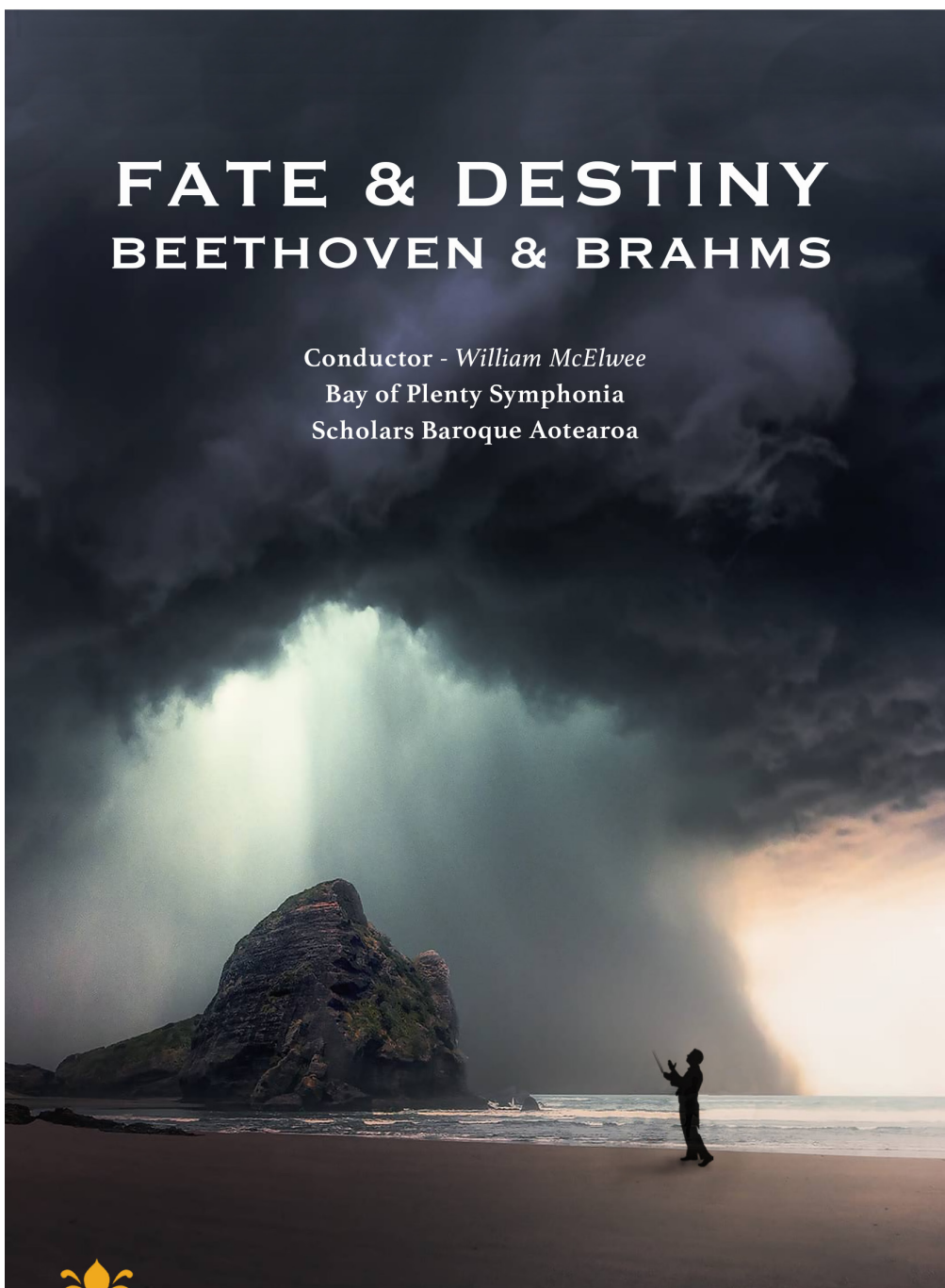


# FATE & DESTINY

## BEETHOVEN & BRAHMS

Conductor - *William McElwee*  
Bay of Plenty Symphonia  
Scholars Baroque Aotearoa



Sunday 5 May, 2024, 3pm  
Holy Trinity Church, Tauranga



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

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**Programme Design:** Neale Blaymires

**Graphic Design:** Jessica Nisbett, with photography by Toneback Photos

**Stage Manager:** Alison Armstrong

## **Want to get involved?**

**Sponsor Us** – As a community organisation, we rely on external funding support and are always looking for one-off or regular sponsors. If your business may be keen in a partnership, please contact us at **bopssecretary@gmail.com** to discuss options.

