suzuki Method. At the age of 17 she switched to viola in order to form the Druz'ya string quartet, which went on to win the 2017 CMNZ chamber music contest. Following the chamber music contest, Lauren left

violin behind for good, and decided to pursue music at NZSM, studying viola with Gillian Ansell. As of now she is halfway through her first year at university.

Catherine Norton studied in Wellington and was an Emerging Artist with New Zealand Opera, before postgraduate studies in London at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where she was awarded the accompaniment prizes and was appointed an Artist Fellow.

She was a 2013 Britten-Pears Young Artist, is an alumna of Austria's acclaimed Franz-Schubert-Institut for Lieder, and was a member of Graham Johnson's Young Songmakers' Almanac. She is the winner of numerous awards, including the Victoria University Concerto Competition and Britain's AESS National English Song Competition.

Catherine has appeared in recital in concert halls including the Barbican Hall, LSO St Luke's, and at the Oxford Lieder Festival, as well as around England and in France, Germany, Northern Ireland and Malta. She is the artistic director of Songbook, a new Wellington recital series.

Contact us



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Coming Up

June

20th Organ Recital – Jonathan Berkahn – various composers including Bach

27th William McElwee (tenor) and Heather Easting (piano)

July

4th Music for solo Guitar – Jane Curry

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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