

Chamber Music
New Zealand
- 60 years -

~Theme~

www.chambermusic.co.nz

Volume 28 Number 3 September 2010



“[The Song Company’s] singing was of hauntingly strange beauty”

Peter McCallum, Sydney Morning Herald

Australia’s leading vocal ensemble delight in presenting engaging programmes featuring music from the 10th Century to the present day. Formed in 1984 and comprising six full-time professional singers, the group is led by Artistic Director Roland Peelman who is renowned for his energy and creative programming. Regular international tours to Europe and Asia have taken The Song Company to some of the most prestigious festivals and venues around the world such as the Dubrovnik Festival, MDR Sommerfest, Festival of Flanders and the Dresdner Festspiele which have prompted great critical acclaim: “Their rendition was perfect, revealing a structural insight of utmost

clarity ... bringing back history unexpectedly fresh and alive.” (Sachsische Zeitung, June 2004).

Jack Body is The Song Company’s 2010 composer in residence. His *Three Dreams and a Nightmare* was commissioned by Chamber Music New Zealand for The Song Company’s Sweet Dreams programme. The four movements feature the singers playing instruments such as tubular bells or gongs, wineglasses, and wooden blocks. There is no language but only free vocal sounds inspired by different states of dreaming. The world première of the piece will be in Christchurch on 5 October.

“Barking mad and brilliant”

Harriet Cunningham, Sydney Morning Herald

Concert Calendar

Invercargill	Saturday 2 October	7.30pm	The Seasons
Christchurch	Tuesday 5 October	7.30pm	Sweet Dreams
New Plymouth	Thursday 7 October	7.30pm	The Seasons
Hamilton	Saturday 9 October	8.00pm	Sweet Dreams
Napier	Sunday 10 October	3.00pm	Sweet Dreams

Auckland	Tuesday 12 October	8.00pm	The Seasons
Dunedin	Wednesday 13 October	7.30pm	Sweet Dreams
Palmerston North	Friday 15 October	7.30pm	The Seasons
Wellington	Saturday 16 October	7.30pm	Sweet Dreams
Nelson	Sunday 17 October	3.00pm	The Seasons

The Seasons

Including works by Weelkes, Schütz, Hindemith, Delius, Debussy, Poulenc, Michel Legrand, Kate Bush, John Lennon/Paul McCartney

Sweet Dreams

Including works by Monteverdi, Byrd, Wilbye, Weelkes, Vautour, Vecchi, Peter Sculthorpe, Jack Body

From the Chief Executive



We are on the home straight of our 60th anniversary year. There have been many highlights so far, and some perfect moments to savour and enjoy. Hearing Ysaÿe's solo sonatas performed by a young Czech virtuoso fiddler on Ysaÿe's violin; the brilliant young Genzmer Trio from Christchurch, overall winner's of the 2010 NZCT Chamber Music Contest; and the superb combination of Chopin and Schumann from Piers Lane and the Doric String Quartet. Then we have Jack Body's new work for The Song Company next month and to cap it all off a special treat for you, our birthday Schubertiade.

It is this combination of events and activities that demonstrates the key leadership role that we play in the arts world. This influence extends from local to international networks and has been built up over six decades. Creative New Zealand is currently reviewing the way they allocate their resources and has recommended a new sector development approach. Given our reach and proven multi-faceted approach, we are confident that they will continue investing in us.

Our supporter programme Encore continues to grow and we believe this is the right time to build this programme in order that future generations can enjoy chamber music as we do today. The sale of Piera McArthur's paintings of the Borodins featured in this issue is one way that your contribution can help. Donations and major gifts including bequests can really make a difference.

I am delighted to announce that our story will be published in a new book by Jane Dawson as part of birthday celebrations in October. This will follow on from *Into a New Key* that was published back in 1985.

2011 promises more perfect moments and we urge you to re-subscribe and stay with us on our journey of discovery.

Euan Murdoch
Chief Executive

Josef Spacek with Michael Houston

"a player of great musical maturity" John Button, Dominion Post

"impeccable technique and natural musicality" Garth Wilshere, Capital Times

"...Spacek and Houston playing with a special sympathy and sense of spiritual communion. Their teamwork through the vociferous dissonances of the second movement and the catch-me-if-you-can finale was awe-inspiring." William Dart, NZ Herald



Young Czech violinist Josef Spacek completed a whirlwind tour of New Zealand with renowned pianist Michael Houston in June and July. The winner of the 2009 Michael Hill International Violin Competition dazzled all who heard him with his consummate technique and superb musicianship. Despite an extensive touring schedule which saw the duo perform in sixteen centres, Josef still managed to ski the slopes of Queenstown, as well as following the Czech Republic's performance in the Fifa World Cup! Now that Josef has returned to "Smetana's homeland", he misses New Zealand terribly, but promises to be back very soon.

