

Christopher's Classics Season XXIX - 2024

Finest Chamber Music at The Piano



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Elizabeth Ball Trust



THE PIANO

CENTRE FOR MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Pipiharauroa: Kūi kūi whitihiti ora



Christopher's Classics 2024 - Season XXIX

For our 29th season there are eight concerts in our subscription programme. This brochure outlines our season. Please check our website christophersclassics.nz for additional information. Programme notes are posted on the website prior to each concert.

Subscriptions will be available until **29 February 2024** and offer a considerable saving over the individual ticket prices. We look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Venue Information

All concerts start at **7:00 PM** (please be seated by **6:55 PM**). All concerts are held at

The Philip Carter Family Concert Hall
The Piano
156 Armagh St
Christchurch.
www.thepiano.nz

Mailing List

We maintain a mailing list. For addition or alteration please go to our website christophersclassics.nz and click on the mail list tab.

Contact

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Disclaimer

Please note all information is correct at the time of publication. Sunday Classics Inc. reserves the right to make changes to artists, programmes and dates

Lockdowns

In the event of a government mandated lockdown, we will attempt to reschedule concerts. We will run concerts under Level 2 restrictions (with 100 patrons). In this case, subscribers are given priority.

Acknowledgements

Patronage, grants and sponsorship make these concerts possible. We thank The Elizabeth Ball Trust, The Piano and all private donors.

2024 Concert Dates

Tuesday 23 April*	Morton Trio & Friends
Tuesday 7 May	NZ String Quartet
Tuesday 14 May♦	Otis Prescott-Mason
Tuesday 21 May	Aroha Quartet with Oleksandr Gunchenko
Thursday 29 August	Ākarana Quartet
Thursday 12 September*	Darroch/DeHart Duo
Thursday 3 October	Liam Wooding & Jeremy Garside
Thursday 10 October	NZTrio

* In partnership with Chamber Music New Zealand

♦ The Christopher Marshall Concert

Tuesday 23 April

Morton Trio & Friends



Arna Morton (violin)
Alex Morton (French horn)
Liam Wooding (piano)
David McGregor (clarinet)
Sharon Baylis (viola)
Jeremy Garside (cello)

Dohnányi - *Sextet, Op. 37*
Penderecki - *Sextet*
Boulanger (arr. Arna Morton) - *Sous-Bois*

The Morton Trio was established in 2017 and has performed for Christopher's Classics in 2019 and 2022. The Trio is committed to discovering and performing lesser-known works from the genre, as well as expanding the horn trio repertoire through new commissions and arrangements. For this concert, Morton Trio's original members are joined by colleagues from the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, David McGregor (clarinet), Sharon Baylis (viola), and Jeremy Garside (cello).

This concert is presented in partnership with Chamber Music New Zealand.

Tuesday 7 May

NZ String Quartet



Helene Pohl (violin)
Monique Lapins (violin)
Gillian Ansell (viola)
Rolf Gjelsten (cello)

Holmes - *Fragment II*
Haydn - *String Quartet No. 3 in E flat, Op. 71*
Shostakovich - *String Quartet No. 14, Op. 142*
Brahms - *String Quartet No. 3 in B flat, Op. 67*

The ensemble has been Quartet-in-Residence at the New Zealand School of Music at Victoria University of Wellington since 1991 and in 2019 celebrated 25 years running the Adam Summer School for Chamber Music. Violinist Helene Pohl and violist Gillian Ansell are co-artistic directors of the biennial Adam Chamber Music Festival in Nelson. Gillian, Helene and cellist Rolf Gjelsten have received MNZM honours for services to music in New Zealand.

Christopher Marshall Concert

Tuesday 14 May

Otis Prescott-Mason



Otis Prescott-Mason (piano)

Beethoven - *Piano Sonata No. 4 in E flat major*,
Op. 7

Chopin - *Andante Spianato et Grande Polonaise*,
Op. 22

Mozart - *Adagio in B minor, K. 540*

Liszt - *Piano Sonata in B minor, S. 178*

Wellington-born **Otis Prescott-Mason** began his piano studies at the age of 5. He is currently studying under Dr. Jian Liu at the New Zealand School of Music, Te Kōkī.

In 2022 Otis was awarded first prize at the Lewis Eady National Piano Competition (New Zealand's premier piano competition) and the 2022 National Young Performer Awards.

In 2023 he became an AWE Fellow and was awarded a ROSL Pettman Scholarship designed to assist future study and career opportunities for emerging NZ musicians showing exceptional career promise.

Tuesday 21 May

Aroha Quartet with
Oleksandr Gunchenko



Haihong Liu (violin)

Konstanze Artmann (violin)

Zhongxian Jin (viola)

Robert Ibell (cello)

Oleksandr Gunchenko (double bass)

Boccherini - *String Quintet in D, Op. 39 No. 3*

Onslow - *String Quintet No. 15 in C minor, Op. 29*
'The Bullet'

Webster - *'Swim with Sliding Continents'*

Silvestrov - *'Postlude'*

Dvorák - *String Quintet No. 2 in G, Op. 77*

Acclaimed as demonstrating "accomplished brilliance, soulfulness and sublime intensity in perfect balance and tonal unity" (The Dominion Post), the Aroha String Quartet is firmly established as one of New Zealand's finest chamber music ensembles.

