

CONCERT 3 – Sunday 8 September - 3pm

Debussy Sonata in G minor for Violin and Piano
Brahms Piano Quartet No. 3 in C minor, Opus 60

Simeon Broom (violin), Helen Lee (viola), James Tennant (cello), Katherine Austin (piano)



SIMEON BROOM – violin (Festival Artistic Director)

Simeon Broom grew up in Mt Eden and began the violin at the age of 4. He completed Performance Violin studies at Auckland University with Mary O'Brien, during which he won the inaugural University Concerto Competition. Simeon received a D.A.A.D (German Academic Exchange) Scholarship and moved to Germany where he studied at the Hochschule für Musik, Düsseldorf with Professor Ida Bieler and played in the Gürzenich Orchestra in Cologne as well as performances with *Live Music Now*, the Yehudi Menuhin founded charity. In 2004 Simeon was finalist in the Young Musicians Competition New Zealand.

In 2008, Simeon completed his Masters at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, studying with David Takeno and Jack Glickman. He was finalist in the Beares Solo Bach Competition in London and winner of the Sonata Competition at the North London Music Festival. He has played in orchestras such as the Royal Opera House (Covent Garden), English National Opera, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Bergen Philharmonic and the Sydney Symphony, before taking up his position in the NZSO.

Simeon has performed as soloist with orchestras both in New Zealand and in Germany. In 2021 and 2022 Simeon performed and recorded as soloist with the NZSO, in Vivaldi & Piazzola's Seasons. Simeon is a passionate chamber musician and has toured for Chamber Music New Zealand and performed at the Adam International Chamber Music Festival. In 2016 Simeon was co-founder, together with Eden Arts, of the Mt Eden Chamber Music Festival and he has been the Artistic Director since its conception.



HELEN LEE – viola

Originally from Dunedin, Helen Lee (née Bevin) studied at the New Zealand School of Music under Gillian Ansell, winning a number of awards including the prestigious Pettman/ROSL Arts International Scholarship. Moving to London, she gained a Masters of Music with Distinction from Guildhall School of Music & Drama in 2011, and then freelanced with such orchestras as the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia (Guest Principal) and Philharmonia Orchestra, touring extensively throughout Europe and China.

Helen has played solo and chamber recitals throughout New Zealand and the UK, including recitals at St Martin in the Fields, the National Portrait Gallery, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and tours for Chamber Music New Zealand. She has attended IMS Prussia Cove, Thy Masterclass and Moritzburg Festival Academy, and while studying was Principal Viola with the NZSO National Youth Orchestra and Australian National Music Camp. At just 24 she was appointed Solo Viola with the Lahti Symphony Orchestra in Finland, recording several Sibelius symphonies in their renowned Sibelius Hall (Sibeliustalo) and touring internationally before returning home to New Zealand to join the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra viola section. After eight years in the APO Helen now enjoys a diverse freelance career combining orchestral and chamber music playing with teaching and coaching.



JAMES TENNANT – cello

Cellist James Tennant is recognised nationally and internationally as a passionate soloist, chamber musician and teacher.

James was principal cellist with the Sinfonica Nacional de Colombia, Bogota Filarmonia and the Auckland Philharmonia orchestras. He has performed concertos with the Auckland Philharmonia, the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional de Colombia, Orquesta de Cali and the Dunedin Sinfonia among others.

As a chamber musician, James was a founding member of the Trio Mozart, CadenZa, Vivo String Quartet, Ogen Trio and the New Zealand Chamber Soloists, and has performed regularly with pianist Katherine Austin as the Tennant-Austin Duo. James also created the cello ensemble Cellophonics, which has performed annual tours around New Zealand during the past 15 years.

James has taught at the Universidad del Cauca, Conservatorio Nacional de Colombia, Canterbury and Waikato Universities, and is currently at Auckland University. His students have achieved outstanding successes in national and international competitions and his numerous musical initiatives have included six NZ Summer Cello Schools, the Nelson International Chamber Music Festival and Summer School, the Rotorua International Chamber Music Festival, and the 2016 Waikato International Cello Fest. James plays an 1898 Ernesto Degani.



KATHERINE AUSTIN – piano

Head of Piano Studies at the University of Waikato for 21 years, and now teaching at both the Universities of Auckland and Waikato, New Zealand pianist Katherine Austin performs regularly around NZ and overseas, touring frequently for Chamber Music New Zealand, and broadcasting regularly on Radio New Zealand Concert.

A founding member of the Ogen Trio and the Kandinsky Ensemble, since 1995 Katherine has performed regularly with leading NZ/USA cellist James Tennant, as the Tennant-Austin Duo, throughout New Zealand and in Europe and the USA. Her work with the New Zealand Chamber Soloists now occupies a large portion of her performing and concert life, with (up to the end of 2019 when Covid struck) regular tours to Europe, UK, Asia, North and South America, and Australia, and invitations to give master-classes in such institutions as the Yong Siew Toh Academy of Music (Singapore), the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, the Yehudi Menuhin School (UK), Interlochen Arts Academy (USA), the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM), Monash University (Melbourne) and the Vicenza Conservatory of Music (Italy).