

Julien Van Mellaerts and James Baillieu

March/April



James Baillieu (piano) and Julien Van Mellaerts (baritone)

New Zealand baritone, Julien Van Mellaerts, is the only person to have ever won first prize in both the Kathleen Ferrier Awards and the Wigmore Hall Kohn Foundation International Song Competition. Together with world renowned South African pianist, James Baillieu, professor and head of piano accompaniment at the Royal Academy of Music in London, they are some of the leading young performers of art song and Lieder.

Growing up near Warkworth, then studying in Dunedin, Julien is now taking his career to an international level. He will return to New Zealand this year (2018,) however, to sing Schaunard in NZ Opera's production of *La Bohème*.

"...alert to the specifics of style, language and character in each miniature narrative. No surprise that Van Mellaerts, witty and wiry-toned, walked away with the top prize." [The Times \(2017\)](#)

Julien has recently graduated from the Royal College of Music International Opera School, where he was a Fishmongers Scholar studying with Russell Smythe. On graduation, he was **awarded the Tagore Gold Medal**. Before moving to London, Julien studied music and languages at the University of Otago, NZ.

Accolades include the Kiwi Music Scholarship and a Countess of Munster Award 2016/2017, winner of the 2016 Joan Chissell Schumann Song Prize, 2016 Brooks-Van Der Pump English Song Competition, and the 2015 Maureen Lehane Vocal Awards.

Recent operatic roles include: Second soldier and second Nazarene in *Salome* at the Verbier Festival with Charles Dutoit; Dandini in *La Cenerentola* with Diva Opera; Schaunard in *La Bohème* as a Christine Collins Young Artist at Opera Holland Park; Danilo in Lehar's *The Merry Widow* for Ryedale Festival; Le mari/le directeur in Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, Mr Gedge in *Albert Herring*, and Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus* at the RCMIOS.

Highlights this season include baritone soloist with the Royal Ballet in their production of *Elizabeth*, with performances at the Barbican and on tour, the world premiere of 'Christmas Carol' by Will Todd with Opera Holland Park, Schaunard in *La Bohème* with New Zealand Opera, the title role in *Eugene Onegin* with the Cambridge Philharmonic, the Referee in *Mozart vs the Machine* for Mahogany Opera Group, recitals with Julius Drake in Madrid, performances at Wigmore and Cadogan Hall, baritone soloist in Fauré Requiem at the Royal Albert Hall, and recitals at the London Song, Leeds Lieder and Oxford Lieder Festivals.

He is incredibly grateful for the continued support of the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation, Hunn Trust, John Wates, Josephine Baker Trust, Concordia Foundation and the Peace and Prosperity Trust.

Presented in association with Chamber Music New Zealand | Regional Series 2019

For more information, please contact Jack Hobbs Jack@chambermusic.co.nz

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Described by The Daily Telegraph as ‘in a class of his own’ **James Baillieu** has been the prize-winner of the Wigmore Hall Song Competition, Das Lied International Song Competition, Kathleen Ferrier and Richard Tauber Competitions. He was selected for representation by Young Classical Artists Trust (YCAT) in 2010 and in 2012 received a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship and a Geoffrey Parsons Memorial Trust Award. In 2016 he was shortlisted for the Royal Philharmonic Society Outstanding Young Artist Award.

“Baillieu, with his warm sound and empathetic ear, is one of our favourite pianists these days. His playing reminds us of something Steven Blier said about the job of the accompanist, how it’s like taking a singer by the hand and leading them down a hallway of doors. At each door, the pianist opens it for the singer, and asks if they want to go in; if they do, they join them enthusiastically, and if they don’t, the pianist simply invites the singer through the next door. Baillieu has a knack for creating a soloistic phrase out of a singer’s intent; he follows, without losing his autonomy.” [Jenna Douglas, Schmoopera, 2017](#)

