



Masters of Melody

Conductor Euan Safey
Soloist Andrew Beer

Sunday 19 November, 3pm
Holy Trinity Church Tauranga

Many thanks to all our generous supporters who made this concert possible



Omokoroa and Bethlehem
Community Churches
Opportunity Centre



Programme Design: Neale Blaymires

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PROGRAMME

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Overture to The Magic Flute, K. 620

Henryk Wieniawski (1835-1880) Soloist: Andrew Beer

Violin Concerto no. 2 in D minor, Op. 22

1. *Allegro moderato*
2. 'Romance'. *Andante non troppo*
3. *Allegro con fuoco – Allegro moderato, á la Zingara*

– *Interval* –

Briar Prastiti (b.1992)

Pegasus (Bay of Plenty Symphonia commission 2023)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Symphony no. 5 in D "Reformation", Op. 107

1. *Andante – Allegro con fuoco*
2. *Allegro Vivace*
3. *Andante*
4. *Andante con moto – Allegro vivace – Allegro maestoso*

PROGRAMME NOTES

Mozart – Overture to The Magic Flute (1791)

Mozart's last opera, *The Magic Flute*, written just before his death, deals with elemental forces, darkness and light, fear and enlightenment. As such, in the Overture, Mozart balances his usual orchestral sparkle with the dark sonorities of a trombone trio. Likewise, the Overture is structured with two contrasting moods – an atmospheric, methodically unveiling opening, and a bubbling fugal Allegro.

Wieniawski – Violin concerto no 2 (1862)

Henryk Wieniawski's virtuosity as a violinist was never in doubt: born into a Jewish family in modern-day Poland, he was admitted to the Paris Conservatoire at the age of 8. His 2nd violin concerto is famous for its balance of lyricism and virtuosity. The first movement is in a large-scale binary form and leads straight into the second, tender and lyrical movement. The third movement, a Rondo in "Gypsy style", is a true display of violin virtuosity.

Prastiti – Pegasus (2023)

Pegasus (2023) was inspired by Briar's memories of childhood horse-riding in Tauranga - as the horse galloped up to the top of the gulley, it felt as though she was flying. Pegasus opens and closes with playful, vigorous galloping rhythms, which transform, taking flight into a lighter, star-like passage of music, ethereally representing Pegasus, the flying horse of Greek mythology. Zeus appreciated Pegasus so much that he turned him into a constellation in the stars forever. Briar dedicates this piece to her dear family members who now rest with Pegasus in the stars: Luka, Ashton, and Daniel Henderson.

Mendelssohn – Symphony no 5 (1830)

Mendelssohn wrote his *Reformation Symphony* at the age of 21, in honour of the 300th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession, a key document of Lutheranism. The first movement surges with martial exuberance, sometimes dissolving into the prayerful "Dresden Amen" in the strings – sung in churches throughout Saxony at the time. Then a sprightly, bold scherzo which is followed by a very gentle, long-breathed lyrical movement which transitions straight into the finale, based on the Lutheran chorale *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott – A mighty fortress is our God*. The tune is introduced by a solo flute, then a contrapuntal working out leads into a triumphant, whole orchestra statement of the chorale for a glorious end to our concert.

Andrew Beer – Violin

Canadian born violinist Andrew Beer has been described as a “musical gift” (NY Times) with a “glorious string tone” (Strad magazine). He has served as Concertmaster of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra since 2014, and has performed as guest Concertmaster with leading orchestras and as a chamber musician around the world. Andrew also served as a performance and teaching fellow at Carnegie Hall and the Juilliard School. In 2020, he was awarded



Best Classical Artist in the NZ Music Awards. Outside his busy performing schedule, Andrew teaches privately, and has been a guest teacher and performer at Harvard and McGill Universities. He has been on the selection panel for the Michael Hill International Violin Competition since 2014. Andrew performs on a J.B. Vuillaume violin from 1845, and a Nicolas Maire bow from 1855.

Briar Prastiti – Composer

Briar is a New Zealand Greek composer and vocal performer, most noted for her work in film and theatre music, songwriting, producing, and her complex and culturally diverse vocal palette. Briar’s musical background stems from her lifelong exploration and passion for music of different cultures, especially Greek music, to which she closely identifies. Her music often touches on dark, romantic and folkloric themes and is driven by her love of rich harmony and rhythm. Briar is the current composer in residence for the New Zealand School of Music and has been working on a number of projects at the Douglas Lilburn residence, including her first orchestral work *Akri* premiered in 2023 by Orchestra Wellington. *Pegasus*, premiered today, is her third orchestral work.



