



BAY OF PLENTY

SYMPHONIA

*Beethoven's
Violin*

Michael Joel - Conductor

Lara Hall - Violin Soloist

Sunday 11 May 2025, 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
Stage Manager: Nick McFarlane

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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!

We also need somewhere to store the orchestra's four timpani; three are in wooden boxes on wheels and the smallest is in a soft carry bag.

Please contact **bopssecretary@gmail.com**

Play With Us – Do you play an orchestral instrument and would 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

Claude Debussy (1862 –1918)

Petite Suite, Op. 26 (1889)

Orchestrated by Henri Büsser in 1907

1. *En bateau – Andantino*
2. *Cortège – Moderato*
3. *Menuet – Moderato*
4. *Ballet – Allegro giusto*

Aaron Copland (1900 –1990)

Appalachian Spring (1944)

– *Interval* –

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 –1827)

Soloist: Lara Hall

Violin Concerto in D Major, Op.61 (1806)

1. *Allegro ma non troppo*
2. *Larghetto*
3. *Rondo – Allegro*



PROGRAMME NOTES

Claude Debussy – *Petite Suite* (1889)

Debussy's *Petite Suite* was written for four hands at the piano and written to be played by amateur musicians. The suite was inspired by Paul Verlaine's set of poems: *Fêtes Galantes*. The first two movements (*Sailing* and *Retinue*) are inspired directly by poems in the set whereas the final two (*Menuet* and *Ballet*) are general reactions to the poems as a whole. The first movement is a beautiful, lilting barcarolle, the gentle rolling of the waves perfectly depicted by the running figurations under the delicate flute melody that begins the movement. The second movement is a playful depiction of a lady and her retinue. The *Menuet* and *Ballet* continue perfectly the mood of the first two movements with dance rhythms carrying the listener joyfully to the end of the suite.



An illustration by George Barbier from the 1928 paper-back publication of Paul Verlaine's *Fêtes Galantes*.

Aaron Copland – *Appalachian Spring* (1944)



A contemporary 2014 performance of *Appalachian Spring* by the Martha Graham Dance Company.

Copland's *Appalachian Spring* was written for the ballet company of the legendary American choreographer, Martha Graham. The story is set in 19th century Pennsylvania and revolves around the intimate relationships between the characters of the small rural settlement. Copland consciously uses a spare and direct musical language using plain melodies and lively rhythms to evoke the simple life of the

ballet's protagonists. The suite of movements was selected by Copland himself and uses the well-known Shaker tune *Simple Gifts* in the last section.

Ludwig van Beethoven – *Violin Concerto in D Major, Op.61* (1806)

It was an inauspicious beginning: poorly rehearsed and with the solo part given to the soloist at the last minute it was no surprise that the first performance of Beethoven's violin concerto was not a success. It took a young Joseph Joachim to champion the concerto 38 years later for it to be recognised as one of the greatest of all concertos. The first movement alone is built on a grand scale – broad melodies with the violin weaving intricate filigree, often in the highest reaches of the instrument. The slow movement is one of the most peaceful, heavenly utterances ever written and leads directly to the ebullient, dance-like final movement.



The young Joseph Joachim as drawn by Adolf Menzel in 1854.

Lara Hall – Soloist



Dr Lara Hall has taught violin and viola at the University of Waikato since her return from the US in 2006, at which point she also began her position as concertmaster of Opus Orchestra and, with pianist Katherine Austin and cellist James Tennant, formed the New Zealand Chamber Soloists.

Lara has released CDs as a chamber musician, concerto soloist and solo violinist on the Atoll and Naxos labels. She is the only musician to have performed variously on violin, baroque violin and viola in Chamber Music New Zealand's main series – concerts that showcase international artists.

Lara's high-school violin teacher was the Tauranga violin teacher Val Thorburn. After obtaining a BMus at the University of Auckland,

study included a Doctorate at the University of Michigan (one of the top four universities in the USA) and a summer in the Dorothy Delay Studio (acknowledged as the top violin teacher in the world at the time).

