



NEWSLETTER 2 –MARCH 2022

President:
Secretary: Diane Welch (06) 368 9751
Website: <https://www.waikanaemusic.org.nz>

Concert Manager: Wendy van Delden(04) 905 6070
Membership& Treasurer: Paul Dunmore (021) 251 7030
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WaikanaeMusicSociety>

TOKOWHĀ

SUNDAY 27 MARCH at 12:30pm and 3.30pm
WAIKANAE MEMORIAL HALL, PEHI KUPA ST, WAIKANAE



L-R: Tomairangi Henare, Matt Barris, Morgan-Andrew King, "LJ" (Lila Junior) Crichton.
Not photographed Alex Jefferies.

Tokowhā has been performing together since 2020, formed while studying at Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music's Classical Performance programme. They first collaborated as an ensemble in the first scenes of Puccini's *La Bohème*. Coming from a wide range of musical backgrounds, the four have come together to deliver a mixture of musical fusions incorporating elements from classical, jazz, musical theatre, Māori and Pasifika songs and more.

Individually the boys have performed all over NZ as soloists in choirs, principal roles in opera, award winning barbershop quartets and as members of different modern opera ensembles. As Tokowhā, they have performed widely around Wellington including at Te Papa, The Beehive, Pātaka Art Gallery + Museum, Wellington Club, as part of Classical on Cuba, Wellington Fringe Festival and seven concerts for Chamber Music New Zealand on the Hikitia floating crane.

Tokowhā are quickly building a devoted following in the capital, and this is the first opportunity to hear one of Aotearoa's most exciting and impressive vocal groups around the country.

They will be accompanied by superb young pianist Alex Jefferies.

THE PERFORMERS

LILA JUNIOR “LJ” CRICHTON (tenor) is a NZ-born Samoan Tenor who was introduced to singing at home and in the church at a young age, later moving on to bands, choirs, kapa haka and musical theatre and opera in high school. With Festival Opera and Project Prima Volta, LJ has performed many roles such as Le Dancaire in Bizet’s *Carmen*, The Sorcerer in Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, Goro in Puccini’s *Madame Butterfly* and Beppe in *Pagliacci*. LJ is a very proud recipient of the NZSM Directors Award, The Kapiti Chorale Vocal Scholarship and most notably, the Deane Endowment Trust – Special Jonathan Lemalu Scholarship which has enabled him to work with the NZSO, the Porirua based Youth Initiative Virtuoso Strings Orchestra and on an artist residency with Festival Opera NZ.

MATT BARRIS (baritone/tenor) found his passion for singing through choirs, barbershop groups and singing in productions in his first year at Tawa College. Since 2015 he has competed at national-level competitions in a number of barbershop quartets. In 2016 he joined Wellington based Barbershop Chorus, Vocal FX. In 2018 he travelled to Orlando, Florida with Vocal FX, to compete in the Barbershop Harmony Society International Chorus Competition, placing in the top 10. In 2020, Matt was the co-director of FilCoro: Filipino Community Choir, alongside Elian Pagalilawan, and was appointed Assistant Music Director of Vocal FX.

Composer and performer **TOMAIRANGI HENARE (baritone)** has held a fiery passion for music throughout his childhood by participating in kapa haka, choirs and musical theatre before eventually joining Hawke's Bay singing initiative Project Prima Volta. There, he was introduced to the classical repertoire and performed various roles including Polyphemus in Handel’s *Acis and Galatea*, Figaro in Mozart’s *Marriage of Figaro* and a large-scale opera debut as the Marchesi in Festival Opera's production of Verdi’s *La traviata* (2019). His love for classical singing translated into studies at Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music under the tutelage of Margaret Medlyn and Wade Kernot.

MORGAN-ANDREW KING (bass) is a young bass-baritone from Waikato. He is currently undertaking his fourth year in a Conjoint Degree of Biomedical Science and Music at Victoria University of Wellington. Morgan has been singing from a young age and has participated in many kapa haka and choral groups. In 2018 he was the bass soloist for the Cantoris Choir in Rossini’s *Petite messe solennelle*, and toured as a member of the New Zealand Secondary Students Choir in Hong Kong and Shanghai. In 2019 he performed Faure’s *Requiem* and Handel’s *Dixit Dominus* with the Cantoris Choir once again. We heartily congratulate Morgan on winning one of our Waikanae Music Society Charitable Trust scholarships for 2021.