**Help Us** – We are looking for help “behind the scenes”. If you have experience in administration, finance or marketing and are passionate about community, we would love to hear from you! Please contact **bopssecretary@gmail.com**

**Play With Us** – Do you play an orchestral instrument and would you be keen to join our ranks? Contact us at **bopsplayers@gmail.com** to discuss how!

**Be our Friend** – Join our mailing list to be notified of upcoming performances, receive newsletters and stay up to date with the orchestra's activities. E-mail **bopsfriends@gmail.com** to register.

# PROGRAMME

**Ernest Bloch** (1880-1959)

*In Memoriam, B. 85*

**Johannes Brahms** (1833-1897)

*Schicksalslied, Op. 54*

With *Scholars Baroque Aotearoa*

Text: **Friedrich Hölderlin** (1770-1843)

– *Interval* –

**Jean Sibelius** (1865-1957)

*Valse triste, Op. 44/1*

**Ludwig van Beethoven** (1809-1847)

*Symphony no. 5 in C “Fate”, Op. 107*

1. *Allegro con brio*
2. *Andante con moto*
3. *Scherzo - Trio*
4. *Allegro*

# PROGRAMME NOTES

## **Bloch – *In Memoriam* (1952)**

Swiss-born American composer Ernest Bloch wrote this little gem as a eulogy for his friend Ada Clement, who co-founded the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where Bloch was director from 1925 until 1930. The piece opens in a dark modal world full of grief, out of which a beautiful melody unfolds, perhaps expressing a celebration of the life lived.

## **Brahms – *Schicksalslied* (1871)**

Friedrich Hölderlin's reflective poem "The Song of Destiny" is also a response to grief, albeit that of a literary character. Brahms illuminates this poem with two deeply contrasting sound-worlds. The beginning and end of the piece are characterized by peaceful and heavenly sounds, while the middle section (representing earthly life) is a whirlwind that distracts, fragments, then fugues.

## **Sibelius – *Valse triste* (1830)**

Equally descriptive is Sibelius' "Sad waltz", from the incidental music he wrote for the play "Kuolema" (Death). It musically describes a vision a sick mother has during her illness – her bedgown becomes a ballgown, and shadowy dancers join her in a ghost-dance. The dance gradually gains speed, albeit haltingly, before there is a strange knock at the door – death stands on the threshold!

## **Beethoven – *Symphony no 5, Schicksal (Fate)* (1830)**

Beethoven's 5th symphony is famous for two things: the motif – "fate's knock" – that suffuses the whole work, and for beginning in a minor key, but finishing instead in the major.

The first movement opens with the "fate" motif, which is tossed about by the orchestra, always foreboding, before the horns strike up the second theme – a heroic challenge that is still underwritten in the bass by the rhythm of fate, and quickly dissolves into doubt.

The second movement is a double variation - the first theme is lilting, almost a dance, and it competes with a stricter counterpart that grows through repetition to become martial. These two themes alternate in increasing tension, and dissipate, unresolved.

The third movement starts with a scherzo, which contrasts a moody, creeping theme with a bombastic, mock-heroic theme (led by horns) which it continuously erodes. The middle section is fugal, with demanding writing for cellos and basses, before the Scherzo returns, with no pretence at heroism,

dissolving into the darkest, most apprehensive section of the symphony, which leads directly into the fourth movement – a triumphant blaze of sound, augmented by a piccolo at the top and trombones at the bottom, as Beethoven takes this journey through doubt to a mighty conclusion.

## **Brahms: *Schicksalslied* – Song of Destiny**

Text: **Friedrich Hölderlin** Translation: **William McElwee**

### ***Schicksalslied***

*Ihr wandelt droben im Licht  
Auf weichem Boden, seelige Genien!  
Glänzende Götterlüfte  
Rühren euch leicht,  
Wie die Finger der Künstlerin  
Heilige Seiten.*

*Schicksallos, wie der schlafende  
Säugling, athmen die Himmlischen;  
Keusch bewahrt  
In bescheidener Knospe,  
Blühet ewig  
Ihnen der Geist,  
Und der seeligen Augen  
Blicken in stiller  
Ewiger Klarheit.*

*Doch uns ist gegeben  
Auf keiner Stätte zu ruhn,  
Es schwinden, es fallen  
Die leidenden Menschen  
Blindlings von einer  
Stunde zur andern,  
Wie Wasser von Klippe  
Zu Klippe geworfen,  
Jahrlang ins Ungewisse hinab.*

### ***Song of Destiny***

*You wander above in the light  
on soft grounds, blessed Spirits!  
Glowing God-winds  
stir you lightly,  
like the Artist's finger  
on her holy strings.*

*Fateless as sleeping  
babes, the heavenly ones breathe;  
chastely protected  
in a humble bud,  
eternally bloom  
their spirits,  
and their blessed eyes  
gaze in silent,  
eternal clarity.*

*But there is given to us  
no place to rest:  
we fade, we fall,  
suffering humans,  
blindly from one  
hour to the next,  
like water thrown  
from cliff to cliff,  
for years down into the unknown.*

## William McElwee – Conductor



William McElwee is thrilled to be presenting his first concert with BoPS. William has 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.

