

Waikanae Music Society Inc

PO Box 84, Waikanae 5250

NEWSLETTER 7 – AUGUST 2022

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STRINGS AMORE

SUNDAY 28 AUGUST at 2:30pm

WAIKANAE MEMORIAL HALL, PEHI KUPA ST, WAIKANAE

The Strings Amore ensemble brings together five accomplished string players to present works by the greatest Baroque composers. Their programme showcases the viola d'amore, an exquisitely beautiful instrument from the baroque era.

The viola d'amore was much loved by the baroque masters Vivaldi, Telemann and Graupner and this concert celebrates both their fascination with the instrument as well as their own compositional genius. Also included in the programme are two of the most loved concertos from the era, Bach's Concerto for Violin in E major and Telemann's Concerto for Viola in G major.



Sophie Acheson (Viola)

Donald Maurice (Viola)

Rupa Maitra (Violin)

Margaret Guldborg (Cello)

Martin **Riseley** (Violin)

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Donald Maurice. Donald has recorded on viola d'amore two CDs for Atoll and a CD and a full-length film in Poland for Acte Préalable. As a violist he has recorded over a dozen CDs as soloist and chamber musician. He has presented at twenty International Viola Congresses and represented New Zealand at diplomatic missions in Europe, North America and Asia. He retired at the end of 2020 as Professor of Music at the New Zealand School of Music, and is now a freelance performer and teacher.

Martin Riseley. Martin is an Associate Professor and head of strings at the New Zealand School of Music, and concert master of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra. After completing his doctorate at the Juilliard School in New York he pursued a solo career in North America. He has played as soloist with many orchestras and released numerous CDs as a soloist and chamber musician. He has also performed as guest concert master of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

Rupa Maitra. First violinist in Orchestra Wellington and formally Principal Second in the Dunedin Sinfonia, Rupa records with guitarist Owen Moriarty in Duo Tapas which has toured New Zealand and China, and has released two CDs. She graduated in violin performance from University of Otago and has a Suzuki violin teaching studio. She manages the children's orchestra Stringendo, is a published author of short stories and part-time pathologist at Wellington Hospital.

Sophia Acheson. Originally from Christchurch, Sophia studied performance viola in Wellington and then Barcelona and Texas. During her time in America she furthered an interest in early music, learning the viola d'amore and viola da gamba, performing solo in both the USA and New Zealand. Since 2012 Sophia has enjoyed working as a freelance musician with the Auckland Philharmonia, Auckland Chamber Orchestra, Bach Musica and New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. In 2014 she was appointed Principal violist of Orchestra Wellington.

Margaret Guldborg. Margaret is originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, though she has worked as a cellist teaching in Boston, Denmark and Malaysia, until finally moving to Wellington with her family in 2008. Since then she has played with Orchestra Wellington and various chamber ensembles whilst maintaining a busy teaching schedule. She is a founding member of Sinfonia for Hope and played a key role in the Cello for Africa concert in 2019. Margaret holds a Master of Music in Performance from the New England Conservatory.

THE PROGRAMME

Vivaldi	Concerto for viola d'amore in D Major, RV392
Telemann	Concerto for two violas d'amore
Graupner	Concerto for viola d'amore in D Major
Bach	Concerto for violin in E Major
Graupner	Concerto for viola d'amore and viola in A Major
Telemann	Concerto for viola in G Major
Bach	Erbarme Dich (St Matthew Passion) for violin, viola and strings

Strings Amore CDs will be on sale at the concert.



THE VIOLA D'AMORE

It is unfretted, and played much like a violin, being held horizontally under the chin. It is about the same size as the modern viola. The viola d'amore usually has six or seven playing strings, which are sounded by drawing a bow across them, just as with a violin. In addition, it has an equal number of sympathetic strings located below the main strings and the fingerboard, which are not played directly but vibrate in sympathy with the notes played. A common variation is six playing strings, and instruments exist with as many as fourteen sympathetic strings. Largely thanks to the sympathetic strings, the viola d'amore has a particularly sweet and warm sound. Leopold Mozart said that the instrument sounded "especially charming in the stillness of the evening."

The instrument was especially popular in the late 17th century but there has been renewed interest in the viola d'amore in the last century. The viola players Henri Casadesus and Paul Hindemith both played the viola d'amore in the early 20th century and Leoš Janáček originally



planned to use it in his second string quartet, "Intimate Letters" but found it to be impracticable.

CONCERT ARRANGEMENTS - COVID PROTECTION AT OUR CONCERTS

Masks continue to be required at our concerts.

Tickets will be available at the door, through our agents New World (Waikanae) and Moby Dickens (Paraparaumu Beach), and by direct credit to our bank account 02-0591-0018930-000. The doors open at 1:45pm, and seating for season ticket holders is protected until 2:15pm. The concert starts at 2:30pm. Latecomers may not be admitted until a suitable break in the performance.

Photography and sound recording of our concerts are strictly forbidden. This is a requirement of the artists, their agents and the Waikanae Music Society itself. Committee members may, from time to time, and with the artists' permission, take photos for the Society's records.

CONCERT NOTES: OUR OWN MUSIC PROGRAMME on COAST ACCESS RADIO 104.7FM

This month: Tuesday 9 August at 6.00 pm and Thursday 11 August at 11.30am. The programme will focus on Strings Amore including a selection of music for the viola d'amore. To replay this programme, go to our website https://www.waikanaemusic.org.nz and click on the Concert Notes link on the front page. If you have music you would like to hear on Concert Notes, email concertmanager@waikanaemusic.org.nz

FOLLOWING CONCERT: SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER: MICHAEL ENDRES - PIANO

Michael Endres' recital for us in 2021 was amazing, probably the first time a performer received a standing ovation from our audience at both the interval and again at the end of the concert. He loves the Fazioli piano and it certainly responded to him magnificently last year. In September he returns with more Schubert and Schumann for us to enjoy. Michael has won the International Schubert Competition and been described as one of the world's foremost Schubert interpreters.

LEVANSA TRIO

Members and guests who attended the July concert at the Southward Theatre, Otaihanga were in for a special treat. The artists performed magnificently in the new, for most of us, venue, made necessary by storm damage to our usual home in Waikanae. After a beautifully played Beethoven trio and some very interesting takes on Bach and Mozart themes the second half was devoted to the magnificent A minor Tchaikovsky Piano Trio which was received with a standing ovation.