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Aroha Ensemble Masterworks for String Trio

Expand your musical horizons with three rarely heard Masterworks for Violin, Viola and Cello.

Through **Words and Music**,

The Aroha Ensemble will introduce you to the energy and tunefulness of **Beethoven's String Trio in G Op. 9 No 1**,

A richly expressive and heartfelt work by Polish composer **Penderecki** and the exquisite Classicism of **Mozart's** mighty

Divertimento in E-flat major K563.



Haihong Liu - Violin , Zhongxian Jin -Viola, Robert Ibell - Cello

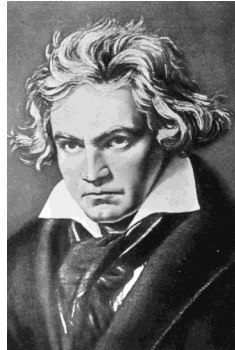
Haihong and Robert are also members of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Zhongxian is a freelance violist with a busy teaching practise in Wellington and Auckland.

June 2017 Programme

Programme

First Half

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) String Trio No 3 in G major Op 9 No 1



- Adagio; Allegro con brio
- Adagio, ma non tanto, e cantabile
- Scherzo: Allegro
- Presto

Beethoven's three String Trios Op 9, written in 1797-98, are seen as a significant milestone in his development as a composer. At the time of their publication in 1799, Beethoven himself regarded them as his best compositions to date. In style and aesthetic, they bear many resemblances to his first set of string quartets, the six quartets Op 18, which were composed between 1798 and 1800.

The Op 9 trios are among several works Beethoven dedicated to Count Johann Georg von Browne-Camus and his wife who had become generous patrons of the composer after his arrival in Vienna in 1792. In response to the dedications, Browne presented Beethoven with a horse, which the busy composer quickly forgot about. Beethoven's servant apparently took advantage the situation, renting the horse out and pocketing the proceeds.

The String Trio in G major is perhaps the most lively of the set. Its first movement is rich in themes that undergo extensive development. The beautiful and almost operatic Adagio in E major is followed by a fleet-footed Scherzo. The final Presto is brilliant and virtuosic, with wonderful twists and turns in harmony and abrupt mood changes. It ends with a fiery coda.

(Sources: Wikipedia; Ryan Turner at Emmanuel Music)

Haihong Liu - violin

Chinese-born NZSO first violinist Haihong is a graduate of the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music in the People's Republic of China, where she won the China National Chamber Music Competition in 1995 with the Beijing String Quartet. As a member of that ensemble she enjoyed a varied international career of concerts, festivals, and competitions throughout China, as well as major cities in Asia and Europe.

After six years teaching as a violin and chamber music lecturer at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music of Guangzhou, Haihong emigrated to New Zealand with her family in 2001, initially joining the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra as sub-principal first violin, and moving to the NZSO in 2002.

With the Aroha String Quartet Haihong enjoys a varied and energetic musical life, touring nationwide.

Zhongxian Jin - viola

Zhongxian is a sought after violin teacher with studios in both Wellington and Auckland. He travels regularly to China and Taiwan for festivals, masterclasses and coaching chamber ensemble and string orchestras.

Before moving to live in New Zealand with his family in 2001, Zhongxian was a violin professor for 16 years at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music in Guangzhou, China.

Zhongxian has been the violist of the Aroha String Quartet since its inception in 2004.

Robert Ibell - cello

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.

Aroha Ensemble
Haihong Liu – violin
Zhongxian Jin – viola
Robert Ibell – cello



The Aroha Ensemble is made up of three members of the Wellington-based Aroha String Quartet, one of New Zealand's finest chamber music ensembles known for its passionate musicality, impressive technique and multicultural innovation.

From 1986 to 1992 Robert lived in London, studying cello with Tania Hunt, Derek Simpson and Christopher Bunting. He played at music schools and in masterclasses (where his teachers included Alexander Baillie, Steve Doane, Anner Bylsma and Steven Isserlis), taught, gave recitals and played in professional and amateur orchestras.

Since 1993 Robert has been a member of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. He is also an experienced chamber musician. Formerly the cellist of the Nevine Quartet, Robert has been a member of the Aroha Quartet since 2009. He also plays in contemporary music group Stroma and is a Recording Artist for Radio NZ Concert.

www.arohaquartet.co.nz



Krzysztof Penderecki (b.1933)
String Trio

- Allegro molto–Andante
- Allegro molto-Allegretto
- Allegro molto–Andante-Vivo
- Adagio-Vivo-Adagio
- Vivace



Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki is best known for works such as Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima, St Luke Passion and Polish Requiem. He has also written four operas,

eight symphonies, and a variety of instrumental concertos, choral and chamber works.

His String Trio was composed in 1990-91 to a commission from the German String Trio and was premiered by that ensemble in Metz on 15 November 1991. It was written at a time when Penderecki was moving beyond his 'romantic phase' to a more hard-edged, almost neo-classical style.

The extended introduction to the first movement juxtaposes blocks of chords (Allegro molto), marked to be played feroce (ferociously), with recitatives for each instrument: a rhapsodic section for the viola (Andante), somewhat capricious for the cello (Allegretto), and very energetic for the violin (Andante). The main part of the movement consists of swirling Vivo sections alternating with two Adagio 'trios'. In the final bar the viola plays the rhythmic pattern that forms the basis of the second movement which follows without a break.

The Vivace begins with contrapuntal writing involving the viola and violin. The cello joins to nudge the music towards a quieter passage filled with a sighing motif. After a forceful section where the musicians are instructed to play at the heel of the bow, a pizzicato episode leads into a new version of the opening fugue. The work ends with a virtuosic bringing together of elements presented earlier.

(Sources: Wikipedia; notes from the German String Trio CD recording)

Interval

Refreshments at the Studio Cafeteria



Second Half

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Divertimento for String Trio in E-flat major K563

- *Allegro*
- *Adagio*
- Menuetto: *Allegretto*
- *Andante*
- Menuetto: *Allegretto*
- *Allegro*



The Divertimento in E-flat major is Mozart's only completed work for string trio. It is generally regarded as being one of his most mature pieces of chamber music and one of the best pieces for the genre by any composer. In his autograph catalogue Mozart gives 27 September 1788 as the date for its completion. This is the only authoritative mention of the work, as the original manuscript hasn't survived and there is no mention of it in Mozart's correspondence.

The composer was in dire financial straits in 1788, and he wrote (not for the first time) to his fellow Freemason Michael Puchberg asking for a loan. In repayment, Mozart dedicated the Divertimento to Puchberg. Despite its modest instrumentation, the work received its premiere at a public concert on 13 April 1789, in Dresden. Mozart himself played his favorite instrument, the viola.

The sequence of movements was typical for such a "diverting" work, with an opening fast movement matched by a similar one to conclude, and a pair of slow movements plus two minuets sandwiched in between. In addition to the richness of his thematic materials, Mozart diversified his musical methods, writing one slow movement in sonata form, the other as a theme and variations. His minuets also exhibited differing structures, including an extra trio section for one of them.

(Sources: preface to the Henle Edition by Wolf-Dieter Seiffert; notes by Dennis Bade for the LA Philharmonic)



Duf Point Centre