## Scholars Baroque Aotearoa – Choir

Scholars Baroque Aotearoa is an auditioned Tauranga-based chamber choir under the musical direction of Chaliumpoppy. Their repertoire spans the history of choral music from early sixteenth century masterpieces to thrilling twenty-first century contemporaries. Scholars Baroque Aotearoa have received international accolades for the New Zealand premières of choral works by Henry Purcell, Jean-Phillipe Rameau and Michael Haydn. They last collaborated with BoPS in April 2018 and both groups are thrilled to be coming together again.



Chaliumpoppy

## 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

gettogethers. Since 2021, she has been fortunate to receive regular lessons from APO Concertmaster Andrew Beer.

# THE ORCHESTRA

## **Violin 1**

Rebecka Beetz  
Michie Nishiyama  
Emilia Yip  
Joyce Wong  
Nrusingha Rath  
Gloria White  
Janet Reid  
Sarah Hart

## **Violin 2**

Mandi Bromwich  
Brigid Eady  
Gillian Shapley  
Rachel Moxham  
Jill Fleming  
Joy Shepherd  
Robert Shelton

## **Viola**

Annette Milson  
Bronya Dean

Anne Jaquiery  
Margaret Skippen

## **Cello**

Marisha Duijzers  
Trish McNutt  
Chamé Blackburn  
Pachakamac Lema  
Therese Ahlers

## **Double bass**

Nicola Han  
Rosemary Severinsen

## **Flute**

Pauline Logger  
Enoch Tie  
Emily Rendall

## **Oboe**

Kate Rendall  
Chris Martin

## **Clarinet**

Tom Petchell  
Miranda Churchill

## **Bassoon**

Yasumi Kobayashi  
Karla Putt

## **French Horn**

Jane Carson  
Jim Scrivener

## **Trumpet**

Peter Logger  
Ned Shaw

## **Trombone**

Leo Read  
Wendy King  
Bryce Minnell

## **Timpani**

Duncan Catanach

# THE CHOIR

## **Sopranos**

Friederike André  
Adriana Barrera  
Katherine Bremner  
Jeany Marshall  
Regan McFarlane  
Catherine Smalberger  
Nina de Villiers

## **Altos**

Kerstin Kreuger  
Adelyn Leong

Thelma Lindup  
Tracy Dixon Shum  
Rose Treadwell  
Jilly Whalley

## **Tenors**

Peter Bremner  
Rhys Bugden  
Ken Sayers  
Joerg Thamm  
Tamsyn Thamm

## **Basses**

Ian Hawthorne  
David Jiang  
Laurence Reeves  
Vince Shaw  
Elijah Tie





**We hope you have enjoyed today's performance!**

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**Still to come in 2024...**

**Saturday, 29 June 2024: *Combined Concert with YPT***  
**3pm, Holy Trinity Church**

On Matariki Weekend, we join forces with the Youth Philharmonic Tauranga to present a combined concert. Each orchestra will perform by itself and we will then combine both orchestras for the last portion of the concert!

Featuring a great mix of music by Stravinsky, Borodin, Shostakovich, John Williams and more!

**Sunday, 25 August 2024: *Strings Attached***  
**2:30 pm, St. Peters at the Mount**

The Bay of Plenty Symphonia String Players present a concert of string music, featuring:

**Grieg** – *Holberg Suite*   **Vivaldi** – “*Winter*” from *Four Seasons*  
**Tchaikovsky** – *Serenade for Strings*

Violin soloist/director/conductor: Martin Riseley

**Sunday, 24 November 2024: *Schubert and Oboe***  
**3pm, Holy Trinity Church**

A programme of classical gems to finish off the year!

**Mendelssohn** – *Hebrides overture*   **Strauss** – *Oboe concerto*  
**Barber** – *Adagio for strings*   **Schubert** – *Symphony No. 3*  
Oboe soloist: Bede Hanley

Note: Dates and programmes subject to change.

Keep an eye on [www.bopsymphonia.org.nz](http://www.bopsymphonia.org.nz) or on

**Facebook** and **Instagram** to stay up to date with our activities!