



The Piano

The Piano Presents

All information is correct at time of printing. The Piano reserves the right to make changes to artists, programmes and dates.



Thank you to our principal supporter  
Elizabeth Ball Charitable Trust

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Christchurch



2026 SEASON

# Christopher's Classics

Beautiful chamber music  
in the heart of Ōtautahi.

# Nau mai, Haere mai Welcome

**International Artistry. Locally Celebrated.** Ōtautahi Christchurch's music scene is positively brimming with exceptional concerts and world-class artists. We're delighted to share our 2026 Season with you, celebrating our Kiwi musicians alongside international guests with deep connections to our city and country. For 31 years Christopher's Classics has been delighting chamber music lovers with thrilling and intimate musical experiences. From humble house-concert beginnings in Ohoka, enlivening post-quake Christchurch, to presenting some of New Zealand's most exciting artists – you've been on the journey with us. Your passionate and unequivocal support of Christopher's Classics has ensured our series thrives, and enables our fabulous artists to present great music for you and our city. Thank you, we couldn't do this without you.

**Marcus Norman**  
Director | The Piano

**Doris Barnard & Mark Hickman**  
Organisers | Christopher's Classics

## 2026 Concert Dates

**Amici Ensemble with Simon Brew**

Sunday 29 March

**Lumen Ensemble**

Friday 17 April

**Josef Špaček and Friends**

Wednesday 27 May

**Elouan Quartet with Bridget Douglas**

Thursday 25 June

**Southern Baroque Ensemble**

Thursday 16 July

**New Zealand String Quartet with Ariana Tikao**

Thursday 17 September

**NZ's Finest Wind Players with Liam Wooding**

Thursday 22 October

**NZTrio**

Thursday 5 November

## Season Subscriptions

With eight beautiful concerts to choose from, our season subscription offers considerable savings. Book now and be a part of the family, or why not gift a subscription to a chamber music lover in your life?

<b>8 Concerts</b>	\$260	save \$60
<b>7 Concerts</b>	\$230	save \$50
<b>6 Concerts</b>	\$200	save \$40
<b>5 Concerts</b>	\$170	save \$30
<b>4 Concerts</b>	\$140	save \$20
<b>3 Concerts</b>	\$110	save \$10

Season subscriptions are available until 27 February 2026 either online at [www.thepiano.nz/christophers-classics](http://www.thepiano.nz/christophers-classics) or in person at The Piano.

All concerts are proudly presented in the Philip Carter Family Concert Hall.

## Ticket Information

All tickets are available online at [www.thepiano.nz/christophers-classics](http://www.thepiano.nz/christophers-classics) (Online Eventfinda charges may apply for single ticket purchases.)

Door sales are subject to availability. We take Eftpos only, add \$5 for all door sales.

Full Price	\$40
Student (ID)	\$10
School age	Free

### Start Times

**7.30pm** for all concerts in March-April & September-November

**7.00pm** for all concerts in May-August

Doors open approximately 30 minutes before the concert commences.

## Ngā mihi nui, thank you to our supporters

We thank the Elizabeth Ball Charitable Trust and private donors, whose patronage and sponsorship grants make these concerts possible.

We warmly welcome donations with your subscription or ticket purchase to enable the beautiful music to continue.

*The Piano: Centre for Music and the Arts is a registered charity. All donations over \$5 are tax deductible.*

## Contact Details

For all enquiries, please contact the friendly team at The Piano.

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P. (03) 377 5000  
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# Absolutely Bold and Brilliant

Sunday 29 March, 7.30pm



## Amici Ensemble with Simon Brew

Our season opener is absolutely bold and brilliant! Donald Armstrong and Amici Ensemble have been entertaining New Zealand audiences for over 25 years, bringing their signature flair and artistry to every performance. Not afraid to present the strikingly fresh with the familiar favourites, Amici Ensemble join saxophonist Simon Brew for an eclectic programme that is equal parts refined and quirky. Come for the melodies of Mozart and Piazzolla, stay for the humour and rhythmic charm of music by American composers Ellen Taaffe Zwilich and Russell Peterson.