ALEX JEFFERIES (piano accompanist) is a performance student at the New Zealand School of Music, studying for a Bachelor of Music under the tutelage of Jian Liu and David Barnard. He performs solo repertoire and is a keen accompanist and chamber musician. He enjoys performing a range of music, and is currently focusing on the output of Beethoven, Shostakovich, and Messiaen. Alex is a dual citizen of Australia and Germany, and has been living in New Zealand since 2007, after moving from the Netherlands. He has been working regularly with Tokowhā since mid-2021, and in late 2021 co-founded Asilence Duo, a four-hands piano duo with pianist Shangrong Feng.

PROGRAMME

12.30 Concert: Arias from Puccini including *La Bohème*, *Edgar* and *Madama Butterfly*; classic songs from the musicals; beautiful Pasifika and Maori songs.

3.30 Concert: Arias from Mozart, including *Don Giovanni*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, *Leonecavallo*, Tchaikovsky, Bizet; songs from Schubert, Tosti and Hahn; Pasifika Medley.

CONCERT ARRANGEMENTS - TOKOWHĀ CONCERT

Because of the Covid-related restrictions, we must change how we operate the concerts by Tokowhā on Sunday, 27th March. The changes are important, so please read this carefully.

- *The concert will be presented twice, starting at 12:30pm and 3:30pm. The programmes will be different for these two times: see above.*
- *The doors will open 30 minutes before each concert, and will be closed once 100 people have been admitted.*
- *Only members will be admitted.*
- *No tickets will be sold in advance, either online or through our ticket agents.*
- *If you have a season ticket, just show it at the door.*
- *If you are a member, you may pay at the door (\$30, cash, EFTPOS or credit card).*
- *Holders of season tickets will not be given precedence over other members; all will be treated equally, in order of arrival.*

The concerts will be operated in accordance with Covid regulations applicable at the time or imposed by Kapiti Coast District Council as the owner of the building. At present, the requirements are:

- *You must bring your Covid vaccination pass and present it for viewing and possible validation. (Not required for children under 12).*
- *You must wear a mask while inside the building (unless medically exempted, not required for children).*
- *No food or drink will be provided. You may wish to bring your own water bottle.*

If circumstances change, we may have to cancel the concerts at short notice. If we must do so, we will try to advise you by email, through our website, and by notifying Access Radio, Beach FM, Eventfinda and RNZ's Concert Live Diary.

EXTRA CONCERT - NOTE DETAILS CAREFULLY

AROHA QUARTET with RACHEL VERNON
TUESDAY 15 MARCH at 10.30am
CEDARWOOD AUDITORIUM, 17 PARATA STREET, WAIKANAĒ

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. Founded in 2004, this versatile Wellington-based quartet is known for its passionate musicality, impressive technique, and multicultural innovation. The group is committed to presenting string quartet works from the western classical and avant-garde repertoire to traditional Chinese folk music, as well as works for larger forces through collaborations with numerous high-profile musicians. This programme features the clear, pure sound of the clarinet. Clarinetist Rachael Vernon joins the quartet for two of the best-loved works in the chamber music repertoire.



L-R: Robert Ibell (cello), Haihong Liu (1st violin), Anne Loeser (2nd violin), Rachel Vernon (clarinet), Zhongxian Jin (viola).

Photo Credit: Wenhao Li

PERFORMERS

RACHEL VERNON has held the position of Principal Bass Clarinet in the NZSO since 1995. She has recorded for Radio New Zealand and Re-Sounz and has performed as a soloist with the Wellington Chamber Orchestra and the Manawatu Sinfonia. Rachel studied in London with Antony Pay and freelanced with orchestras including the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Scottish Opera. She was Sub-principal Clarinet with the NZSO from 1989 to 1991.

Cellist **ROBERT IBELL** was born in Dannevirke and brought up in Palmerston North. While training there as a school teacher he learned cello from Judith Hyatt in Wellington. He has been a member of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra since 1993 and is also a member of the contemporary music group Stroma. Robert performs with Chamber Music New Zealand and is a recording artist for Radio New Zealand Concert and performs in duo and solo recitals. He is a cello teacher, chamber music coach, adjudicator and freelance performer, and indeed was part of the Amici Ensemble that played for us recently.

Violinist **HAIHONG LIU** was born in China and graduated from the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music where she won the China National Chamber Music Competition in 1995 with the Beijing String Quartet. The ensemble enjoyed a varied international career of concerts, festivals and competitions throughout China, as well as major cities in Asia and Europe. Haihong emigrated to New Zealand with her family in 2001 where she joined the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra as sub-principal first violin. In 2002 she was appointed to the NZSO.

