

## Immortal Beloved



The Brentano String Quartet (left to right) Serena Canin, Misha Amory, Mark Steinberg, Nina Lee

Named after Beethoven's supposed "Immortal Beloved", the Brentano String Quartet have travelled the world to critical acclaim since their formation in 1992. After graduating from the Juilliard School in New York, the members soon decided to make chamber music their career. Since then, they have won several prestigious awards, including the Naumburg Chamber Music Award and the first Cleveland Quartet Award. They have been Ensemble-in-Residence at Princeton University and at London's Wigmore Hall.

On their return visit to New Zealand, the Brentano String Quartet will play a programme of works that include arrangements of Byrd and Gibbons and late Beethoven quartets.

One of the group's more bizarre experiences involved being robbed while they were performing onstage. As first violinist Mark Steinberg explained in an interview on Carnegie Hall's website, the group played on while the robber was forced to exit via the stage. We certainly hope that nothing like that will happen to them in New Zealand!

To listen to the whole interview, go to <http://bit.ly/eujd17>.

### Programme One

Performed in Auckland and Napier

**Mozart** Quartet in D minor K421

**Stephen Hartke** Night Songs for a Desert Flower

**Byrd and Gibbons** Renaissance pieces

**Beethoven** String Quartet No 16 in F Opus 135

### Programme Two

Performed in Hamilton, Christchurch, and Wellington

**Byrd and Gibbons** Renaissance pieces

**Haydn** String Quartet in D minor Opus 103 (unfinished)

**Haydn** Chorale, Der Greis, Hob.XXVc:5

(arranged for string quartet by Mark Steinberg)

**Stephen Hartke** Night Songs for a Desert Flower

**Beethoven** String Quartet No 15 in A minor Opus 132

### Concert calendar

|               |              |        |               |
|---------------|--------------|--------|---------------|
| Auckland      | Tues 7 June  | 8pm    | Programme One |
| Hamilton      | Wed 8 June   | 8pm    | Programme Two |
| Christchurch* | Thurs 9 June | 6.30pm | Programme Two |
| Napier        | Sat 11 June  | 8pm    | Programme One |
| Wellington    | Sun 12 June  | 5pm    | Programme Two |

\*Please note time and venue change (now St Andrew's at Rangī Ruru Church)

## Changes to Christchurch season: new venue, new time and a bonus free concert!

Following on from earlier earthquake related correspondence to Christchurch CMNZ subscribers and supporters, we intend to press ahead and present the remainder of our 2011 *Kaleidoscopes* Concert Season. As you may be aware, our usual Christchurch venue, the James Hay Theatre in the Town Hall complex, sustained major damage and is unavailable for the rest of our season. So we went looking for a new venue ...

In May, Christchurch CMNZ subscribers can look forward to a double helping of outstanding chamber music. First, there is the scheduled concert by the **New Zealand String Quartet** with soprano **Jenny Wollerman** (Thursday 12 May, 6.30pm). **This has been relocated to St Andrew's at Rangī Ruru Church – please note the new start time.** This concert will be followed one week later with a recital, also at St Andrew's, by acclaimed UK violinist **Tasmin Little**, performing her ground-breaking *Naked Violin* project (Friday 20 May, 6.30pm). **This recital will be free to all Christchurch CMNZ subscribers. Simply show your Pass at the door.** Thanks to the kindness of Tasmin, who will travel to Christchurch to give this previously unscheduled free recital, and together with our partnerships with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and the 2011 Michael Hill International Violin Competition, Christchurch subscribers will be able to experience one of the most revolutionary projects in classical music. The third scheduled concert, by New York's **Brentano String Quartet**, is also relocated to St Andrew's (Thursday 9 June, 6.30pm).

We are currently investigating venues for the remaining concerts. We will keep you posted.

## From the Chief Executive



The Eggner Trio kicked off our 2011 *Kaleidoscopes* concert season with energy, finesse and dynamism. The *Nelson Mail's* Margot

Hannigan heralded them as “undoubtedly the very best piano trio I have heard”, while Michael Houstoun commented that their performance was “everything a trio concert could and should be - beautiful, polished, intelligent, stirring.”

Like everyone else in New Zealand, we were deeply saddened to learn about the tragic earthquake in Christchurch on 22 February. As soon as the Eggner Trio heard about the earthquake, they phoned us and offered to play a benefit concert, which was held at a private residence in Wellington on 17 March. We also held an afternoon tea and concert featuring the Antipodes String Trio in Wellington on 14 March, and we were delighted to raise \$18,500 for the Red Cross Christchurch Earthquake Appeal from these two events. We know that our subscribers in Christchurch will be in a state of flux for some time and will need our support in the long-term. We are doing everything we can to ensure that the rest of the 2011 *Kaleidoscopes* concert season goes ahead in Christchurch.

