

# Across the Atlantic: Britten and Copland

Katherine McIndoe

Accompanied by Catherine Norton

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

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St Andrew's on The Terrace WELLINGTON

15

08

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](mailto: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.

# Across the Atlantic: Britten and Copland

“I thought of him as the voice of England in the contemporary musical scene, and he, in turn, considered me the American spokesman.”

– Aaron Copland of Benjamin Britten, in his 1984 autobiography

Benjamin Britten first travelled to America with Peter Pears in the summer of 1939. He was disenchanted with the musical scene in Britain, and eager to escape the shadow of an impending European war. But he was also excited to connect with American composer Aaron Copland, whom he had met in England the previous year. Britten and Pears rented a house near Copland and his partner Victor Kraft at Woodstock, and the two composers spent these summer days writing, playing tennis, and talking endlessly about music. Each had admired the other's work for some time, and were open with one another in both criticism and praise: during that summer, Britten finished one of his monumental song cycles, a setting of Rimbaud's *Les Illuminations*.

This programme explores the composers' transatlantic musical relationship, from Britten's powerful setting of Rimbaud's poetry, to selections from Copland's *Old American Songs*, that had their première at the Aldeburgh Festival in 1950. The programme concludes with Britten's elegiac setting of an American folk ballad, Dink's Song.

We don't know the extent to which Britten and Copland's music was affected by the conversations they had about music at Woodstock in the summer of 1939, but the works presented in this programme are no doubt influenced by their interactions, personal and musical, and their excursions across the Atlantic.

## Programme

*Les Illuminations*

**Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)**

**Text: Arthur Rimbaud (1854-1891)**

Selections from *Old American Songs*

**Aaron Copland (1900-1990)**

**Text: traditional**

Long Time Ago

Simple Gifts

The Little Horses

Selection from *Folk Song Arrangements*

**Benjamin Britten**

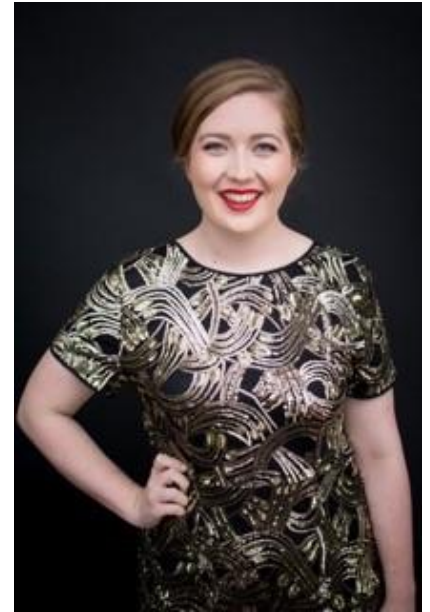
**Text: traditional**

Dink's Song

# Biography

## Katherine McIndoe

Katherine is a soprano from Wellington, currently studying for a Masters in Vocal Studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, under Yvonne Kenny. She holds a Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours in Classical Performance Voice from the New Zealand School of Music, where she studied under Jenny Wollerman and Richard Greager. She was a Dame Malvina Major Emerging Artist with New Zealand Opera for 2015/16, was a member of the inaugural Dame Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation Singer Development Programme, and was a Britten-Pears Young Artist at the Aldeburgh Festival in 2017. Her roles since moving to London include the Governess (*The Turn of the Screw*) and Marcellina (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), and her roles in New Zealand include Tatyana (*Eugene Onegin*) and Giulietta (*I Capuleti e I Montecchi*). She recently made her Barbican debut in London as Sister Catherine in the UK première of Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* with Joyce DiDonato, the BBC Singers, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. She has just been named as a finalist in the Australian Singing Competition, and will perform in Sydney with the Opera Australia Orchestra in Sydney in September, before returning to London for her second year at the Guildhall School.



## Catherine Norton

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. She 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

### August

22<sup>nd</sup> **String students of the NZSM –**  
music by Shostakovich, Gareth Farr,  
Beethoven and Vanhal.

29<sup>th</sup> **Duo Tapas –**  
Rupa Maitra (violin) and  
Owen Moriarty (guitar)

### September

5<sup>th</sup> **Steel and Irons –**  
music for flute and piano

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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](http://www.middle-c.org)

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