

## PROGRAMME



Rosamunde Overture Schubert

Violin Concerto, Opus 6 Paganini

Soloist: Eugene Lee

### INTERVAL

Thracian Dances Stainov

Meditation, Opus 42 Tchaikovsky  
Soloist: Jenny Song

Capriccio Italien, Opus 45 Tchaikovsky

Performed in Hamilton on Saturday 3rd May 2003

In Rotorua on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2003

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## PROGRAMME NOTES

### **“Rosamunde Overture ”**

**F. Schubert (1797 - 1828)**

The Rosamunde Overture as it is known and performed today is one of Schubert's most enduring orchestral compositions and was written in 1820 originally to accompany the Magic Flute (Die Zauberharfe).

Three years later Schubert composed the incidental music for Viennese playwright – Whilemina von Chezy's “Rosamunde, Princess of Cyprus”. The play failed after only two performances and the score, consisting of an Overture and a further nine numbers lay undiscovered until 44 years later, George Grove and Arthur Sullivan in 1867 unearthed it among a pile of manuscripts in Vienna.

Soon after Schubert's death in 1828, the overture to the Magic Flute was mistakenly published under the title Overture to Rosamunde and it is by that title that it has been known and performed ever since. It opens with a rather stern introduction in slow tempo which soon dissolves into animation and tunefulness in the style of the most popular composer of the day – Rossini.

### **Violin Concerto No 1 in ‘D’ Major Op. 6**

**N Paganini (1782 - 1840)**

*Soloist : Eugene Lee*

*Allegro maestoso*

*Adagio*

*Allegro spiritoso*

This Concerto, written in 1817, shows a fine balance between technical display and musical material. Paganini composed and performed many of his own compositions such as the Twenty Four Caprices for Solo Violin to display his own virtuosity but this Concerto is regarded a more than just a vehicle to show off that exceptional skill.

Although known for his technical wizardry, Paganini was well recognized as a composer. His works include six violin concerti, twelve sonatas for violin and guitar and six quartets for violin, viola, cello and guitar. His Caprices, despite their entertainment value, are acclaimed for their melodic and rhythmic vitality and Paganini is said to have inspired composers such as Liszt, Schumann, Brahms and Rachmaninov to incorporate Paganini-like virtuosi passages into their own compositions.

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## Eugene Lee

Eugene was born in Korea and moved to New Zealand with his family nine years ago. The violin has been his life ever since he was four years old. At twelve he gave his first solo recital on the violin.

Competitions have been part of his life for a good while also. At age seven he won the prize for 'Best Pianist' at a Korean competition. One year later he won the Best Junior player at the same competition. Here in New Zealand, Eugene won a Music Scholarship to Kentigern College and a few months ago became one of the youngest players to win the prestigious Gisborne Music Competition.

An impressive record for a sixteen year old!



Currently, Eugene is studying music at Waikato University in Hamilton.

## Jenny Song

Seventeen year old Jenny Song started violin at the age of eight. She has won numerous local music competitions both at Whangarei and Tauranga. She also became a member of the Tauranga Concert Orchestra at the age of thirteen.

There too, she won the Tauranga "Young Talent" Series Scholarship award. Jenny has also played as a soloist on several occasions with the TCO, playing such works as the Kabalevsky Violin Concerto, the max Bruch Violin Concerto (both of these under the baton of Nicholas Braithwaite). Last year she played as Concert Master at the Tauranga Concert Orchestra's Christmas Concert.



Jenny now lives in Hamilton and is studying for her B.Mus at Waikato University.



## Sharon Stephens

Sharon began her study of the violin in primary school "because her friends were playing". It was not long however before the 'give-it-a-go' approach turned into a serious interest. Following several years of school instruction, Sharon learned with Mrs Cecelia Worth. She played in the New Zealand Secondary Schools Symphony Orchestra for 2 consecutive years and in the Waikato Youth Orchestra for 9 years, taking position of leader during the last 4.

Choice of university degree was difficult, but science prevailed and Sharon completed both a Bachelor and a Master of Science, majoring in Earth Sciences.

Following the birth of her son, Sharon withdrew from doctoral study and found herself lead back into the music world. She is now a Hamilton-based violin teacher and in addition to leading the Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra, plays for the Opus Chamber Orchestra and for local musical productions. While Sharon still plans to complete her PhD in Science, she loves the combination of motherhood and music and looks back on 'those primary school friends' with a grateful smile!



## JOACHIM ATANASSOV



Joachim Atanassov was born in Sofia. He completed his musical education as a Violinist and Conductor from the Bulgarian Academy of Music under Professor Leon Surujon and then further developed his playing in Professor Stefan Magnev's Chamber music class and conducting in Professor Kazanjiev's class.

Joachim Atanassov won a brilliant reputation as a conductor, concert performer and as a music teacher. He has played Chamber music as a member of The Bulgarian Chamber Duo and The Bulgarian Classical Trio. He has been conductor, guest soloist and first violinist of The Studio Concertante Orchestra of Sofia and many other famous Bulgarian Symphony and Chamber Orchestras. He has been a permanent guest soloist, leader, conductor and adviser of the Haydn Symphony Orchestra in Italy. He has performed in many countries in Europe and North and South America. He has made numerous audio, video and CD recordings for Bulgarian Radio and TV, for the Italian Radio and TV, Radio Suisse Romande, AMUS and GEGA.