Oleksandr Gunchenko was born in Kiev, Ukraine. He became a member of the National Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra at the age of 19 and at the age of 20 gained a position with the National Chamber Orchestra of Ukraine. Oleksandr joined the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra in 2007.

Thursday 29 August

Ākarana Quartet



Andrew Beer (violin)
Robert Ashworth (viola)
Chen Cao (cello)
Sarah Watkins (piano)

Turina - *Piano Quartet in A minor, Op. 67*
Martinů - *Piano Quartet No. 1, H287*
Jennings - *Twelve Colours: Homage to Paul Klee*
Schumann - *Piano Quartet in E flat major, Op. 47*

Award-winning musicians Andrew Beer, violin, and Sarah Watkins, piano (Best Classical Artist 2020, NZ Music Awards) have formed Ākarana Piano Quartet. They are joined by two outstanding colleagues from the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra – principal violist Robert Ashworth and sub-principal cellist Chen Cao.

Thursday 12 September

Darroch/DeHart Duo



Hannah Darroch (flute)
Justin DeHart (percussion)

Harrison - *First Concerto for Flute & Percussion*
Takemitsu - *Toward the Sea*
Percussion Solo by NZ composer
Corral - *Heptomino*
Farr - *Kembang Suling: Three Musical snapshots of Asia*
Lang - *Iend/lease*
Fisher - *Te Tangi a te Matui (solo flute)*
Williams - *Cineshape I*
Akin - *Karakurenai*

Hannah Darroch and **Justin DeHart** are dedicated to championing both new and classic pieces for flute and percussion. With Justin being an American now based in New Zealand, and Hannah being a New Zealander who spent many years living in Montreal, they are both in a unique position to bring their international connections, perspective, and awareness of the broader music scene to the diverse audiences of Aotearoa. They premiered their first concert as a duo in 2021.

This concert is presented in partnership with Chamber Music New Zealand.

Thursday 3 October

Liam Wooding & Jeremy Garside



Liam Wooding (piano)
Jeremy Garside (cello)

Debussy - *Cello Sonata, L. 135*

Britten - *Cello Sonata, Op. 65*

Messiaen - *Louange a l'éternité de Jesus*

Bridge - *Cello Sonata, H. 125*

Liam Wooding first performed for Christopher's Classics in 2019 with the Morton Trio. In 2024 he will perform with the recently appointed CSO Associate Principal Cellist **Jeremy Garside**.

Liam is one of New Zealand's leading emerging pianists and enjoys an eclectic career of collaborating, performing and teaching. His 2021 tour with the Chamber Music NZ regional series received rapturous reviews from every venue.

Jeremy is originally from Perth and trained at the University of Western Australia and the Australian National Academy of Music in Melbourne, where he participated in orchestral training programs. A keen chamber musician, while at ANAM Jeremy performed in the finals of the ANAM chamber music competition with two ensembles in 2019.

Thursday 10 October

NZTrio



Amalia Hall (violin)
Somi Kim (piano)
Ashley Brown (cello)

Fanny Mendelssohn - *Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 11*

Joan Tower - *Trio Cavany*

Eva Beddgood - *New Commission*

Ethel Smyth - *Piano Trio in D minor*

The **NZTrio** is recognised as a "national treasure" and "New Zealand's most indispensable ensemble" (NZ Herald). The Trio, who are well known to Christopher's Classics audiences, return for 2024 with a programme of classic pieces of chamber music mixed with innovative new repertoire.

This concert features all female composers. It begins with Fanny Mendelssohn's trio (1846-47) and continues with contemporary composers Joan Tower (2007) and young New Zealand composer Eva Beddgood. Eva's piece is a Christopher's Classics commission. The concert finishes with the rarely heard masterpiece by English composer and suffragette Ethel Smyth (1880).

Series XXIX Concert Prices

Door Sales

	Cash Sales		EFTPOS, Credit Card	
	Adult	Student (ID)	Adult	Student (ID)
Subscription Concerts	\$40	\$15	\$42	\$17

Door sales are subject to availability.

On-line Sales

At www.eventfinda.co.nz (charges apply). Search for Christopher's Classics on the website.

Season Subscriptions

	Adult
8 Concerts	\$260
7 Concerts	\$230
6 Concerts	\$200
5 Concerts	\$170
4 Concerts	\$140
3 Concerts	\$110

Season subscriptions are available **until 29 February 2024** from our website www.christophersclassics.nz.

Donations

Christopher's Classics has to raise funds to supplement ticket revenue. We are a registered charity and donations over \$5 are tax deductible. We welcome your donation.