Entries for the 2011 NZCT Chamber Music Contest are coming in thick and fast. During May we will be arranging the regional coaching programme that is so generously supported by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM).

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the New Zealand String Quartet and Jenny Wollerman will be just about to start their ten-centre tour. Their performances will be captivating and we hope that you will enjoy the juxtaposition of familiar and less familiar music, including Ross Harris' *The Abiding Tides*.

Other May-June highlights include Tasmin Little (UK), Brentano String Quartet (USA) and our own Alexa Still, Martin Riseley and Diedre Irons.

There's plenty of good music to look forward to, see you there!

**Euan Murdoch**  
Chief Executive

## Third time's a treat

At the end of March, we bade the Eggner Trio farewell after their third CMNZ tour. Reviews of their performances were superlative; the *Nelson Mail's* Margot Hannigan hailed their “world class performance”, while the *Dominion Post's* John Button praised their “tremendous sweep and intensity”. *Middle C's* Peter Mechen commented, “I truly felt that this was music-making that didn't get much better, anywhere”.



Georg, Christoph and Florian Eggner with Olivia and David Keehan following their Southland performance

The Trio wrote to us following the tour:

*Thanks to all of you that were involved in our CMNZ tour: all the CMNZ staff, the concert managers, the audience ... thanks a million for that great work together, the warm welcome you all provided us, and the passion you brought to us while listening! You gave us the feeling of being home and feeling comfortable all the time: such a great gift! Thanks again for that!*

*We will miss you!*

*Yours,  
Christoph, Florian and Georg Eggner*

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**Enjoyed the Eggner Trio and want to hear more?** They have just realised a new CD, appropriately called 'Kaleidoskop', featuring works by contemporary Austrian composers Gerrit Wunder, Johannes Berauer, and Sascha Peres. Movements of these works were played as encores during their recent CMNZ tour. The Eggner Trio's previous recording features Shostakovich Trios. To purchase either of these CDs, send us a cheque for \$30 (per CD) made out to 'Chamber Music New Zealand'. No stamp required when posted to "Freepost 78559, Chamber Music New Zealand, PO Box 6238, Marion Square, Wellington 6141."

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## Farewell to Maurice Till

We were saddened to learn of Maurice Till's passing in Christchurch recently. The internationally renowned New Zealand pianist and performance teacher was 84.

Maurice Till established himself as a solo pianist and sought-after accompanist in the 1960s. He accompanied international artists such as Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Victoria de los Angeles, and toured for Chamber Music New Zealand on several occasions.

Till taught performance music courses at the universities of Canterbury and Otago from the early 1960s until his retirement in 1991, the *Press* reported. He was the Dean of music and fine arts at Canterbury in the mid to late-1980s, and he received an honorary Doctor of Music degree from the university in 2000. He was also active in arts administration, being the first chairman of the Southern Regional Arts Council.

# Familiar faces going places



(left to right) Martin Riseley, Diedre Irons, Alexa Still

In March, the **Antipodes String Trio** performed in seven North Island centres, including a performance at an afternoon tea in Wellington which raised funds for the Red Cross Christchurch Earthquake Appeal. Audiences and critics were unanimous in their praise, with *Middle C's* Lindis Taylor commenting on their "wholly enchanting performance" in Waikanae.

In June and July, **Felix the Quartet** will play programmes reflecting their Finnish and New Zealand heritage, including works by Beethoven, Silbelius, John Psathas and Esa-Pekka Salonen. Featuring members of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra – Vesa-Matti Leppänen, Rebecca Struthers (violins), Andrew Thomson (viola), and Rowan Prior (cello) – the quartet will play at the Ilott Theatre in Wellington on Sunday 26 June at 3pm, and at the Waikanae Memorial Hall on Sunday 24 July at 2.30pm.

Two of New Zealand's best-loved performers, **Martin Riseley** (violin) and **Diedre Irons** (piano), tour five regional centres in June, July, and September. They will play in Upper Hutt on Monday 13 June, Rotorua on Thursday 23 June, Whangarei on Saturday 25 June, Warkworth on Sunday 26 June, Motueka on Friday 8 July, and Blenheim on Friday 16 September. **Alexa Still** (flute) will join them for *Kaleidoscope* performances in Palmerston North\* (Tuesday 28 June), New Plymouth (Wednesday 29 June), Nelson (Friday 1 July), and Invercargill (Saturday 2 July).

\* Please note that the Palmerston North concert is a different date than previously advertised.

