

# Wednesday Lunchtime Concerts

providing music in the heart of the city since 1974

### **Duo Zweisamkeit**

with Sunny Cheng and Otis Prescott-Mason perform piano duets by Bach, Mozart and Fibich)



## 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 contribute by internet banking, our account is 020 534 000 4022 00. Please put lunch concert in the particulars.

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, they are also advertised on Eventfinda, Dominion Post Arts Pages and Arts Wellington online, and listed on St Andrew's website.

To be placed on the email **circulation list** for concert information, please email wednesday@standrews.org.nz. Also join our facebook group Friends of St Andrew's on The Terrace Lunchtime Concerts, <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/315497448862287/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/315497448862287/</a>.

Check out the noticeboards in the foyer each time you come.

## **Programme**

### **Bach/Kurtag:**

O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig, BWV 618

Alle Menschen müssen sterben, BWV 643

Christum wir sollen loben schon, BWV 611

Aus tiefer Not schrei' ich zu dir, BWV 687

Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr, BWV 711

#### **Mozart:**

Sonata for four hands in D major, K. 381

#### Fibich:

Sonata for four hands in B flat major, Op. 28

# **Programme notes:**

György Kurtág (b 1926) is a Hungarian pianist and composer of music with a huge breadth of creative imagination. Much of his output is intense, atonal and experimental. He wrote homages to many composers and transcribed works by several others, including these by Bach, who was one of his major inspirations. Kurtág is known to have said that "one note is almost enought', realisting that one can make music out of almost nothing: his writing is free from any excess material, a feature that brings purity and clarity to these transcriptions.

This sonata for four hands was written by Mozart at the age of 16. The work is in three movements with a fast and very carefree first movement, a slower but still quite pleasant second movement, marked 'andante', and an energetic third movement - the fastest of them all.

Though composed by a young Mozart, this work could well be from his mature period due to its mastery of character, structure and harmony.

A relatively unknown work from an historically neglected composer, this sonata for four hands, in Bb major, could be summarized in one word: delightful. The wonderfully lyrical theme of the first movement puts the listener at ease and the movement unfolds naturally, as though no other way was possible. The second movement consists of a set of variations, in D major. The beauty of this movement lies in its childlike simplicity. With quintessential 4 and 8 bar phrasing and perfect structural symmetry in each variation, a sense of purity can be felt and heard. A short but slow coda, marked 'adagio', finishes the movement. Back in Bb major, the final movement is the most energetic and bubbly of the three. With a continuous stream of staccato semiquavers in the primo part the piece bounces along nicely. Triumphantly, the work concludes with a strong cadence in Bb major.

Programme content provided by artists

# **Biography**

**Sunny:** Sunny Cheng is a Wellington-based pianist and piano teacher. She has been a full-time teacher since 2013. Sunny grew up in Beijing, China and moved to New Zealand in 2007 with the dream of pursuing a career in music. She studied

privately with Judith Clark, and then studied piano performance at the New Zealand School of Music underDiedre Irons and Dr. Jian Liu.

As well as maintaining a busy teaching schedule, Sunny still finds time to be an active performer. She enjoys playing solo repertoire and chamber music, and performs regular piano duet concerts, piano trio concerts, and she is also involved with various other chamber ensembles.

Sunny is a committee member of the IRMT Wellington branch, and her students regularly compete in their events. She is also on the committee of The Wellington Piano and Instrumental Group, and many of her students enjoy participating in their 6 annual concerts.

**Otis:** Otis is a Wellington-born pianist and a classical performance student at Victoria University of Wellington's New Zealand School of Music. He began his piano studies with Erin Taylor at the age of five and he studied with Emma Sayers from 2018-2020. Otis is currently studying under Dr. Jian Liu.

Otis has been successful in local competitions, winning 1st prize in the IRMTNZ Tertiary Sonata Competition in 2019, 2020, and 2021, as well as placing first at the IRMTNZ Recital Contest in 2019 and 2020. Otis has also been successful at national competitions: In 2020 he was awarded 1st prize at the New Zealand Junior Piano Competition and recently was

awarded 1st prize at the Lewis Eady National Piano Competition, New Zealand's national piano competition.

Otis enjoys chamber music and has played in many ensembles. One of these groups won a silver award at the 2020 NZCT Chamber Contest; another won a bronze award at the 2019 NZCT Chamber Contest. Otis was selected to attend the 2021 and 2022 Adam Summer School for Chamber Music in Nelson. He has also dedicated his time to teaching piano since 2017.

## **Contact us**





e | wednesday@standrews.org.nz

p | 04-472-9211

w | www.standrews.org.nz

# Coming Up

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> - Otis Prescott-Mason, solo piano Schubert, Schumann, and Chopin

13<sup>th</sup> - Anna Prasanan and Michelle Velvin, flute and harp

20<sup>th</sup> - 'Duo Enharmonics - Duo Enharmonics & Ensemble GÔ

'Music of Our Time'

Music by John Psathas, Ross Harris, Fazil Say, Paul Schoenfeld and Glenn Stallcop

27<sup>th</sup> April (Anzac week)
Paul Rosoman – music for organ

Check out the What's On and Concerts section on our website <a href="www.standrews.org.nz">www.standrews.org.nz</a>

The only place you'll find reviews of these concerts (and almost all other classical music in Greater Wellington) is at <a href="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**