



COLOUR IN THE MUSIC

The Manawatu Sinfonia welcomes back regular guest conductor, Peter van Drimmelen for its first subscription concert. Peter has chosen a delightful programme of popular works not often played in the Manawatu that are attractive to audience and players alike. A unifying feature of the programme is the way the different composers have explored orchestral sounds to create new colours or timbres in their music.

Ravel's Mother Goose Suite, originally written as a piano duet for two small girls and with its nursery inspirations, is immediately attractive. Ravel was a master of orchestration creating new sounds by having instruments play in unusual combinations or register. In places an oboe or bassoon, silent for most of the piece, quietly plays a long note with another instrument to create a dab of sound colour note placed with exactness that belies simplicity of the piece. And listen for the less often heard instruments, the grotesque but empathetic contra-bassoon solo in the Beauty and the Beast.

In the *Little Plain Jane, Empress of the Pagodas* we hear Javanese musical motifs based on a pentatonic scale and duplicates the sound of the gamelan (an orchestra of percussion instruments) by using the harp, celesta, and xylophone.

But this is music that also goes deeper—the final movement is surely less about a Fairy Garden that **the movement title suggests than the composer's wistful reflection on the innocence of childhood lost?**

Mozart's Overture to his opera, Marriage of Figaro, is always popular. The business of the music suggests both Figaro's efforts to forestall his Count's intentions on his new wife and the comic aspects of this story. Mozart's Symphony 31 (Paris) is perhaps less well known than his later symphonies. It is an experimental work, as Mozart explored the possibilities of the orchestral wind section available to him in Paris. The use of

wind and brass used here are now part of the standard orchestra. But at the time, this **symphony was a novel experience for Mozart's audience as he explored the new sounds available to him.**

The highlight of the concert must however be the Bottesini contrabass concerto to be performed by NZSO principal bass player, Hiroshi Ikematsu. Sinfonia members were impressed with the **Hiroshi's effortless performance in rehearsal. Notable was the rich but clear sound he achieves on his bass, 'like a cello, only richer sounding' as one described it.**

As well the Sinfonia is to perform the overture to **Reznicek's opera, 'Donna Diana'.** This is true orchestral show-piece with brilliant writing, demonstrating verve and an exciting pace that never lets up.



Conductor Peter van Drimmelen

VIRTUOSO BASS SOLOIST

The Sinfonia's first concert features Brazilian-born Japanese Contrabassist Hiroshi Ikematsu. Currently Principal Contrabass with the NZSO, he is uniquely talented and regarded as one of the leading contrabassists in Japan.

Ikematsu started to play the contrabass at the age of 19 and in 1989, he joined the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo, and was appointed as the Principal Contrabassist in 1994.

Ikematsu has performed not only as a soloist, but leads a string ensemble "**Vega**" as well as a contrabass ensemble he founded.

In addition to the chamber music activities involved at "**Kioi Symfonietta**" and "**Tokyo Ensemble**", Ikematsu was also the core member in a group called "**Pleiade Quintet**", which has been well known for its performance of contemporary music and released an album with BMG.

Since his first solo recital in Casals Hall in 1999, Ikematsu has established a strong name as a great solo contrabassist in Japan. He has played with numerous distinguished musicians, and successfully released 4 solo CDs nationwide.

Ikematsu immigrated to New Zealand with his family, joining the NZSO officially as the Principal Contrabassist in April 2006. As well as an enthusiastic trout fisher, camper and soccer goer, Ikematsu also enjoys spending time with his two kids, making New Zealand one of his dream countries.



Hiroshi Ikematsu in rehearsal with the Sinfonia

2009 Calendar

I hope you are enjoying the wonderful photography in your Manawatu Sinfonia Calendar. This month we feature the bassoon. The oboe and cor-Anglais featured in January. The double-bass stole the limelight in February and is still enjoying the limelight in our concert this month! Next up is the trumpet in April and of course the violin in May. Check out the trombone in June, while July

has the cymbals representing the Kitchen Department (whoops! Sorry, the percussion). You will have to wait for the next Tune-In for August and September instruments! And remember, the photos make wonderful pictures on the wall - just frame in simple black and white - **don't throw away, reuse!** Next up by popular demand: cards/postcards featuring the instruments. Pre-ordering will probably be necessary. Stay tuned! — Marise (Calendar fundraising organiser)

NATIONAL SUCCESS FOR LOCAL PLAYERS!

Congratulations to two MYO and Sinfonia members for their recent outstanding success in recent Trinity-Guildhall exams. Daniel Pinkney was awarded the College Medal for attaining the highest mark for Grades 8 Violin in New Zealand. Geoff Procter was awarded the College Medal for the highest marks for Grade 5 Violin in New Zealand.

Vyvan Yendoll (NZSO, Wellington) took Daniel through until after his exam. He has since changed over to Donald Armstrong (NZSO, Wellington). Geoff studies with Marise McNeill.

Daniel Pinkney (below) and Geoff Procter (right) with their certificates and medals.



SINFONIA AND MANAWATU YOUTH ORCHESTRA SUBSCRIPTION SERIES 2009

Highlights of the MYO and Sinfonia subscription series include the ever-popular **'Last Night at the Proms'** and **Handel's 'Messiah'**. Start your shower or bath just a little earlier than usual so you can practice singing **'Land of Hope and Glory'** as you shampoo your hair and **'Rule Britannia'** as you soap your back! Audience participation is half the fun.

21 March - Orchestral Colours Concert, Sinfonia, Peter van Drimmelen, Salvation Army Centre

7 June - Last Night at the Proms Regent on Broadway featuring Dame Malvina Major

27 June - Youth Orchestra Concert

19 September - Combined Youth Orchestra and Sinfonia Concert

5 December - **Handel's Messiah**

MANAWATU YOUTH ORCHESTRA

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MINUTES TO PLAY THE NOTES! ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14 APRIL, 2009

The Annual General Meeting of the Manawatu Youth Orchestra Inc is to be held:

Tuesday 14 April. 7:30pm

17 Carlton Ave, Palmerston North



We need Minutes so we can play the notes! The AGM will seek nominations for the Committee and review 2008. Please attend the AGM to support the organisation of the Orchestra and also consider joining the committee to make sure our orchestras can keep on playing the notes!

IMPORTANT: NOTE THIS: NOTES NOT NOTES - MYO GOES ELECTRONIC!

The MYO and Sinfonia exist for musicians to play notes together. Administration is needed, but it is not what we are for. Money spent on printing and delivering paper notes and documents is money not able to be spent on musical notes on the score! Less notes means more notes to play!

Accordingly, we are going electronic with our publications going on the web and emailed to recipients. We will only print for distribution documents on request or to people identified to us as not having email addresses.

This means that you need to advise us if you wish to continue receiving our documents in printed form. It also means that you need to advise us when you change your email address. We will not be chasing up email-bounces.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The MYO administers the E & E Laing Trust. It provides grants up to a maximum of \$100 per annum to players from the Manawatu Sinfonia or Manawatu Youth Orchestra to attend music courses outside Palmerston North or to assist with advanced tuition which is unavailable locally.

The String Scholarship is established for an initial period of three years, to encourage string

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

The MYO Inc Annual Report will be made available on our website early April.

Please contact the Secretary should you want a printed copy.

The Sinfonia welcomes new players!
Contact the Secretary for
information

players from outside the MYO catchment area to become regular members of either orchestra of the Society. One Award may be made annually, to the value of \$500.

See www.manawatuorchestra.org.nz/members.htm or contact the Secretary for more information.