## News

New Zealand pianist **Michael Houstoun**, who is a regular artist with CMNZ and last performed for CMNZ with the New Zealand String Quartet and Michael Steer for the Schubertiade tour, was recently awarded an honorary degree from Victoria University of Wellington. "Through his commitment to live and work in New Zealand", says Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh, "he has contributed substantially to raising the standard of expectations for classical performance, and helped to establish an international standard of musical excellence in New Zealand, which is being built on by the New Zealand School of Music."

New Zealand soprano **Anna Leese**, who toured for CMNZ in 2008, is in the finals of the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition. The competition takes place in June, and adjudicators include Dame Kiri Te Kanawa.

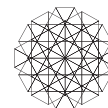
The **Aroha String Quartet**, who toured for CMNZ's regional roster in 2010, have been invited to the prestigious 2011 Huntington Estate Festival in Australia from 23 – 27 November. The Festival is held each year in the Barrel Room of the winery in Mudgee, New South Wales, and has been running for 22 years.

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## Chamber music

by Dinah Hawken

(from 'The leaf-ride', published by Victoria University Press, ISBN 9780864736505)

First there is the chamber because sound  
can be contained and contained kindly.

Then there is the music  
or is it the other way around  
does music come  
before it can be heard?

Or is it the light within music  
that precedes everything, the composer  
nothing but an instrument  
with all that is needed  
to turn a segment of light into song?

Yet the chamber is dark before it is light  
and now at the arranged time the players  
enter keenly with their instruments.

Or do the instruments  
(with their own small chambers)

come before the finely-tuned  
musicians as the music  
placed light and decipherable on the winged stands  
also comes before them?

What a part the audience plays.  
The chamber was empty before it slowly filled

and now we wait in the held breath  
that comes before the first note:  
we wait for the first strike, we wait  
like a still early-morning lake  
for the brilliance and the breakage

## Tasmin Little

In June, Tasmin Little will bring her revolutionary project, *The Naked Violin*, to Auckland, Wellington and Hamilton. She will also give a special performance in Christchurch. The programme of solo violin works includes a wide variety of repertoire designed to appeal to everyone's tastes, such as Bach's *Partita in E*, Paul Patterson's *Luslawice Variations*, which she describes as a sort of "Young Person's Guide to the Violin", and Eugène Ysaÿe's "completely awesome" Sonata No 3. The British violinist has made these works free to download at her website – the first time that any artist (classical or otherwise) has done so. "It's about breaking down every possible hindrance to enjoying classical music and about getting some discussion going about how to make classical music accessible without downgrading the product."

### Concert calendar

|              |             |        |
|--------------|-------------|--------|
| Christchurch | Fri 20 May  | 6.30pm |
| Wellington   | Sun 22 May  | 3pm    |
| Hamilton     | Tues 24 May | 6.30pm |
| Auckland     | Fri 10 June | 6.30pm |

For more information, visit [www.chambermusic.co.nz](http://www.chambermusic.co.nz)

### ~Listening Post~

#### Tasmin Little – Elgar Violin Concerto

Tasmin Little's recording of the Elgar Concerto was featured as editor's choice for the December issue of *Gramophone* magazine. "This is a fascinating document for Elgar-lovers," noted *The Observer*, "but Little's performance, wistful, poetic and powerful, with sympathetic accompaniment from Davis and the RSNO, demands attention in its own right." The recording features the Royal Scottish National Orchestra with Sir Andrew Davis. CHSA 5083.



chambermusiccontest

## 2011 NZCT Chamber Music Contest

The District Contests will be held in June in 15 different centres. The District Adjudicators for 2011 are Tessa Petersen, Gretchen La Roche, Owen Clarke, Catherine McKay and Mark La Roche. The Composition Adjudicator is David Hamilton.

#### The dates of the District Contests are:

Wednesday 8 June: Auckland, New Plymouth  
Thursday 9 June: Auckland, Whanganui, Invercargill

#### District Contest dates continued

Friday 10 June: Auckland, Palmerston North  
Saturday 11 June: Auckland, Dunedin  
Sunday 12 June: Auckland, Dunedin  
Monday 13 June: Whangarei, Hamilton, Timaru  
Tuesday 14 June: Tauranga  
Wednesday 15 June: Gisborne, Nelson  
Thursday 16 June: Christchurch  
Friday 17 June: Hawkes Bay, Christchurch  
Saturday 18 June: Hawkes Bay, Christchurch  
Sunday 19 June: Hawkes Bay, Wellington  
The **National Semi-Final** and **National Final** will take place in Hamilton on 15 and 16 July.

Full information about the Contest is regularly updated on our website and on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/CMNZContest](http://www.facebook.com/CMNZContest)).

~Theme~  
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