

Chris Greenslade

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

Impromptu in Bb Major D935 Op 142 No 3

Schubert

Selections from Davidsbundlertanze Op 6

Schumann

Sonata No 23 Op 57 in F minor “Appassionata”

Beethoven

Impromptu in B flat Major Op 142 No 3

Schubert

Although Schubert did not invent the Impromptu form, he is perhaps the most famous exponent of it. The 8 Impromptus written in the last year of his life were one of the first forms by a major composer to break away from the dominance of the piano repertoire by Sonata form. The scope of emotion, lyricism and sonority in all the impromptus is vast despite their relatively simple structure being mostly in ternary form.

The Impromptu in B flat is in theme and variations form and is one of the more virtuosic of the 8 Impromptus. The theme was clearly one that Schubert liked as he used it in the entr'acte from the incidental music for the play Rosamunde and the String quartet in A minor D804. The variations themselves are relatively straightforward and are light hearted in nature, but a central minor variation beautifully contrasts the lighter mood of the other variations.

Davidsbundlertanze Op 6 (selections)

Schumann

Lebhaft (lively)

Innig (Intimate, Heartfelt)

Ungeduldig (Impatient)

Einfach (Simply)

Mit Humour (with Humour)

Wild und Lustig (Wild and boisterous)

Zart und singend (Tender and Singing)

Frisch (Fresh)

Completed by Oct 1837 the Davidbundlertanze, or Dances of the League of David are a group of dances composed for a fictional league of musical friends/colleagues both real and imagined, alive and dead, who represented Schumann's ideas and compositional philosophy. The dances reflect Schumann's two personalities Eusebius and Florestan. Eusebius being the introverted dreamer and Florestan the exuberant and more lively of the two. Schumann describes at the end of each dance the fictional composer as either E (Eusebius) F (Florestan) or EF (Eusebius and Florestan) The irony in the Davidbundlertanze is the fact that so many of them appear anything but dance-like due to the distortions inflicted on them, some more subtle than others.

The opening piece starts with a quote from a mazurka by Schumann's beloved Clara and he immediately offers us a dance which distorts the listener's sense of pulse and phrasing. Many of the pieces create this typically Schumannesque phrasing with off-beat accents, hands out of phase and irregular phrase lengths.

The changes in mood and character between each of the pieces is abrupt and although this is perhaps one of the reasons they are not as accessible for audiences as some of his other works, they are a unique insight into the mind of the younger Schumann.

Sonata No 23 Op 57 in F minor "Appassionata"

Beethoven

Allegro Assai

Andante con motto

Allegro ma non troppo - Presto

Composed in 1805-1806 the sonata Op 57 comes from Beethoven's so-called Middle period and is one of his most turbulent and tragic piano sonatas. Many of Beethoven's works can be described as having a sense of triumph over adversity but the Appassionata's sense of struggle never really finds resolution. After a sinister opening whispers the struggle that is about to unfold, the first movement gives us a violence and tragedy rarely seen in Beethoven's piano sonatas up to this point. The second movement which is a set of variations offers relief from the drama of the first movement. It brings us from darkness to light only to be interrupted by the 3rd movement, a sort of *moto perpetuo*. This third movement however does not run away and Beethoven clearly wants the sense of drama and restraint to be maintained with his *ma non troppo* marking. This keeps the last movement from sounding merely like a finale but as an integral part of the struggle.

What makes this sonata so powerful is the fact that all the movements are so tightly structured and held together despite the violence. It is not until the presto coda of the last movement that the sonata finally breaks free ending in one of his most destructive and passionate outbursts.

Biography

Chris Greenslade was a student of leading pianist Bruce Greenfield and went on to complete his honours degree in performance with Richard Mapp at the Wellington Conservatorium of Music. As well as receiving the NGCNZ Scholarship while at the conservatorium, he was a prize-winner in various competitions and conducted and presented research into the education of musically gifted children. Chris continued his post-graduate studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester with Mark Ray, received the RNCM Julius Scholarship and studied chamber music with Dr Christopher Rowland formerly of the Fitzwilliam quartet. As well as regularly appearing in recitals and accompanying in New Zealand, Chris is a sought after teacher. He has been a regional coach for Chamber Music New Zealand's secondary schools chamber music competition and his piano students have regularly had success in both regional and national competitions. Including, winner of the North Shore concerto competition and semi-finalists in every Wallace National Junior Piano Competition since its inception. As well as teaching piano at St Paul's Collegiate Hamilton where he is also the accompanist for the mixed choir, Chris is a keen supporter of music in the community and works with Conductive Education Waikato providing music appreciation classes for children with special needs.

Contact us



e | wednesday@standrews.org.nz p | 04-472-9211 w | www.standrews.org.nz

Coming Up

1 May -Don Pasquale, Highlights from Wanderlust Opera's recent touring production. Georgia Jamieson Ems, Stuart Coats and Barbara Paterson. Accompanied by Mark Dorrell

8 May - Solo String Students of the NZSM

9 May (Thursday)- Samuel Marsden Collegiate School Choir

15 May –Liam Furey – piano. Bach: Inventions & Sinfonias, BWV 702-801.

22 May - Students of the NZSM's Guitar Programme

23 May (Thursday)– Classical voice students of the New Zealand School of Music

29 May - Piano Students of the NZSM

We thank our generous supporters

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Adam Foundation



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**