James has given solo and chamber recitals throughout Europe and further afield. He collaborates with a wide range of singers and instrumentalists including Lawrence Power, Jack Liebeck, the Elias and Heath Quartets, Ian Bostridge, Dame Kiri te Kanawa, Annette Dasch, Pumeza Matshikiza, Jamie Barton, Markus Werba and Catherine Wyn Rogers. Venues include Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Berlin Konzerthaus, Vienna Musikverein, the Barbican Centre London, Wiener Konzerthaus, Cologne Philharmonie and the Laeiszhalle Hamburg. Festivals include Festpillene i Bergen, Spitalfields, Aldeburgh, Cheltenham, Bath, City of London, Aix-en-Provence, Verbier, St Magnus, Derry, Norfolk & Norwich and Brighton Festivals. As a soloist, he has appeared with the Ulster Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra and the Wiener Kammer-symphonie.

An innovative programmer, James has already curated a number of projects, including series for the Brighton Festival, Wigmore Hall, BBC Radio 3, Bath International Festival and Perth Concert Hall.

LINKS

<https://www.julienvanmellaerts.com/>

<https://james-baillieu.com/>

LISTEN

<https://www.julienvanmellaerts.com/music>

<https://james-baillieu.com/audio-video/video/>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=7T2yZMTlguU>

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Programme 2: Short form of programme listing with description

Christchurch, Whanganui, Tauranga

SCHUBERT Song selections	13:25
SCHUMANN <i>Dichterliebe</i>	29:00
-interval-	
GARETH FARR New Commission setting poems about NZ birds by Bill Manhire	8:00
BRITTEN Folk Song Arrangements	12:00
BALLADS including songs by Clara Schumann, Gershwin and Cole Porter	20:00

A feast of German art song, including some of the most loved Romantic song cycles. After Schumann's profound setting of 'A Poets Life', the second half offers the whimsical arrangements of British folksongs by Benjamin Britten including 'O Waly Waly'. A new commission from NZ composer Gareth Farr will set to music short poems about our own iconic birds, the Takahē, Kiwi, Tūi, and the extinct Huia. To finish are a selection of entertaining ballads that range from the urgent drama of *Erkönig* to Cole Porter's laugh-out-loud *The Tale of the Oyster*.

Programme 2: Details in full

Schubert: [13'25"]

Seligkeit	[2']
Der Musensohn	[2'10"]
Wanderer an den Mond	[2'25"]
Prometheus	[5'30"]
Rastlose liebe	[1'20"]

Schumann - Dichterliebe [28'30"]

- I Im wunderschönen Monat Mai
- II Aus meinen Tränen spriessen
- III Die Rose, die Lilie, die Taube
- IV Wenn ich in deine Augen seh'
- V Ich will meine Seele tauchen
- VI Im Rhein, im heiligen Strome
- VII Ich grolle nicht
- VIII Und wüssten's die Blumen, die kleinen
- IX Das ist ein Flöten und Geigen
- X Hör' ich das Liedchen klingen
- XI Ein Jüngling liebt ein Mädchen
- XII Am leuchtenden Sommermorgen
- XIII Ich hab' im Traum geweinet
- XIV Allnächtlich im Traume seh' ich dich
- XV Aus alten Märchen winkt es hervor
- XVI Die alten, bösen Lieder

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INTERVAL

Folk songs and ballads:

Gareth Farr – New Commision: [8']

Settings of new poems by Bill Manhire and Gareth Farr. Four short songs about New Zealand's native birds Takahē, Kiwi, Tūī, and the extinct Huia.

Britten folk songs: [12']

Sally in our alley
The plough boy
Down by the sally gardens
O Waly Waly
Oliver Cromwell

Ballads [19'40"]

David Farquhar - Lord Randall [2'45"]
Sibelius - Svarta rosor [2'10"]
Sibelius - Säv, säv, susa [2'30"]
Schumann - Belsatzar [4'20"]
Clara Schumann - *Lorelei* [2'15"]
Gershwin - The Lorelei [2'40"]
Cole Porter - The Tale of the Oyster [3']

Encore: Some enchanted evening, or An die Musik