Joachim Atanassov is a Professor of Violin and Conducting at the Bulgarian Academy of Music in Sofia and his students have been prize winners in several national and international competitions. Since 1990 he has taught at the School of Music Valletta and at the University of Malta, where he is transmitting his great musical knowledge in lessons of violin, conducting, chamber music and orchestra playing in master courses and other related activities. He is also adviser of the Malta National Symphony Orchestra.

In 1994 he formed the Malta Chamber Orchestra. Joachim Atanassov is also editor of a large number of pieces for Violin and for Orchestra.

With a daughter playing for the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and son playing in the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr and Mrs Atanassov are now domiciled in Rotorua.



**Thracian Dances – Symphonic Suite**

**P Stainov (1896 – 1977)**

***Paiduchko – Danse d’ours – Choro Ratchehitsa***

Petko Stainov was one of a group of highly respected Bulgarian composers who emerged during the 1920-1940's. Among this group was Pancho Vladgerov whose Rhapsodie Vardar was performed by the Waikato Symphony Orchestra under Joachim Atanassov in 2002.

It was during the 1930's that folklore motifs were introduced into musical works and the Thracian Dance symphonic suite is a good example of these. Named after the Thracian singer Orpheus who reputedly charmed the Gods with his music, the dances were composed in 1924-25 for the Kazanluk Symphony Orchestra and initially called Bulgarian Dances. In 1926, Stainov revised the work for a larger orchestra and added another movement, Mechkarsko (The Bear Warders Dance). The work premiered on January 4<sup>th</sup> 1927 with the Peoples Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Todor Hadjiev.

**Trois Morceaux pour Violin (Souvenir d'un lieu cher) Op. 42**

**P. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)**

***No. 1 Meditation***

***Soloist: Jenny Song***

Meditation, Scherzo and Melodie make up *Souvenir d'un lieu cher* (Souvenir of a Beloved Place) composed originally for violin and piano. The version in this performance is orchestrated by Glasunov. Written in 1878, *Meditation* was originally intended for the slow movement of the Violin Concerto in D. Tchaikovsky composed this in the relative tranquillity of Brailov, one of the residences of his patron Mme. Von Meck, where he is said to have retreated on medical advice following his disastrous marriage in 1877. The Six Romances, Op. 38, were completed over this period and a sketch made of the entire setting of the liturgy of St John Chrysostum. He added two more pieces to the discarded slow movement of the Violin Concerto (*Meditation*) to make up the set of three which is Op. 42 and dedicated them to his benefactress, Mme. Von Meck as a token of gratitude for this interlude at Brailov.

**Capriccio Italien – Op. 45**

**P. Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893)**

Tchaikovsky was one of several Russian composers to gain inspiration from his impressions of Italy. A lover of Russian folk melodies, Tchaikovsky is said to have written from Rome to his patroness Mme. Von Meck with uncharacteristic optimism: "Thanks to the charming themes, some of which come from collections and some of which I have heard in the streets, this work will be effective".

The Capriccio Italien premiered to a Moscow audience in December 1880 and has been described as “a musical tourist guidebook to Italy of symphonic proportions” and “an ingenious string of unrelated contrasting themes endowed with orchestral brilliance”. It opens with a trumpet call inspired by the nightly bugle heard from Tchaikovsky’s room at the Hotel Constanzi overlooking the barracks of the Royal Cuirassiers. The various themes proceed, occasionally harking back to material from the introduction. A melancholy melody is first heard in the lower strings, a gentle swaying folk song is presented in thirds and then a march. The Tarantella, known in Italy as the Ciccuzza, brings the piece to a dazzling conclusion.



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May 2003

## THE ORCHESTRA

### CONDUCTOR

Joachim Atanassov

### SOLOIST

Eugene Lee & Jenny Song

### LEADER

Sharon Stephens

### FIRST VIOLINS

Sharon Stephens \*  
Jean Patterson  
John Burnett  
Janet Wilkins  
Alison Hepburn  
Michelle Wahrlich  
Daniel Haung  
Jenny Song  
Tracey Wong

### SECOND VIOLINS

Bev Oliver \*  
Jocelyn Dale  
Dianne Williams  
Peter Stokes  
Christine Polglase  
Bridget Eady  
Marylla Endert  
Fiona Green  
Elizabeth Fullerton

### VIOLAS

Matthew Gough \*  
Susan Dobree  
Doug Bedgood  
Michael Slatter  
Graham Barrat

### CELLOS

Rosalind Hill \*  
Elizabeth Holt  
April Murray  
David Stokes  
Joan Haughie  
Marie Ryan

### OBOES

Annie Mendrun \*  
Christine Martin

### DOUBLE BASS

Benjamin Dick \*

### FLUTES

Elsie Kane \*  
Katy Walsham

### CLARINETS

Murray Johnson \*  
Ian Witten

### BASSOONS

Craig Bradfield \*  
David Nation

### TUBA

Sean Murphy \*

### TRUMPET

Steffan Sinclair \*  
Richard Porter

### HORNS

Jill Ferrabee \*  
Margaret McGregor  
David Foster

### TROMBONE

David Woodcock \*  
Jennie Going  
Ron Lindsay

### TIMPANI

Trevor Faville \*  
Kati Johnson

\* denotes principal player