

Catherine Geels

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

St Andrew's on The Terrace WELLINGTON



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

Mompou - To Inspire Love

The first piece, *To Inspire Love* is from a Catalan/Spanish composer Frederico Mompou (1893-1987) from the early XXth century. He makes references to the poem “Charmes” of Paul Valéry, who is a famous French poet from the same period. According to Mompou, the piece is a primitive form of incantation. Incantation being – according to the Oxford dictionary- A series of words said as a magic spell or charm. You will hear tenderness and among other things, the heart accelerating in the middle of the piece.

Clara Wieck and Robert Schumann

The next two pieces are from the two romantic composers who were lovers. Clara Wieck was known for her talent as a pianist, she was a child prodigy, but she was also a composer. Robert Schumann started as a pianist but quickly had to stop because he had a problem with his right hand and dedicated himself exclusively to composition. Both really struggled to become a couple – Robert even had to sue Clara’s father as he kept refusing their union and tried everything in his power to separate them. He kept sending Clara on tour – even to Russia! They had to wait 5 years and it was only in 1840 that they could get married. So here is the expression of a really intense and difficult love, given their forced separation. You will hear the feminine and masculine version of this separation – I will let you guess who wrote which.

Ballade

This ballad dates from 1836. We can really feel the pain, the difficulty of living apart, but at the same time we can also feel the hope that everything is going to be okay. Indeed, it was often Clara who had to cheer Robert up.

Arabesque

This arabesque dates from 1839 and is constructed as a refrain and two verses. In the refrain we feel the innocence of C major, which is a happy tonality. It is the tonality of childhood for Robert Schumann. He is happy, in love. The two verses, though, are more tense, sad and bring him back to the reality of the separation.

Debussy- Clair de Lune

This piece is part of the Bergamasque Suite published in 1905 but composed in 1890. Debussy first titled it *Balade Sentimentale*. He finally called it *Clair de Lune* (Moonlight). I am inviting you for a sentimental walk under the moonlight with everything that can happen.

Liszt - Funeral

Here, I want to invite you to think about love as friendship. This piece appeals to love for friends who died for a common cause, here as heroes. This piece was dated by Liszt in October 1849. Thus, it was interpreted by mistake as a tribute to Chopin, who died on October 17 of the same year.

However, Liszt said that this piece was not written to honour Chopin, but three of his friends who died in a Hungarian revolt against the Habsburgs in 1848.

Tasset - Butterflies Don't Die

This piece was written by a young Belgian composer Virginie Tasset who I met last summer. I told her I was working on a project in New Zealand and she composed the piece inspired by the theme of love. Here it refers to young love, to the butterflies or nerves we feel at the beginning of a relationship. They don't die, they're always present as the relationship develops, even if they transform a little bit. You might hear that transformation in the piece.

Chopin – Impossible Love

The next piece from Chopin was published in 1836 when Frédéric Chopin was in love with Maria Wodsinka, a Polish painter from an aristocratic family. They knew each other since childhood but had lost contact and saw each other again in 1835. One year later, they even considered getting married. Chopin went to be with Maria at her family home for one month where he finished writing this ballad. When he returned to Paris all his letters to Maria remained unanswered. And in 1837 it was finally by mail that Maria's family informed Chopin that they had broken up. They belonged to two very different worlds. His social status as a musician did not allow him to be with the upper class. According to Maria's family, he was not good enough for Maria.

The Artist: Catherine Geels

After graduating in classical piano from different music conservatories in Belgium and Spain, Catherine Geels became convinced that classical music concerts needed to change, to become more accessible to the public. She developed a style of 'didactic concerts' in Belgium and Spain, with presentations, analysis, and discourse throughout – bridging classical music to other arts such as poetry or cinema. She is bringing her love of music to New Zealand to perform "A Journey on Love" throughout February 2019.

Contact us



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Coming Up

February

20th Robbie Ellis–
Singing songs from the piano

27th Larry Axelrod, piano
Works by Janacek, De Castro-Robinson, Holloway, Axelrod and others

March

6th Bernard Wells and Duncan Robbie
Improvisations on guitar and keyboard

We thank our generous supporters

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and all those who donate weekly

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