Violinist **ANNE LOESER** was born in Germany, studied violin at the Frankfurt Musikhochschule. Before emigrating to New Zealand, Anne played in the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn and Hesse State Theatre Orchestra in Wiesbaden. She was also a member of the award-winning Orfeo Quartet which won a scholarship for a year's post-graduate study with Sandor Devich of the Bartok Quartet in Budapest. She emigrated to New Zealand in 2000 and joined the first violin section of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO). Anne is a member of the Koru Piano Trio and the Orion String quartet. She is the musical director and leader of Camerata, a Wellington-based chamber orchestra dedicated to performing Haydn's early symphonies.

ZHONGXIAN JIN, viola is currently a violin professor at the New Zealand School of Music in Wellington and a casual violist with the NZSO. He studied at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music, Guanzhou, China and from 1988-2001 was a violin professor there. His string quartet was the winner of the fourth China National Appraisal of Musical Works Competition in 1985. From 1993-2001, Zhongxian was the founding principal of the Zhongshan School of Music. He travels regularly to China and Taiwan for festivals, masterclasses and coaching chamber ensemble and string orchestras. Zhongxian is the husband of Haihong Liu.

CONCERT ARRANGEMENTS - AROHA QUARTET WITH RACHEL VERNON

Please take careful note of the following arrangements as for this extra concert the time and venue are quite different from our normal concerts. This concert was originally scheduled as part of our 2021 season, but could not be presented at that time because of Covid-related difficulties. So we are extremely grateful that the artists have kindly agreed to present their spectacular concert this year instead, and we are offering it as an additional concert to the regular 2022 season.

Holders of 2021 season tickets received a discounted price for 2022 season tickets to compensate for the loss of this concert from the 2021 season. Accordingly, all members, even if they hold season tickets, will pay the member price (\$30) for admission to this concert. We were unable to find a suitable time at our normal venue. The concert will instead be presented on Tuesday 15 March at 10:30 in the morning at the Cedarwood Auditorium, 17 Parata St, Waikanae.

We are limited to an audience of 100, and so we are restricting attendance to members only. It is still possible that we will not be able to seat everyone. The arrangements are:

- *The doors will open at 10:00 am, and will be closed once 100 people have been admitted.*
- *No tickets will be sold in advance.*
- *If you are a member (orange membership card or mauve season ticket endorsed 1 or 2), you will pay at the door (\$30, cash, EFTPOS or credit card). Please bring your membership card/season ticket with you.*
- *You must bring your Covid vaccination pass and present it for viewing and possible validation. (Not required for children under 12.)*
- *You must wear a mask while inside the building (unless medically exempted, not required for children).*
- *No food or drink will be provided. You may wish to bring your own water bottle.*

If circumstances change, we may have to cancel the concert at short notice. If we must do so, we will try to advise you by email, through our website, and by notifying Access Radio, Beach FM, Eventfinda and RNZ's Concert Live Diary.

PROGRAMME

Mozart	Clarinet Quintet in A, K581
Piazzolla	Oblivion for Clarinet and String Quartet
Brahms	Clarinet Quintet in B minor, Opus 115

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

Concert Notes this month will be on Tuesday 22 March at 6:00pm and on Thursday 24 March at 11:30am. The program will focus on the Tokowhā ensemble, their music and the programmes they will present on 27 March.

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 May 1 Michael Houstoun

We are delighted to welcome Michael back to our stage after having said our farewells in 2020 when he announced his retirement. In the meantime he very kindly stepped in to help the Argyle Trio when their pianist was unable to travel from Australia and Michael will now be back to bring us a typically varied and enterprising recital of works ranging from J S Bach to the 21st century.

A BIG THANKS TO THE AMICI ENSEMBLE AND JIAN LIU who gave us two delightful, and particularly memorable, concerts in February. Their task was not easy though. The first concert coincided with the peak of the huge storm that battered much of the country that day and seemed to be as bad in Waikanae as anywhere else. The storm dislodged part of the hall roof which produced regular loud banging noises from above, interspersed with even louder interruptions from the fire siren as the number of emergencies in the district arising from the storm grew. Meantime large branches from the big Norfolk pine tree next to the hall rained down on the building and nearby car park. But the band played on regardless of what leader Donald Armstrong described as percussion parts not shown in their scores. "The show must go on," Donald said to the audience, and it did.

We should also mention that the new viola player with Amici, Alexander McFarlane, was one of our 2017 Waikanae Music Society Charitable Trust scholarship recipients.