Euan Safey – Conductor

Euan Safey is a Hamilton-based conductor, pianist and teacher, and is passionate about ensemble music-making. Euan completed a Bachelor of Music with first class Honours in Piano Performance at the University of Waikato (UoW) under Katherine Austin and in 2023 completed his second year as a New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Conducting Fellow under the guidance of Hamish McKeich and James Judd. Euan has also studied under notable Kiwi conductors Kenneth Young, Peter Walls, Michael Joel, and Peter Adams, and received guidance from NZSO Principal conductor Gemma New and visiting guest conductors. Euan is Associate Conductor with Opus Orchestra and has guest conducted the Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra, Youth Orchestra Waikato and UoW Orchestra, among others. He also conducted the University of Waikato's productions of Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* in 2022/2023. As a pianist Euan is a sought-after accompanist and plays casually in Opus Orchestra and the OCT Ensemble.



Rebecka Beetz – Concertmaster



Rebecka took up the violin in her native Germany at age 6 and played in many local and regional symphony orchestras from age 11 where she discovered her love for orchestral playing. After completing a linguistic degree in Leipzig, she moved to New Zealand with her husband in 2006 and joined the Bay of Plenty Symphonia in 2009. She has been the orchestra's concertmaster since 2012. Rebecka also plays regularly for Opus Orchestra and enjoys informal chamber music get-togethers. Since 2021, she has been fortunate to receive regular lessons from today's soloist, APO Concertmaster Andrew Beer.



INTRODUCING – William McElwee, New Musical Director



William McElwee comes to the Bay of Plenty Symphonia with a wealth of directing and performing experience in New Zealand and the UK. He currently resides in Wellington, where he is Director of Music at St Mary of the Angels Church, Conductor of Gallery Orchestra, and Associate MD of Wellington Young Voices Children’s Choir. He has performed widely as a baritone soloist including with NZ Opera, and his instrumental playing experience includes being a founding member of Straynge Discorde – The New Zealand Lute Quartet. William holds a PGDip in Performance Voice, a BSc in Mathematics and a BA in English and Latin with Honours in English Language, while his continued organ study is being supported by the Dame Malvina Major Foundation. He is thrilled to be working with BoPS and continuing their tradition of brave programming and brilliant playing.

THE ORCHESTRA

Violin 1

Rebecka Beetz
Michie Nishiyama
Nrusingha Rath
Janet Reid
Gillian Shapley
Jazmine Read
Rosana Houthuesen
Tony Wu

Violin 2

Mandi Bromwich
Brigid Eady
Robert Shelton
Anouk Sayer
Miriam McFarlane
Emilia Yip
Bev Oliver

Viola

Anne Jaquierey
Annette Milson
Bronya Dean
Alison Armstrong
Derek Chan

Cello

Marisha Duijzers
Charlotte Ketel
Trish McNutt
Pachakamac Lema
Peter Fleischl
Sarah Jans

Double bass

John Mietus
Rosemary Severinsen

Flute

Pauline Logger
Leanne Lambert

Piccolo

Enoch Tie

Oboe

Kate Rendall
Chris Martin

Clarinet

Tom Petchell
Miranda Churchill

Bassoon

Yasumi Kobayashi
Karla Putt

French Horn

Jane Carson
Sergio Marshall

Trumpet

Peter Logger
John Page

Trombone

Mark Barnes
Wex King
Bryce Minnell

Tuba

Jane Edmondson

Timpani

Duncan Catanach



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SYMPHONIA

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and collaborations lined up for 2024**

5 May 2024: *Brahms and Beethoven*

with special guests Scholars Baroque Aotearoa

29 June 2024: *Matariki Concert*

with the Youth Philharmonic Tauranga

3 November 2024: *Mozart and more*

Note: Dates and programmes subject to change.

Keep an eye on www.bopsymphonia.org.nz

or on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for details.



***We wish all our supporters, friends and families a happy holiday season
and look forward to seeing you again in 2024.***