Lara has toured internationally giving performances in the UK, Europe and South America. She has also given master classes at institutions including the Royal Academy of Music in Dublin, Interlochen Arts Academy in the US, and top Asian music conservatories: Yong Siew Toh in Singapore and Shanghai.

Lara has held short-term contracts as concertmaster of the APO and Auckland Chamber Orchestra and has performed as a concerto soloist with orchestras such as the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and NZ Barok. She is the only violinist residing in New Zealand to have been accepted and competed as a semi-finalist in the Michael Hill International Violin Competition.



Michael Joel – Conductor

New Zealand-born conductor Michael Joel studied at Otago University with Professors Jack Spiers and Peter Adams. Having completed his honours degree, he continued his studies with conductors Heinz Wallberg, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Jac van Steen, and at the Dartington International Summer School.

Equally at home in the orchestra, choral and operatic repertoire, Michael has conducted extensively throughout New Zealand and the United Kingdom. He has worked at The Royal

Opera House, assisting Antonio Pappano, Alexander Joel, Dan Ettinger, Plácido Domingo, Oleg Caetani and Mark Minkowski.

He has conducted many of the established orchestras and companies in New Zealand – Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, Dunedin Symphony Orchestra, Opera Otago, the City of Dunedin Choir, NZSO National Youth Orchestra and, prior to relocating to London, principals and members of the NZSO and NZ String Quartet in a critically acclaimed performance of Mahler's 4th Symphony.

Michael is currently Music Director of St Matthews Chamber Orchestra and has worked on the music staff of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as duty conductor on productions of *Tosca*, *La Bohème*, *La Traviata* and *Carmen*. He also assisted with the music preparation and children's chorus for *La Bohème* and *Carmen*. He conducted pianist, Pascal Rogé in Saint-Saëns *2nd Piano Concerto* with the Lakeland Sinfonia in the UK to great acclaim. Since returning to New Zealand Michael has continued his work with St Matthew's Chamber Orchestra, Opus Orchestra and Bay of Plenty Symphonia.

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
Gillian Shapley
Jazmine Read
Gloria White
Leah Dawn Lacey
Katie Mayes
Rosana Houthuesen

Violin 2

Mandi Bromwich
Brigid Eady
Alyson Hendren
Miriam McFarlane
Catriona Gordon
Jill Fleming
Robert Shelton
Iris Guo

Viola

Sylvia Neild
Annette Milson
Bronya Dean
Margaret Skippen
Alison Armstrong

Cello

Therese Ahlers
Trish McNutt
Peter Fleischl
Simon Eminson
Gina Nored

Double bass

Nicola Han

Flute

Pauline Logger
Leanne Lambert

Oboe

Kate Rendall
Chris Martin

Clarinet

Kimberly Jones
Miranda Churchill

Bassoon

Yasumi Kobayashi
Karla Putt

French Horn

Jane Carson
Gary Valentine

Trumpet

Peter Logger
Arthur Thompson

Trombone

Mark Barnes
Wex King

Timpani

James Pinchin

Percussion

Jorge Meza Rivera
Claire Cavannah
Mark Barnes

Harp

Margaret Harper

Piano

Kelly Hayward



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Thank you for attending today's concert!

Upcoming events for 2025

Concert 2: *RISING STARS*

**Sunday 27 July, at Graham Young Youth Theatre,
Tauranga Boys' College**

Conductor William McElwee

Hear local young musicians perform concerto movements
and compete for the title of *Rising Star 2025*.

Concert 3: *POP Concert*

Saturday 23 August, at Baycourt, Tauranga

Conductor Hiro Kobayashi

As a fundraiser for Waipuna Hospice, local band Third Space
and Bay of Plenty Symphonia will perform well known
pop music by ABBA, Toto and more.

Concert 4

Sunday 16 November, at Baycourt, Tauranga

Conductor Michael Joel

Details to be announced

www.bopsymphonia.org.nz