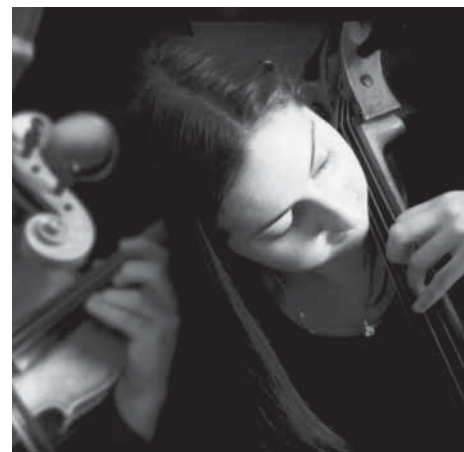
Encore

By now, you will have heard about Chamber Music New Zealand's new supporter programme. Encore was set up for major gifts and bequests as well as one-off donations, and aims to guarantee the future of our organisation.

Ticket sales and subscriptions account for less than half of our annual income, while government funding and support from trusts and sponsors can be volatile. Much of our work generates no revenue. Therefore, it makes sense for CMNZ to be proactive about setting up this programme, and we are very grateful for the support that we have received so far.

In our anniversary year, we were able to host the Wallfisch Band, including a four-centre tour following a week-long residency at the University of Auckland, as a direct result of a bequest from the Trevkel Music Trust. In this particular case, the Wallfisch Band tour and residency could not have gone ahead without the support of the Trevkel Music Trust.

Now that our 60th anniversary year is nearly over, we can begin to look forward to our 75th



anniversary in 2025 and our centenary in 2050. With your continued support we can ensure that future generations can enjoy chamber music as we do today.

Live and intense in concert, at a centre near you!

For more information about how you can help us, please contact either Euan Murdoch, CEO, or Jenni Hall, Business Manager, on 0800 266 2378 or speak to the Concerts Manager or Branch Chair in your centre.

Treat yourself to a Schubertiade!



“[Schubert] lived solely for art and for a small circle of friends”

Obituary Notice, 27 December 1828

Our 60th anniversary season culminates with a special evening of music by Schubert, featuring Michael Houstoun and the New Zealand String Quartet, and augmented by double bassist Michael Steer in the Trout Quintet. This concert is presented as a gift to subscribers to celebrate our 60th anniversary.

In early 19th-century Vienna, Schubertiades – informal social events featuring music, poetry, dancing, and vibrant intellectual conversation – were held in cafes, taverns, or by wealthier members of society at their private homes. Schubertiades were very popular events, whether or not the composer was present. Schubert’s friend Josef Kupelwieser claimed to hold them on his own, writing, “I treat myself to a Schubertiade now and again”. Today, Schubertiade festivals and events are presented regularly all over the world.

Concert Calendar

Napier	Tuesday 26 October	8.00pm
Palmerston North	Wednesday 27 October	7.30pm [†]
Wellington	Thursday 28 October	7.30pm
Invercargill	Saturday 30 October	7.30pm
Dunedin	Sunday 31 October	3.00pm
Christchurch	Monday 1 November	7.30pm

Nelson	Tuesday 2 November	7.30pm
Auckland	Thursday 4 November	8.00pm [‡]
Hamilton	Friday 5 November	8.00pm
New Plymouth	Saturday 6 November	7.30pm

[†]Pre-concert talk at 6.45pm

[‡]Pre-concert talk at 7.00pm

Programme

Schubert	Notturmo in E flat D897
Schubert	String Quartet No 15 in G D887
Schubert	Piano Quintet in A D667 ‘The Trout’

Players

Michael Houstoun , piano	Gillian Ansell , viola
Helene Pohl , violin	Rolf Gjelsten , cello
Douglas Beilman , violin	Michael Steer , double bass

~Listening Post~

The New Zealand String Quartet bring you the complete string quartets of Mendelssohn in three volumes, available on the Naxos label. Recording Mendelssohn’s quartets was a major project for the ensemble which was greeted by glowing reviews from international critics, including *Gramophone* magazine, which referred to their “confidence as ensemble players”, their “strong sense of internal balance” and their focus on “expressive detail”.

