

Christopher's Classics - Series XXVIX 2024

Liam Wooding Jeremy Garside



Liam Wooding (piano), Jeremy Garside (cello)

*Performing: Debussy, Britten,
Messiaen and Bridge*

Presented by
Sunday Classics Inc

Elizabeth Ball Trust



Thursday, October 3rd, 2024, 7:00 PM
The Piano, 156 Armagh St, Christchurch

The busiest lives deserve beautiful music.

Programme

Claude Debussy (1862-1918) - *Cello Sonata, L. 135*

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) - *Cello Sonata, Op. 65*

Interval

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992) - *Louange à l'éternité de Jésus*

Frank Bridge (1879-1941) - *Cello Sonata, H. 125*

Jeremy Garside is an accomplished cellist hailing from Perth, Australia, and is a permanent member of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. Jeremy's journey began at the University of Western Australia, where he honed his craft before continuing his studies at the prestigious Australian National Academy of Music.

Before joining the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Jeremy served as the Associate Principal Cello with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, where he gained valuable experience. His musicianship has been shaped by renowned cellists, including Suzanne Wijsman, Howard Penny, Rod McGrath, and Eve Silver.

Jeremy's talent has been acknowledged through various awards, including the Wesley Music Scholarship, the Flora Bunning Prize for Chamber Music, and the VOSE Memorial Concerto Prize.

Alongside his orchestral performances, Jeremy is passionate about chamber music. A highlight of 2024 was touring New Zealand with the group "Morton Trio and Friends" under the auspices of Chamber Music New Zealand. He also regularly collaborates with the collective "Cygnus Arioso" in Perth. Additionally, Jeremy participates in the annual Happs Christmas Classic concert—an outdoor chamber music picnic held at Happs Winery, where he performs with friends to create a festive atmosphere in the lead up to Christmas!

Recognised as one of New Zealand's most diverse young pianists, **Liam Wooding** has captivated audiences with his passion for music. Born in Whanganui in 1992, Liam grew up immersed in a rich musical environment, participating in various school activities and local music groups that nurtured his early love for performance.

Liam pursued formal studies in piano at the University of Auckland and the University of Waikato. He further honed his skills at the Australian National Academy of Music and more recently at the University of California, San Diego. His piano teachers have been Rae de Lisle, Katherine Austin, Timothy Young, and Aleck Karis. Notably, in 2023, Liam was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship which allowed him to study with Aleck Karis in California.

As a founding member of the Morton Trio, Liam has performed regularly with the group since 2018. They released their debut album this year and look forward to showcasing new performances and works in the future.

Programme Notes

Debussy *Cello Sonata, L. 135 (1915)*

Debussy's Cello Sonata was composed during the final years of his life. Part of a planned set of six chamber works, of which only three were completed, the Cello Sonata marked a turn toward more classical forms in Debussy's late style. The work is concise for an instrumental sonata written at the time, and it experiments with form and timbre in a way that would have been considered radical at the time. Cast in three movements—Prologue, Sérénade, and Finale—the opening movement opens with a dreamy, somewhat austere atmosphere, where the cello and piano engage in several topics of conversation. The middle movement is quirky, with pizzicato plucking from the cello, evoking a plucked string instrument, perhaps hinting at influences from the Baroque traditions. The Finale is filled with energy, bringing the piece to a playful and spirited conclusion.

Britten *Cello Sonata, Op. 65 (1961)*

Britten's Cello Sonata was composed for and premiered by the celebrated Russian cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, a close friend and collaborator of the composer. Written in the aftermath of Britten's first trip to the Soviet Union, this sonata is one of five works Britten would go on to write for Rostropovich. The work is a significant contribution to the 20th-century cello repertoire, showcasing both Britten's unique compositional voice and his ability to write idiomatically for the cello.

The sonata consists of five movements, each exploring different characters and emotions. The opening Dialogo presents an intense and lyrical conversation between cello and piano. The playful Scherzo-Pizzicato explores the pizzicato technique, lending it a percussive quality. In the Elegia, Britten taps into a darker, more brooding atmosphere, full of melancholy and introspection. The brief Marcia has an almost grotesque, militaristic quality, contrasting with the final Moto Perpetuo, a driving and virtuosic movement.

Messiaen *Louange à l'éternité de Jésus* (1941)

The *Louange à l'éternité de Jésus* is the solo cello movement from Messiaen's *Quatuor pour la fin du temps* (Quartet for the End of Time), composed during his imprisonment in a German POW camp during World War II. The movement is marked by its extreme slowness, with a simple melody sung by the cello over a gently pulsing piano accompaniment.

Bridge *Cello Sonata, H. 125* (1913-17)

Frank Bridge is known primarily as a teacher of Benjamin Britten. Bridge's own music evolved from late Romanticism into a more modernist idiom, and his *Cello Sonata* captures this shift. The work is in two substantial movements. The first movement begins with a lyrical and impassioned theme, followed by contrasting episodes of agitation and introspection. Bridge's harmonic language is rich, often venturing into unexpected tonal regions, giving the music a sense of instability and searching. The second movement opens with a somber and reflective introduction before building into a more rhythmic and animated middle section. Bridge's use of form and his ability to convey a wide range of emotions make this sonata a powerful statement, full of contrasts between lyrical beauty and dramatic tension.

Christopher's Classics Next Concert:

ngtrio



performing **Mendelssohn, Tower, Bedgood, Smyth**

Thursday 10th October 2024, 7:00 PM

at **The Piano** 156 Armagh St.

Tickets: Door Sales: \$40 (students **\$15**) by cash
\$42 (students **\$17**) by credit card/EFTPOS.

On-Line Sales: www.eventfinda.co.nz (all charges to purchaser)

For general concert information
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