### PROGRAMME

#### Russell Peterson

Quintet for Alto Saxophone and Strings

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#### Max Richter

On the Nature of Daylight

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#### Ellen Taaffe Zwilich

Quintet for Alto Saxophone and Strings

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#### W.A. Mozart

String Quartet No. 23 in F Major, K.590

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#### Astor Piazzolla

The Four Seasons; Winter and Spring

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Donald Armstrong violin

Anna van der Zee violin

Alexander McFarlane viola

Andrew Joyce cello

Simon Brew saxophone

# Colours of Time

Friday 17 April, 7.30pm

Pre-concert talk with the artists  
from 6.40pm



## Lumen Ensemble

Perhaps one of the most apocalyptic, yet awe inspiring chamber works to emerge from the 20th Century, *Quartet for the End of Time* is Olivier Messiaen's defiant message to the powers that be of WWII. Rich in biblical and natural imagery, this work is an immersive listening experience – don't miss the rare opportunity to hear it live. Comprising leading Australasian soloists and tutors at Elder Conservatorium of Music, Adelaide, we are excited to welcome Lumen Ensemble who make their Aotearoa debut, also presenting Ravel's equally evocative *Piano Trio* with an atmospheric world premiere from Australian composer Jack Frerer.

**Elizabeth Layton** violin  
**Edith Salzmann** cello  
**Lloyd van't Hoff** clarinet  
**Anna Goldsworthy** piano

## PROGRAMME

**Jack Frerer**  
New Work for solo clarinet  
(world premiere)

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**Maurice Ravel**  
Trio in A minor

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**Olivier Messiaen**  
Quartet for the End of Time

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# Czech Connections

Wednesday 27 May, 7.00pm



## Josef Špaček and Friends

*Presented by Christopher's Classics in partnership with Michael Hill International Violin Competition*

We are thrilled to present the winner of the 2009 Michael Hill International Violin Competition Josef Špaček of the Czech Republic. Josef will be joined by three of New Zealand's outstanding chamber musicians to present a dynamic programme showcasing the colour and character of his country's folk traditions. The inclusion of Gareth Farr's *Wakatipu* for solo violin, composed for the Competition in 2009, connects the significance of place, pride and national identity in music. Dvořák wrote to a friend about composing his second piano quartet that "melodies are coming to me in droves". Don't miss this very special evening.

### PROGRAMME

#### **Franz Joseph Haydn**

Piano Trio No. 39 in G Major 'Gypsy', Hob.XV:25

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#### **Leoš Janáček**

Violin Sonata

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#### **Gareth Farr**

*Wakatipu* (2009 MHIVC commission)

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#### **Antonín Dvořák**

Piano Quartet No. 2 in E Flat Major, Op. 87

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Josef Špaček violin  
Michael Endres piano  
Serenity Thurlow viola  
Andrew Joyce cello

**MICHAEL HILL  
INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN  
COMPETITION**



# Folk Tales and Folk Tunes

Thursday 25 June, 7.00pm

## Elouan Quartet with Bridget Douglas

Folk music and storytelling traditions have long inspired classical and contemporary composers, weaving in the rich cultures and dynamic landscapes around them. The Elouan Quartet and Bridget Douglas have crafted a tantalising programme, following these folkloric threads right across the world – Argentina to Hungary, Vienna to Russia, and right here in Aotearoa. From the lyrical beauty of Elena Kats-Chernin's *Night and Now*, the courtly elegance of Mozart's *Flute Quartet*, to the rustic and rhythmically charged masterpiece that is Bartók's *String Quartet No.4*.

### PROGRAMME

**Elena Kats-Chernin**  
*Night and Now* for flute and string quartet

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**W. A. Mozart**  
Flute Quartet in D major, K.285

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**Ken Wilson**  
Introduction, Theme and Variations

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**Béla Bartók**  
String Quartet No. 4 in C major

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**Astor Piazzolla**  
*Histoire du Tango arr. for flute and string quartet*

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**Jessica Oddie** violin  
**Anna van der Zee** violin  
**Alexander McFarlane** viola  
**Ken Ichinose** cello  
**Bridget Douglas** flute

PRESENTED IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH



**Chamber Music**  
New Zealand  
Puoro Taiwhanga Aotearoa



# Baroque Horizons

Thursday 16 July, 7.00pm



## Southern Baroque Ensemble

“Music is a bridge between the past and the present” wrote Antonio Vivaldi, celebrating the power of music to transcend time and place. We embrace the old and new, side-by-side in a very special programme led by renowned Hungarian Baroque specialist Szabolcs Illés with Southern Baroque – an ensemble of New Zealand’s leading period instrumentalists formed specially for Christopher’s Classics. Handel’s heartfelt arias are nestled within the rustic brilliance of Vivaldi’s and Corelli’s concerto grossi, setting the scene for Anthony Ritchie’s Harpsichord Concerto, his modern take on the four seasons of Dunedin.

