

Aroha String Quartet

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

St Andrew's on The Terrace WELLINGTON

13

12

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

Beethoven - String Quartet No 13 in B-flat major Op 130

Adagio ma non troppo - Allegro

Presto

Poco scherzoso: Andante con moto ma non troppo

Alla Danza tedesca: Allegro assai

Cavatina: Adagio molto espressivo

Finale: Allegro

Beethoven's last string quartets were composed during the final years of his life between 1824 and 1826. The project began in 1822 with a commission from Russian Prince Nicholas Galitzin, an amateur cellist who requested "one, two or three" string quartets. Once Beethoven began work in earnest, he turned out not one, two or three, but five massive string quartets that ultimately became six separate works known simply as "Beethoven's Late Quartets".

For decades, these quartets were regarded by most as strange, difficult, anomalous, quite possibly the work of a once great composer now degenerated into a deafness and insanity. (Schubert, Mendelssohn and Schumann thought differently). It was not until the 20th century that the late quartets became widely regarded as profound masterworks worthy of entering if not becoming the apex of the traditional repertoire.

Today, Beethoven is seen as a pioneer and artistic visionary who created, particularly in the late quartets, truly complicated works of high art that speak on many levels. They are compelling works that have mesmerized players, composers, scholars, poets and listeners for nearly two hundred years.

The third of the late quartets in the order Beethoven composed them, the String Quartet in B-flat Major Op 130 was completed in its first version in November of 1825. Beethoven and his publisher surprisingly came to agree that the finale did not sit well with the rest of the quartet movements. A bristling, difficult fugue of epic proportions was deemed "too much." The fugue was detached henceforth as a separate opus (Op 133) and Beethoven composed a fresh, much lighter finale to complete Op 130 in its revised, final version. Beethoven completed the new finale in November, 1826. It was the very last piece of music he wrote. He died shortly after in March, 1827.

[Source: Notes by Kai Christiansen on www.earsense.org]

Aroha String Quartet

Haihong Liu & Konstanze Artmann - violins

Zhongxian Jin - viola

Robert Ibell - cello

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.

Haihong Liu and Zhongxian Jin are original members of the Aroha Quartet. Robert Ibell joined the group in 2009 and Konstanze Artmann in late 2018.

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 fifth ASQ Academy will take place in Wellington from 29 July to 3 August 2019. The Quartet's second ASQ International Academy in Asia will be in Zhongshan, China, in late January 2019.



Contact us



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Coming Up

December 19th Family and Community Carol Service

2019 concerts will start 13th February



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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