The UK’s *Observer* had this to say: “That the 14-year-old Mendelssohn’s first attempt at a string quartet is so assured is perhaps not so remarkable when you consider he had already been composing for six years and had written the first eight of his 12 string symphonies. The New Zealand String Quartet completes its impressive Mendelssohn recordings for Naxos back at the beginning with this Opus “o” work, played with the same style and devotion it brings to the maturer Quartet in D major, Op 44, No 1. Such warm, intelligent playing makes this three-volume series one to recommend.”

Staying in tune



Chamber Music New Zealand is delighted to present a new book about the organisation’s history by Jane Dawson. This book follows on from John Mansfield Thomson’s “Into a new key” which documented the years from 1950 - 1982. The book will be presented free to subscribers at Schubertiade concerts, as a gift to celebrate our 60th anniversary. Jane comments in her introduction: “I am humbled by the sense of commitment to

Chamber Music New Zealand that so many people have shown over a long time. The organisation would not exist in its current format without the long hours of work put in behind-the-scenes by both current and past workers, whether paid or not. Some of those un-sung heroes appear on the following pages, but there are many others. I hope their communities recognise and treasure them.”

2010 Regional Tours: from Whangarei to Gore

Aroha String Quartet, comprising Haihong Liu, Anne Loeser (violins), Zhongxian Jin (viola), and Robert Ibell (cello), toured to Whangarei, Rotorua, and Tokoroa in September and will finish their tour in Tauranga in October. In August, the quartet made their first overseas trip to Austria, where they attended the ISA International Chamber Music Festival.

Following his win at the 2010 Kerikeri National Piano Competition, **John-Paul Muir** teamed up with violinist **Amalia Hall** to present programmes of Mozart, Faure, Brahms, and Debussy in Gore, Wanganui, Taihape, and Lower Hutt. John-Paul has just moved to London to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, while Amalia is continuing postgraduate studies at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.



◀ Niels Bijl
▼ Diedre Irons



Dutch saxophonist **Niels Bijl** toured Tauranga, Blenheim, and Warkworth in July with his “accompanist soulmate”, pianist **Diedre Irons**. Their programme included Schubert’s *Arpeggione Sonata* as well as music from *La Belle Époque* (beautiful era) – Fauré, Ravel, and Massenet.

Cook Strait Trio, the young, recently formed ensemble featuring Amber Rainey (piano), Blythe Press (violin), and Hugo Zanker (cello), toured to Whangarei, Warkworth, Gisborne, Rotorua, Te Awamutu, Tauranga, and Wellington in August, playing trios by John Ireland, Rebecca Clarke, Turina, and Mendelssohn. All three players have now returned to Europe: Amber to the Guildhall in London; Blythe to the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria; and Hugo to the Magdeburger Philharmonic Orchestra in Germany.

Elios, a dynamic ensemble featuring Martin Jaenecke, Konstanze Artmann (violins), Victoria Jaenecke (viola) and Paul Mitchell (cello),

were complemented this year by guest Karen Batten (flute). The group performed in Waikanae and Wellington in September, and will travel to Motueka in December.

Nikau, featuring Karen Batten (flute), Madeline Sakofsky (oboe), and Margaret Guldborg (cello) performed music by Mozart, Villa-Lobos, and Edwin Carr in Waipukurau in May.

Soprano **Jenny Wollerman** joined forces with pianist **Richard Mapp** to present a recital of favourite Schubert lieder and French songs in Tauranga in September.

New Zealand Chamber Soloists, featuring Lara Hall (violin), James Tennant (cello), and Katherine Austin (piano), performed in Wanganui and Waikanae in February and Lower Hutt in June. Their programmes featured trios by Rachmaninoff, Babajanian and Shostakovich, which they recorded on their recently released CD, *Elegy* (available on the Atoll label).

Well-known pianists **Richard Mapp** and **Emma Sayers** presented *Delightful duos* in Wanganui, Warkworth, Rotorua, Gisborne, and Upper Hutt in April. Their programme included Ravel’s *Mother Goose Suite*, Brahms’ *Hungarian Dances*, and a CMNZ commission by Kenneth Young, *Variations on a Prayer*.

Wellington Guitar Duo performed in Wanganui, Whangarei, Kerikeri, Warkworth, Te Awamutu, and Gisborne in June. Their varied programme included works by Rodrigo, Piazzolla, Brahms, and Boccherini.