### PROGRAMME

**Antonio Vivaldi**  
Sinfonia, RV 725

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**Arcangelo Corelli**  
Concerto Grosso in D Major, Op. 6 No.1

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**George Frederic Handel**  
Soprano Arias  
*Susse Stille, So shall the lute and harp awake, Lascia ch’io pianga*

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**Anthony Ritchie**  
*Four Seasons in One Day* for Harpsichord and Strings

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**Antonio Vivaldi**  
Concerto for Strings in G Major, RV 151 “Alla Rustica”

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**Antonio Vivaldi**  
Ascende laeta, RV 635

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**Pepe Becker** soprano  
**Edita Keglerová** harpsichord  
**Szabolcs Illés** baroque violin  
**Miranda Hutton** baroque violin  
**Mark Menzies** baroque viola  
**Tomas Hurnik** baroque cello

# Chapter Two

Thursday 17 September, 7.30pm



## New Zealand String Quartet with Ariana Tikao

In 2026, the New Zealand String Quartet turns over a new leaf with a refreshed permanent line-up and a season told in 'chapters'. At its core is the 50th anniversary of Britten's death, marked by performances across Aotearoa of his three groundbreaking quartets. Christopher's Classics audiences will be treated to Britten's striking Quartet No. 2, alongside Fanny Mendelssohn's singular quartet gem, complemented by sensational contemporary works by Ariana Tikao & Phil Brownlee, Anthony Ritchie, and Salina Fisher – all with a distinctly Aotearoa New Zealand voice. The result is a programme that feels fresh, diverse, and powerfully connected to both Aotearoa and the wider world.

### PROGRAMME

**Ariana Tikao & Philip Brownlee**  
*Manaaki*

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**Anthony Ritchie**  
*Perpetual Motion* and *Last Dance* from String Quartet No.3: In Time

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**Fanny Mendelssohn**  
String Quartet in E flat Major

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**Salina Fisher**  
*Heal*

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**Benjamin Britten**  
String Quartet No. 2

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**Peter Clark** violin  
**Gillian Ansell** viola  
**Ariana Tikao (Kāi Tahu)** taonga puoro  
**NZSQ Violinist** *to be announced*  
**NZSQ Cellist** *to be announced*

# Wind Masterworks

Thursday 22 October, 7.30pm

## NZ's Finest Wind Players with Liam Wooding

A champion of woodwind in his symphonies, operas, and concerti, in his own words Mozart considered his charming *Quintet* to be "one of the best works I've ever written." We're delighted the woodwind stars have aligned, bringing together some of New Zealand's finest principal wind artists from the CSO and NZSO with the exceptional pianist, Liam Wooding. We've matched the refinement of Mozart, with Walter Giesecking's lush and impressionistic *Quintet* alongside an exciting new commission from Christopher's Classics to be revealed.



Photo by Brave Digital



Photo by Brave Digital



### PROGRAMME

#### W.A. Mozart

Quintet for Piano and Winds, K.452

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#### Christopher's Classics

New Commission

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#### Walter Giesecking

Piano Quintet in B Flat Major

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**Jenny Clapp** oboe

**David McGregor** clarinet

**Samuel Brough** bassoon

**Emma Eden** horn

**Liam Wooding** piano

# Reverie

Thursday 5 November, 7.30pm

## NZTrio

Reverie opens with a mesmerizing, atmospheric work that gently rocks between dream and reality – Hanna Kulenty's *A Cradle Song* – before entering a state of Romantic fervour with Schumann's *Piano Trio No. 3*, brimming with lyrical expression. Adam Schoenberg's *Las Estrellas* highlights shimmering textures and celestial inspiration, while a new commission offers a fresh and distinctive New Zealand perspective. Finally, Leonard Bernstein's youthful *Piano Trio* provides a taste of his early brilliance and quirky personality, foreshadowing the irrepressible energy of his later Broadway compositions.



## PROGRAMME

**Hanna Kulenty**  
*A Cradle Song*

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**Robert Schumann**  
*Piano Trio No.3 in G minor, Op. 110*

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**Adam Schoenberg**  
*Las Estrellas for Piano Trio*

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**SOUNZ / Nicholas Tarling Trust**  
Commission written for NZTrio

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**Amalia Hall** violin  
**Matthias Balzat** cello  
**Somi Kim** piano

**Leonard Bernstein**  
*Piano Trio*

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