



CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

VOICE OF THE WHALE

A NOTE FROM ADAM CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Artistic Directors, Helene Pohl (MNZM) and Gillian Ansell (MNZM)

“The *Chamber Music Series* is an artful balance of the familiar and the out of the ordinary. We’ve come up with five very different experiences: 21 intimate and exploratory art songs in *21 x 21*; in *Hine-pū-te-hue*, two quintets for string quartet and taonga pūoro are paired with a Romantic piano quintet by a groundbreaking American woman; the Enescu Octet in *Chamber Music Spectacular*; music from around the globe celebrating nature and emotion in *Voice of the Whale*; solace in a troubled world with *Bach by Candlelight*.

In this breath-taking series, we’ve paired world premieres with rarely heard works - the Amy Beach Quintet and the Bacewicz *Violin Sonata* - and the more familiar, such as the beloved Bach *Chaconne*, juxtaposed with other masterworks to enhance the emotional impact of each programme.

We hope that you enjoy these musical experiences, wherever you are in the world.”

Ko tā te *Chamber Music Series*, he kimi i te kauwhanga, ko ngā momo pūoro e mōhiotia ana ki tētehi taha, ko ngā momo rerekē katoa ki tērā atu. Nā reira, kua whakaritehia e mātou ētehi kaupapa whai wheako i roto i ngā whakaaturanga e rima, ko ngā waiata ipoipo whakamātau tangi hou o 21 x 21; He tōwhā whakatangi aho me ētehi taonga pūoro Māori, e haere ngātahi ana me tētehi tōrima whakatangi piano nā tētehi wahine Amerikana i roto o Hine-pū-te-hue; He whakaaturanga kounga rawa atu ko te Enescu Octet tērā i roto i te *Chamber Music Spectacular*; Ko te whakaaturanga o *Voice of the Whale*, He kohinga waiata mō te aroha nui ki te taiao me ngā kare ā roto; Ka kimi i te rongō i tēnei ao hara nei me te whakaaturanga o *Bach by Candlelight*.

Tell us what you think of the show

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Performers

Helene Pohl – Violin
Rolf Gjelsten – Cello
Nicola Melville – Piano
Bridget Douglas – Flute

Programme

George Crumb
Voice of the Whale (1971) for flute, cello and piano

Grażyna Bacewicz
Violin Sonata No. 4 (1949)

- Moderato
- Andante ma non troppo
- Scherzo: Molto vivo
- Finale: Con passione

Heitor Villa-Lobos
Assobio a Játó (The Jet Whistle) (1950) for flute and cello

- Allegro non troppo
- Adagio
- Vivo

Sergei Rachmaninoff
Trio élégiaque No. 1 in G minor: Lento lugubre (1892)

Available to digitally stream from Monday 7 March – Sunday 3 April 2022

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ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND / TOI AOTEAROA

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THE ARTS**

PROGRAMME NOTE

In this concert, the groundbreaking *Vox Balaenae* or *Voice of the Whale* by Pulitzer Prize and Grammy award winner George Crumb amplifies flute, cello and piano, mirroring sounds from the deep. It is a fitting tribute to the composer, who recently passed away. You'll notice that each of the musicians are wearing a black half-mask. In the *Voice of the Whale* score Crumb directs the musicians to wear these and explains, "The masks, by effacing a sense of human projection, will symbolize the powerful impersonal forces of nature (nature dehumanized)".

Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos' *Assobio a Játo* or *Jet Whistle* beautifully juxtaposes the flute and cello – true

to his style of combining Brazilian melodic and rhythmic elements with Western classical music.

Grażyna Bacewicz, an icon of Polish composition in the 20th century as well as a virtuoso violinist, wrote this Violin Sonata No. 4 for herself to play. Its moods range from highly gestural and expressive to witty and flirtatious.

The Rachmaninov Trio *élégiaque*, composed while he was still a student, caused a sensation at its first performance but then the music was lost, only to be rediscovered until after his death. It features the sweeping melodies and depth of feeling for which the composer is well known for in his later works.

PERFORMERS

Bridget Douglas

Section Principal, Flute, NZSO

Bridget is Section Principal Flute of the NZSO and an Artist Teacher in Flute at the New Zealand School of Music - Te Kōkī. After graduating from Victoria and Otago Universities, she undertook postgraduate study in the USA with the assistance of a Fulbright Graduate Award. While in New York, Bridget won the New York Flute Club and Artists International Competitions.

She is a founding member of the contemporary music ensemble Stroma and is actively involved in performing and commissioning New Zealand composers. In 2020 she was awarded the CANZ (Composers Association of NZ) Citation for Services to NZ Music.



Helene Pohl

Violin I, NZSQ

Helene Pohl studied at the Musikhochschule in Cologne, with members of the Cleveland Quartet at the Eastman School of Music and at Indiana University with Josef Gingold. She was first violinist of the prize-winning San Francisco-based Fidelio String Quartet before joining the NZSQ in 1994.

In 2001 she became Artistic Director, with Gillian Ansell, of the Adam Chamber Music Festival. In 2014 she was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for her outstanding services to music in New Zealand.

Helene plays a Pietro Guarnerius violin made in Venice in 1730.



Rolf Gjelsten

Cello, NZSQ

Rolf studied cello in North America with James Hunter and Janos Starker, as well as chamber music with the LaSalle, Hungarian, Vermeer, Cleveland and Emerson string quartets. He played professionally with the Berlin Symphony, the Laurentian Quartet and New York Trio before coming to New Zealand to join the New Zealand String Quartet in 1994. He has a doctorate from Rutgers University and was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for his outstanding services to music in New Zealand.

Rolf plays a 1705 Francesco Goffriller cello made in Venice.



Nicola Melville

Piano

Nicola Melville has been described as "a marvelous pianist who plays with splashy color but also exquisite tone and nuance" (*American Record Guide*), and "the sort of advocate any composer would love" (*Dominion Post*). Nicola won the National Concerto Competition and the Auckland Star Concerto Competition while in New Zealand, and has been a prize-winner in several competitions in the United States; she holds degrees from Victoria University, and the Eastman School of Music, New York. Nicola has recorded for the Innova and Equilibrium labels and is the pianist for the Twin Cities contemporary music group, Zeitgeist. Currently Professor of Music at Carleton College, Minnesota, Nicola is also co-chair of the piano programme at the Chautauqua Summer Festival, New York.

