

TRUST WAIKATO
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



ORCHESTRAS CENTRAL
Ngā Tira Pūoru o te Pokapū

ORCHESTRAS CENTRAL presents

FLIGHT

JOSHUA KIRK

Conductor

KAURI MAY

Violin Soloist

SUNDAY 28 MAY, 2.30pm

Pre-concert talk 1.45pm

*St Paul's Collegiate Chapel
Hamilton*

 **Trust
Waikato**
TE PUNA O WAIKATO



Flight PROGRAMME

A MESSAGE

From our Chief Executive, **Catherine Gibson**

This afternoon's concert is dedicated to the memory of Ian Witten

(4 March 1947 – 5 May 2023)

Ian Witten was the mainstay of TWSO's clarinet section for over 30 years and also made a valuable contribution as an enthusiastic woodwind tutor for the Rusty Player Orchestra. It is also thanks to Ian that we have a comprehensive TWSO archive, detailing the history of the orchestra, its concerts and its musicians back to the early 1960s. His musical skills, community spirit and instantly recognisable laughter will be greatly missed by us all.

Ian's memory will live on through his clarinet in A, which he generously donated for the use of Orchestras Central players who do not have their own instrument.



THE MUSIC

ANTHONY RITCHIE

Albatross in Flight

JEAN SIBELIUS

Violin Concerto in D minor

LUDWIG van BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 5 in C minor

THE PERFORMERS

**TRUST WAIKATO
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

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Photo Credit: Richard Lummus



ANTHONY RITCHIE *Albatross in Flight* 4'

This short orchestral 'fanfare' was inspired by the sight of an albatross gliding in strong currents on a summer's evening at Tairoa Head at the end of the Otago Peninsula, overlooking the mouth of Otago Harbour. Tairoa Head / Pukekura is world-renowned as the only mainland colony of albatross in the Southern Hemisphere. The music also reflects the influence of NZ popular music at the time of composition, and in particular a gig by the Exponents. The Exponents was a New Zealand rock group popular in the 1980s and 90s led by vocalist and songwriter Jordan Luck.

Commissioned by the Dunedin Sinfonia (now Dunedin Symphony Orchestra) to celebrate their 30th anniversary, *Albatross in Flight* is regularly performed, and available on YouTube, recorded by the NZSO.

Dunedin based composer Anthony Ritchie has long been recognised as one of New Zealand's most prolific and approachable composers. Robert Johnson, RNZ Concert

Anthony Ritchie is a renowned composer whose works have been performed by ensembles such as The Takacs Quartet, and soloists such as Bella Hristova. His many commissioned works include concertos for violin, viola, flute, guitar and euphonium, six symphonies, six operas and chamber music. In 2016 he was joint winner of The NZ Classical Album of the Year. His *Gallipoli to the Somme* was performed in London and Oxford, 2018, and voted Aotearoa's most popular classical music recording in RNZ Concert's 'Settling the Score' in 2020. His *Symphony No.5 'Childhood'* was rated one of the recordings of the year by MusicWeb International, 2022. The NZ Symphony Orchestra has regularly played his work, including his overture 'A Bugle Will Do' in the Jubilee concert, 2022. Anthony is currently Professor of Music at The University of Otago in Dunedin, and Head of the School of Performing Arts.



1865 - 1957

JEAN SIBELIUS Violin Concerto in D minor 32'

- I. Allegro moderato
- II. Adagio di molto
- III. Allegro, ma non tanto



Known for his abilities as a composer, Finnish composer **Jean Sibelius** was also an accomplished violinist.

However, despite his efforts, he was never able to realise his dream of becoming a virtuoso concert violinist. Perhaps his violin concerto is an ode to the career Sibelius wanted but could not reach, as it remains to this day one of the most difficult in the violin repertoire.

From its very first notes, the violin seems to be in flight, gliding over the soft orchestral accompaniment. The first movement soars through several different themes from the tumultuous to the passionately lyrical and is dominated by highly virtuosic solo cadenzas.

The second movement begins akin to a song without words with the violin sustaining a long lyrical line before building to a shattering peak and then drifting serenely back down, at peace. Movement three picks up the pace with the orchestra kicking off a driving accompaniment, the energy of which sustains throughout the movement. The violin sweeps its way through a dazzling array of virtuoso pyrotechnics toward a nail-biting conclusion.

The premier performance in 1904 was not a success, not least because the soloist was reportedly a second-rate performer and had not been given enough time to properly prepare. Sibelius subsequently revised the concerto in 1905 to become the work so loved and often performed today.

1770 - 1827

LUDWIG van BEETHOVEN

Symphony No.5 in C minor Op.67

38'

- I. **Allegro con brio**
- II. **Andante con moto**
- III. **Scherzo: Allegro**
- IV. **Allegro - Presto**



From its very first notes, any listener knows that they are hearing **Beethoven's** fifth symphony.