▲ Soprano **Goeknil Meryem Biner** performed with pianist **Tom McGrath** in Gore in June, performing music from the turn of the 20th century, including Zemlinsky, Wolf, and Ravel.



Christchurch trio win 2010 NZCT Chamber Music Contest!



The Genzmer Trio, consisting of Salina Fisher (piano), Todd Gibson-Cornish (bassoon) and Hugh Roberts (flute), continued Christchurch's dominance of the national Chamber Music Contest, winning this year's competition with a performance of German composer Harald Genzmer's Trio for Flute, Bassoon and Piano.

This year, twelve Semi-Finalists – six groups from Auckland, four from Christchurch, one from Hamilton and one from Dunedin – were selected following fifteen District Contests. They performed at the Ilott Theatre in Wellington on Friday 30 July with six groups then being selected to perform in the the National Final in the Wellington Town Hall on Saturday 31 July before adjudicators Bridget Douglas, Wilma Smith and Michael Houstoun.

The trio got together at the beginning of the year and decided they wanted to find a suitable piece of music to play in the contest.

"I Googled the piano, bassoon and flute combination and it came up with the Harald Genzmer Trio", says Salina. "There was no YouTube clip, but there was a Naxos recording so we ordered it and enjoyed it and then ordered the music. I don't think it's been performed in New Zealand before."

Adjudicator Wilma Smith said the standard of competition this year was incredibly high and the judges were looking for a group with professional poise, mature music making, an understanding of music and an understanding of how to play together as an ensemble. "The decision for The Genzmer Trio to be the winners was unanimous. They demonstrated really beautiful playing, were very mature and technically brilliant. They are terrific."

The members of The Genzmer Trio each received the James Wallace Arts Trust Prize of \$2,000 and the Arthur Hilton Memorial Prize of a musical text.

Another Christchurch ensemble, Swtch, were awarded the KBB Music Award. "Swtch were very exciting and showed a great deal of maturity," Wilma says. "They looked very young on stage, but they became very different people when they started playing." All the members of Swtch attend Burnside High School.

The four other finalist groups in the National Final were all from Auckland – Diable, Alpine Trio, Roseberry Trio and Euphonious Quartet.

The winner of the composition section was Dunedin student Finn Butler with his piece *Mr Gengerella* for violin, flute and piano, which was performed by Finn's own group *Shady Groove* at the National Final. Finn received the SOUNZ prize of \$500.

This year, the performances of all the Finalists were recorded by McCarthy Communications and posted to Radio New Zealand's website. The videos are still available for viewing on YouTube, and have collectively received over 2,600 hits already.

Ensembles in Schools



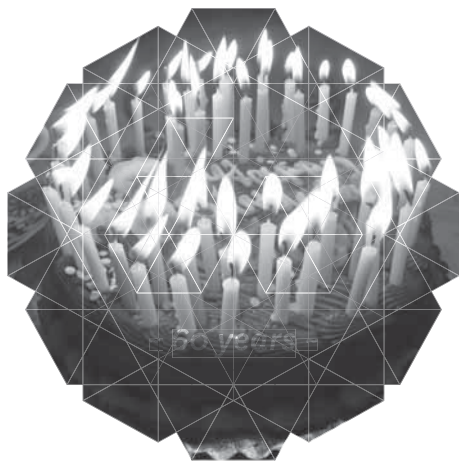
The first outing this year of CMNZ's *Ensembles in Schools* project wrapped up in Whanganui on 18 June with a massed performance in the Whanganui Memorial Hall of students and teachers from Whanganui Intermediate and Durie Hill School. Working with CMNZ's education facilitators, Julian Raphael and Jennifer Moss, and resident ensemble *Saxcess*, the students treated over 400 parents and friends in the audience to a rousing celebration of youth and music. The performance marked the culmination of a term-long project that

saw Julian and Jennifer undertaking weekly classroom sessions at the two schools with the emphasis clearly placed on learning music in a fun and stimulating environment. Once again, the results achieved by the project exceeded our expectations and there are calls to return to the city in 2011.

Now in its third year, *Ensembles in Schools* encapsulates international dialogue about the future of arts education and the need for organisations such as CMNZ to support quality arts education in schools and professional training for teachers. At the second UNESCO world conference on Arts Education held this year in Seoul, delegates reaffirmed two main strategies for raising the level Arts Education worldwide: relevant and effective education of teachers and artists, and the development of partnerships between education and cultural systems and participants. Both strategies lie at the heart of CMNZ's *Ensembles in Schools* work which is to ensure that arts education is accessible as a fundamental and sustainable component of a high quality education.

