

Koru Trio

Anne Loeser (violin), Sally Isaac (cello), Rachel Thomson (piano)

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:

Maurice Ravel: Sonata for Violin and Cello

I. Allegro

III. Lent

II. Tres Vif

IV. Vif, avec entrain

“I think this sonata marks a turning-point in my career. The music is stripped down to the bone. The allure of harmony is rejected and increasingly there is a return of emphasis on melody.” These are the words of Ravel, describing a piece which seems to have caused him considerable difficulty during its two-and-a-half-year gestation. The first movement was commissioned by the editor of the magazine “La Revue Musicale”, in memory of Claude Debussy who had died recently. This movement first appeared in a special Debussy commemoration issue of the magazine in December 1920. Ravel found the following three movements to be very problematic, including a completed Scherzo which had to be abandoned and started again. The completed sonata was not ready for performance until April 1922.

The eighteenth century saw the birth of several instrumental combinations which proved enduring: The String Quartet, Piano Trio, Sonata with keyboard accompaniment, were all vehicles for musical creativity for at least two hundred years. The Duo, however, after a brief flash of popularity, did not really survive into the nineteenth century. The Duo’s comparatively sparse textures and compositional limitations were not up to the romantic demands of nineteenth century music, and it wasn’t until romantic music had blown itself out that Ravel (and Kodaly) could conceive their masterpiece Duos in the early twentieth century, and turn those textural limitations into a positive challenge.

The Sonata is in four movements. As previously quoted, “harmony is rejected” and Ravel concentrates on melody and counterpoint. He looks back to the Middle Ages with his use of modes (especially Dorian), parallel fifths and fourths, and unresolved dissonances, whilst keeping an eye to the (then) present with bitonality and an extensive exploration of the two instruments’ timbral possibilities. At times there seems to be an obsession with the contrast of major and minor, and the interval of the seventh. Despite all of this the Sonata finishes with a reassuring C major thump.

Antonín Dvorák: Piano Trio No.4 in E minor, Op.90 “Dumky”

I. Lento Maestoso

V. Allegro

II. Poco Adagio

VI. Lento Maestoso

III. Andante

IV. Andante Moderato (Quasi Tempo do Marcia)

“A little piece for violin, cello and piano. It will be both happy and sad. In some places it will be like a melancholic song, elsewhere like a merry dance; but, all told, the style will be lighter or, if I might put it another way, more popular, in short, so that it will appeal to both higher and lower echelons.”

The first performance of the Dumky Trio took place in Prague in 1891, with Dvorák at the piano. It was part of a gala evening held in his honour, to celebrate his receipt of an honorary degree from Prague University. A year later the Trio was taken on Dvorák’s extended tour of thirty or more Czech and Moravian towns, a farewell to his homeland before his departure to live in the U.S.A.

The “Dumky” title is the plural of Dumka, a genre of melancholy Ukrainian folk song. Many Slav composers in the nineteenth century made use of the Dumka. Dvorák used it as a starting point and developed it into a composition of widely differing tempi and emotions, far removed from the original concept but nonetheless effective and highly engaging.

The Dumky Trio is in six movements; each movement a separate Dumka consisting of slow and fast sections. In this Dvorák was not much concerned with formal strictures, the result could be termed a rhapsodic suite. Interestingly, the first three movements are played without a break, almost as if they were one long movement, which, in conjunction with the final three separate movements, almost takes us back to a standard four-movement structure.

(programme notes by Gregory Hill)

Biographies

Anne Loeser (violin)

German-born Anne studied violin at the Frankfurt Musikhochschule and joined the first violin section of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) in 2000.

Before emigrating to New Zealand, Anne played in the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn and Hesse State Theatre Orchestra in Wiesbaden.

Anne's love for chamber music has seen her play in various ensembles, ranging from baroque on authentic instruments to modern throughout Germany and New Zealand. Anne plays with NZ Barok and performed with the Darmstädter Barocksolisten and L'arpa festante Munich. She led the Renaissance Ensemble for Eternity Opera's production of Monteverdi's “L'Orfeo”.

Anne is a member of the Koru Piano Trio, the Orion String quartet and concertmaster of the Days Bay Opera Orchestra. She is the musical director and leader of Camerata, a Wellington based chamber orchestra dedicated to performing Haydn's early symphonies.

Sally Isaac (cello)

Sally Isaac joined the NZSO in 2005, shortly after graduating from Cleveland Institute of Music with a Masters of Music degree. She also holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Australian National University in her hometown of Canberra, Australia.

Sally was a fellowship recipient at the Tanglewood Music Center, USA, for the 2004 Summer Festival and has been a member of the Canberra, Akron and Canton symphony orchestras.

Rachel Thomson (piano)

Rachel Thomson was born in Dunedin, New Zealand, and grew up in Wellington where she began her piano studies with her mother. She went on to study with Judith Clark, graduating from Victoria University of Wellington before continuing her studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music in the United States, where she gained a doctorate in piano performance.

Rachel regularly performs with some of the country's leading musicians. She has toured on numerous occasions for Chamber Music New Zealand and is a member of various chamber ensembles including the Koru Trio. She has worked as an orchestral pianist with the NZSO, Orchestra Wellington, and the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra. Rachel is also active as a teacher, adjudicator and accompanist.

Contact us

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Coming Up September

19th (Tomorrow/Thursday)

Classical voice students NZSM (New Zealand School of Music)

25th **NZSM String Ensemble –**

conductor Martin Risely

Haydn cello concerto in C, Haydn

violin concerto in G and Michael Kimber Variations for viola and strings on a polish folk song.

October

2nd **Students of the NZSM Guitar Programme**

3rd (Thursday) **NZSM Piano Students**

9th **Mark and Noelle Dannenbring** - Jacques Hotteterre Le Romain- Suite in E minor Op.2 No.4 .César Franck- Sonata in A Major No.1
(arranged for flute and piano)

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