From 'the knocking of fate' to 'the rattling of the chains', the opening motif has had countless interpretations since its inception and is perhaps the most iconic musical motif in the western classical canon. It also occurs throughout the symphony, making appearances in each movement, some more subtle than others.

In a way, the Fifth Symphony is a fight for freedom, a spiritual flight from the deepest unrest and upheaval to ultimate liberation, tied together by the 'short-short-short-long' motif. Beethoven is known to have written in one of his letters "I will seize fate by the throat; it shall certainly never wholly overcome me", a fitting match to the spirit of this symphony.

Beginning in the sombre key of C minor, the first movement is stormy and restless, never straying too far from the opening motif. Movement two is markedly more lyrical and is written as a set of inventive variations on two themes. Beethoven reworks his motif into a lively scherzo in the third movement before launching into a triumphant and exultant Finale in C major.

The influence of Beethoven's symphonies, especially No. 3, 5 and 9, lives on through the symphonic literature, particularly through the later German symphonists like Schubert, Brahms and Mahler, with Mahler's fifth symphony even directly quoting the rhythm of Beethoven Five in its opening bars.

PERFORMERS ON STAGE

KAURI MAY Violin Soloist

Kauri May began learning the violin at age three. After completing her studies in biomedical engineering at the University of Auckland, she pursued postgraduate studies in violin performance at the University of Waikato. Under the tutelage of Lara Hall, Kauri achieved much success at university, winning the Bach, chamber, and concerto competitions.



Last year, Kauri was awarded a full fellowship to play in the Miami Music Festival orchestra for a month. She has also won scholarships to attend the Adam Summer School on three occasions, the second of which she was selected to be in the esteemed Troubadour Quartet.

JOSHUA KIRK Conductor

Josh is a New Zealand conductor and violist based in Auckland. In addition to Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra and Youth Orchestra Waikato, Josh also conducts the Takapuna Grammar Symphony Orchestra and the newly formed West City String Orchestra.



He recently conducted the St Matthews Chamber Orchestra, and the Devonport Chamber Orchestra. In July 2022, Josh attended the prestigious Järvi Conducting Academy in Estonia where he studied with world-renowned conductors Paavo Järvi, Neeme Järvi, Kristjan Järvi and Leonid Grin.





Presented by

ORCHESTRAS CENTRAL

Waikato's very own Community Orchestra

TRUST WAIKATO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra (TWSO) offers playing opportunities for amateur players, music students and instrumental music teachers of all ages from around Waikato region. In addition to concerts like this one today, TWSO also performs the iconic Sunset Symphony at the Hamilton Gardens in February each year. **We always welcome new players!** If you are interested in joining the orchestra, please email support@orchestras.org.nz

VIOLIN I

Celia Griffiths+ Caitlyn Collins, Linbei Ke,
Kauri May, Katie Mayes, Beverley Oliver
Thomas Prince, Tony Wu

VIOLIN II

Ted Yu* Rochelle Depledge, Emma Grigg,
Meemee Phipps, Catherine Polglase
Christine Polglase, Peter Stokes

VIOLA

Chris Nation* Nisha Fernandez-Ritchie
Zheng Gong, Amelia Meertens
Aroon Parshotam, Steve Zhang

CELLO

Elena Morgan* Rosalie Collins-Gargan,
Martin Griffiths, Boram Keam,
Tamsin Kreymborg, Simon McArthur,
Kiera Sullivan

DOUBLE BASS

Simon Wang* Amy Aldridge

FLUTE & PICCOLO

Elsie Kane# Malcolm Carmichael# (picc)
Maja Pesic

OBOE

Josh Webster* Anne Mendrun

CLARINET

Renee Kenyon* Matthew Colvin

BASSOON

Monica Dunn* Yasumi Kobayashi

FRENCH HORN

Martin Stevenson* Hugh Goodman
Jane Carson, Chris Breedon

TRUMPET

Bill Stoneham* Lucas Goodwin

TROMBONE & BASS TROMBONE

Robert Lumms# Mark Barnes# Roberta Hickman

TIMPANI & PERCUSSION

Yurika Arai*

+ denotes concertmaster * denotes section leader

denotes section co-leader

GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Did you know you can donate to Orchestras Central Trust?

Orchestras Central Trust provides the professional management of **TWSO**, **Youth Orchestra Waikato**, **Rusty Player Orchestra** and **OCT Ensemble** enabling thousands of people across the Waikato to access inspirational orchestral experiences wherever they may be.

Support us to nurture music making at all levels, and contribute to a thriving music ecosystem right here in the Waikato.

In addition to tax deductible donations, we're also delighted to receive instrument donations - the gift that keeps on giving!

Thank you to our generous instrument donors, whose music lives on in this afternoon's concert:

A CLARINET kindly donated by Ian Witten
OBOE kindly donated by Joshua Kirk and family

CONTACT US TODAY

To discuss ways you can support Orchestras Central Trust, please get in touch with **Catherine Gibson**, Chief Executive for a friendly and confidential chat, ceo@orchestras.org.nz

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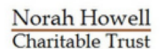
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