We are now working to present *Ensembles in Schools* in Nelson in October with The Song Company in residence. Funding the project remains our biggest challenge, but we have seen The Song Company in action in 2008 with the *Ensembles in Schools* pilot project in Masterton and know that this is an opportunity that we cannot afford to miss.

Richard Hardie, Operations Manager



Birthday candles!

The last 20 candles ... selected end-of-year highlights

- 41 **Piers Lane and the Doric String Quartet**, national tour, 6-18 September
- 42 **Jenny Wollerman and Richard Mapp**, Tauranga Musica, 12 September
- 43 **Pettman/ ROSL ARTS International Chamber Music Scholarship**, Hamilton, 18-21 September
- 44 **Aroha String Quartet**, regional tour, Whangarei, Rotoura, Tokoroa, Tauranga
- 45 **Jack Body world premiere of CMNZ commission** for the Song Company, Christchurch 5 October
- 46 **Song Company**, *The Seasons* and *Sweet Dreams*, national tour, 2-17 October
- 47 **Otago Festival of the Arts** begins, 9 October, including Song Company, Dunedin, 13 October
- 48 **Piera McArthur exhibition of Borodins' paintings**, Exhibitions Gallery, Wellington, 21 October- 6 November
- 49 **Elios**, regional tour, Waikanae, Wellington, Motueka
- 50 **2011 season launch**, 21 October, buy your subscription early
- 51 **Hawkes Bay Schubertiade** diamond anniversary event, featuring Michael Houston and NZSQ, 26 October
- 52 **Manawatu Schubertiade** diamond anniversary event, featuring Michael Houston and NZSQ, 27 October
- 53 **Southland Schubertiade** diamond anniversary event, featuring Michael Houston and NZSQ, 30 October
- 54 **Dunedin Schubertiade** diamond anniversary event, featuring Michael Houston and NZSQ, 31 October
- 55 **Christchurch Schubertiade** diamond anniversary event, featuring Michael Houston and NZSQ, 1 November
- 56 **Nelson Schubertiade** diamond anniversary event, featuring Michael Houston and NZSQ, 2 November
- 57 **Auckland Schubertiade** diamond anniversary event, featuring Michael Houston and NZSQ, 4 November
- 58 **Hamilton Schubertiade** diamond anniversary event, featuring Michael Houston and NZSQ, 5 November
- 59 **New Plymouth Schubertiade** diamond anniversary event, featuring Michael Houston and NZSQ, 6 November
- 60 **28 October 2010, Wellington Schubertiade**
- our official 60th birthday!

What's all this monkey business?

This year we introduced online surveys as an additional method of ascertaining customer feedback. This has been possible by the use of a free internet website with the somewhat unusual name of Survey Monkey. This proprietary software offers a basic version at no cost, and this is the version CMNZ uses.

To date we have gathered data about the Borodin, NZTrio, Wallfisch and Josef Špaček tours. The results have been illuminating.

Apart from asking questions about each tour, we also enquire about more general issues, such as encores, speaking from the stage and seating arrangements. Here are some typical results:

Borodin Quartet

Popularity ratings for Programme One

- First and favourite: **Borodin 46%** | Shostakovich 43% | Tchaikovsky 11%
- Second: **Borodin 41%** | Tchaikovsky 30% | Shostakovich 26%
- Third: **Tchaikovsky 57%** | Shostakovich 30% | Borodin 13%

Popularity ratings for Programme Two

- First and favourite: **Shostakovich 45%** | Brahms 27% | Tchaikovsky 27%
- Second: **Shostakovich 45%** | Tchaikovsky 27% | Brahms 18%
- Third: | Brahms 27% | Shostakovich 9%

NZTrio

35% prefer four compositions of varying length, 10% three lengthy compositions, 6% two substantial works, and 4% five or more works.

The Wallfisch Band

81% would appreciate another all Baroque programme.

Josef Špaček with Michael Houston

37% responded that retaining their seat is very important and is one of the reasons they subscribe. 42% say it is important but not critical. 8% are undecided – where they sit is usually determined by habit. 13% said it was not important at all.

We would like to gather as many views as possible, so if you would like to become part of our online survey community, send an email to info@chambermusic.co.nz with "Please add me to Online Survey database" in the Subject line. All contributors are anonymous and you can decide to remove yourself from the survey list at any time.

