

# NZSM String students and brilliant young players from Virtuoso Strings

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





## 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 pseat.

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**

#### Cello Suite no.5 in C minor for viola, BWV.1011

**Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685 - 1759)

1. Allemande

2. Courante

#### Zephyr Wills – viola

Bach's Cello Suites are thought to have been composed between 1717 and 1723, when Bach worked as Kapellmeister (choirmaster) in Köthen. Most performances of the cello suites vary in taste, as there is no primary score in Bach's hand. For this reason, some claim the copyist, Bach's second wife Anna Magdalena, was actually the composer. Nevertheless, most modern performers strive to construct their interpretations around the musical traits and values of the Baroque period. The fifth suite has been described by Steven Isserlis as, 'the most darkly dramatic of the six suites'. The Allemande has a sombre nobility which centres around a step-like dotted eighth-sixteenth rhythm. The Courante is the only movement of the entire suites written in 3/2 metre. Only two minutes in length, it twists and turns in unpredictable ways, while maintaining a concise dance-like efficiency.

### Capriccio 'Hommage a Paganini' in C minor for solo viola Henri Vieuxtemps (1820 - 1881)

#### Zephyr Wills - viola

Vieuxtemps' Capriccio for Solo Viola is the last of a set of six pieces, the first five of which are for solo violin. Vieuxtemps was a violin and viola virtuoso in his day, and was good friends with Nicolo Paganini. While Paganini was famous for extreme technical virtuosity, Vieuxtemps preferred romantic expressivity. He wrote this Capriccio after Paganini died as a homage to his good friend. As a tribute, it combines Paganini's trademark virtuosity with Vieuxtemps' mournful romanticism. In the final phrase, the viola has three descending chromatic scales, which musicologists have likened to Paganini's 13th Caprice. The 13th Caprice is nicknamed 'Devil's Laughter' for its descending chromatic scales. Clearly, Vieuxtemps was happy to claim the last laugh.

### Sonata no. 1 in G minor by Bach Johann Sebastian Bach (1785-1850)

i) Adagio

ii) Fuga (Allegro)

#### Hayden Nickel - violin

The **Adagio** presents a solemn but assured tone, balancing between strictness and freedom by laying block chords to mark beats with flowing, buoyant lines connecting them. This is contrasted by the stringent nature of the following **Fuga (Allegro)**, the only of Bach's violin fugues that includes a character marking and also the only violin fugue

that he transcribed for organ. The Fuga accelerates to a closing G minor chord which is reminiscent of the Adagio, but is no longer weighed by solemnity, leaving surety and a strengthened resolve.

#### **Penillion**

Sally Beamish (b.1956-)

#### Lauren Jack - viola

Penillion is a form of Welsh singing where the singer improvises over a well-known folk melody played by a harp. This piece is a theme and variations on the Welsh tune Gwenllian's Repose, and starts off with a declamatory opening. The first variation is more dance-like, and as the variations continue it dissolves into increasing dissonance and urgency. The piece reaches climax and then mellows into a hushed variation of the original melody. In the Penillion tradition, the singer only states the melody at the end of the piece, so this conclusion is a sigh of relief after the turmoil of the inner variations.

#### Concerto for 2 violins in D Minor BWV 1043

**Johann Sebastian Bach** (1785-1850)

1. Vivace

2. Largo ma non tanto

Rochelle Pese Akerise- violin Jillian Tupuse – violin Teddy Sneyd-Utting - viola Veititi Alapati – cello

Bach composed his Concerto for Two Violins during the late Baroque period, as part of a concert series he ran as the Director of the Collegium Musicum in Leipzig. The exact date of composition has never been verified though it is close to 1730. The exquisite interweaving of the violin lines and the beauty of the slow movement has ensured its place as a favourite in the violin literature. It is Bach's only concerto for two violins.

Programme content provided by artists

# **Biography**

**Zephyr Wills** has almost completed his third year at the New Zealand School of Music, studying Classical Viola under the tutorage of Gillian Ansell. Zephyr always enjoys performing at St. Andrews, and he is thrilled to almost be performing a work by Paganini. Maybe next year friends, maybe next year.

Lauren Jack started learning violin at the age of 7 frpom Lynley Culliford. She switched to viola at the age of 17 to play in the Druz'ya Quartet in the NZCT national secondary school chamber contest, which went on to win the contest. This year she will be completing her Bachelor of Music at the New Zealand School of Music under the tutelage of Gillian Ansell. She was the principal violist of the National Youth Orchestra in 2019 and enjoys playing in orchestras and chamber groups. She has attended the Adam Summer School for the past three years and plans to attend again in 2021 before going on to complete her honours degree.

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Hayden Nickel is an honours year violinist from the Hutt Valley, studying under the tutelage of Helene Pohl and Martin Riseley. He has a passion for music education and has been involved in various programmes around Wellington - most recently, his string quintet toured an interactive performance in schools in the Wairarapa region as a part of the Martinborough Music Festival. Hayden has ambitions of pursuing further study overseas in the future.

Rochelle Pese Akerise, Jillian Tupuse, Teddy Sneyd-Utting and Veititi Alapati are all members of the Virtuoso String programme held in Porirua. The Virtuoso Strings Charitable Trust was founded in 2013 as a way to make classical and contemporary strings music more available to Pasifika and Maori youth.

The programme seeks to create a thriving and supportive environment which nurtures the talent of all young students, helping them develop strong peer and community connections and build an enduring sense of self-worth.

## **Contact us**





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# **Coming Up**

28th October - Mozart K. 533 and a JC Bach sonata

- Ingrid Schoenfield, piano

4th November - Music for guitar and piano -

Michael Stoop, guitar, Sunny Cheng, piano

11th November - Piano Trio -

Emily Paterson, cello; Hayden Nickel, violin; Sunny Cheng, piano.

12th November (Thursday) - Solo Piano - Chris Greenslade

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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 <a href="https://www.middle-c.org">www.middle-c.org</a>

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

**Coming Events listings**