Christchurch Quake

Our thoughts are with the people of Canterbury following the major earthquake on 4 September, especially those who have suffered damage to their homes. The Doric String Quartet hadn't yet made it to New Zealand when the earthquake happened; Piers Lane, however, was in central Christchurch when he was awakened by the large shake.

Because of the quake, the concert by Piers Lane and the Doric String Quartet on 6 September had to be cancelled. An alternative date had to be abandoned because of the aftershocks and extended state of emergency declared in the city.

We are arranging compensation for CMNZ subscribers, and Ticketek have refunded all public sales.

Issues~

Hold your applause – your comments:

The previous issue of *Theme* featured an article on concert format and asked for your feedback. We received a variety of comments, and we have included some of them below:

“As one who has been going to chamber music concerts for a long time, I still feel like a real newcomer to most of the pieces I hear. It has been a real highlight to hear something about the music ahead of time. The NZTrio’s floor talk was a recent highlight. Finding a recording ahead of time helps.” – Andrew Divett, Nelson

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“When I attend a classical concert, I want the staging, lighting, seating, and audience conduct to allow the musicians to offer their interpretation of the music without distraction ... I also think performances of shorter pieces can be a good way of introducing children and new listeners to classical music. But those formats work only in certain settings and for certain kinds of music, and they still require audience courtesy.” – Erika Buky, Dunedin

~

“I remember one of my first chamber music concerts - 4 guys came on stage, played, and disappeared again. In spite of the sublime music, it left me cold. Compare that with the recent concert by Libby Wallfisch, who had us eating out of her hand. As a continental I am slightly bemused by everyone clapping to their heart’s content at the end of a concert, but hardly ever anyone gets up on their feet to show their appreciation. It was the norm in the Netherlands. And try not to make the audience clap at an opera after a magnificent aria or duet in Italy, you would be thrown out of the theatre.” – John Wuts, Napier

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We are always thinking of ways to engage our audiences and deepen the concert experience, and we thank you for your comments!

Calling all young musicians!

Applications for grants from the 2010 Waikanae Music Society Charitable Trust for Young Musicians are now open. To celebrate their 30th anniversary in 2008, the Waikanae Music Society established a charitable trust to recognise promise and commitment in New Zealand music students up to and including the age of 29 years. The Trust’s aim is to foster the love of chamber music through granting awards and/or scholarships. Interested applicants can download the application form on the Waikanae Music Society web site (www.waikanaemusic.org); alternatively, contact the secretary by phone (04) 904 2922 or email als@paradise.net.nz. Applications close on 29 October 2010.

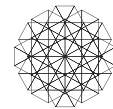
Winterreise in Waikanae

On Sunday 13 February 2011, Waikanae Music Society presents Keith Lewis in recital with Michael Houstoun, performing Schubert’s *Winterreise*. They will also be presenting it at the Adam Festival in Nelson.

Keep in touch

Follow us on:  <http://twitter.com/ChamberMusicNZ>

 <http://www.facebook.com/CMNZContest>



Chamber Music
New Zealand
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Creative New Zealand

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"Spirited Discussion Among the Players" 168cm x 200cm
Closed Tender on 28 October



"The Borodin Quartet in Concert" 168cm x 200cm
Closed Tender on 28 October



"Portrait of the Players"
Closed Tender on 28 October

Fundraising Auction

Celebrate our 60th Anniversary with a Borodin Quartet painting by Piera McArthur

This page features nine wonderful paintings by renowned New Zealand painter Piera McArthur, which were commissioned by Chamber Music New Zealand to celebrate our 60th anniversary. The three larger works are to be sold by closed tender on 28 October 2010. Four of the six smaller paintings are available for purchase now.

The paintings will be on display at Exhibitions Gallery, Featherston St, Wellington, from 21 October – 6 November, and will be sold to raise funds for Encore, CMNZ's new supporter programme.

You can also view the paintings on our website:

www.chambermusic.co.nz

or the Exhibitions Gallery website:

www.exhibitions-gallery.co.nz

This is a great opportunity to buy original works and to support Chamber Music New Zealand.

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"Appreciative Audience"
47cm x 68cm | \$3,800



"The Art of Making Music"
48cm x 67cm | \$3,800



"Borodin Quartet in Wellington"
53cm x 73cm



"Trio On A Green Carpet"
48cm x 68cm



"Rehearsal"
54cm x 73cm | \$4,200



"Quartet With Audience
In The Background"
53cm x 73cm | \$4,200