



Kettering Concerts

KetteringConcerts.au

Sue Collins, Alexey Yemtsov & Peter Morrison

Sue Collins had been scheduled to play in Kettering in the past two years but that pesky little virus got in the way. A short visit from his home in Copenhagen to Australia by the cellist Peter Morrison resulted in him participating in the String Festival held in Penguin in early October. The festival is organised by Sue Collins. Alexey Yemtsov (piano) was also a mentor in the festival, so a piano trio was put together. Despite their accomplished performance of some demanding works in Kettering that led many in the audience think that the musicians must have been working together for many years, the reality was they had only met about 10 days before.

Even though they played a long programme of three piano trios, they also provided a significant encore. Veronica wrote "It was a memorable concert, not a spare seat. I particularly enjoyed the encore - a very quiet melodic way to end the concert." Mary wrote "Would you please tell me the name of the piece they played for the encore? It was so beautiful. It brought tears to my eyes." We're sure she was not the only one with teary eyes... Her question is answered in the review below.

Peter Donnelly provided this review.

A distinguished trio of players and a less familiar but superb group of works made for a satisfying afternoon of music making.

The 27-year-old Clara Schumann composed her Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17, in 1846. It is a finely structured 4-movement piece, balancing formal elegance with lyricism and rhythmic variety in a typically mid 19th century romantic style. These musicians gave wonderful energy and focus to the lively outer sections; the charming Scherzo was graceful while the slow movement had the requisite warmth.

Joaquin Turina's Piano Trio No. 2 in B minor, Op. 76, is in 3 concise movements and comes from 1933. While influenced by the French impressionists, it had plenty of Spanish atmosphere and rhythmic energy. The performance here was joyous and virtuosic. In the brief pause that followed, cellist Peter Morrison took the opportunity to make reference to the Referendum of the previous day by performing the brief and intense 'Dawn Interlude' by Paul Stanhope, inspired by an aboriginal poem.

Perhaps the highlight of the concert was Bedřich

Smetana's Trio in G minor, Op. 15. This powerfully emotional work, premiered in 1855, was the composer's response to the death of his 4-year-old daughter. It was revised several times following a less than enthusiastic reception and was finally published in 1880. The performers brought passionate commitment and weight. There was also fine balance and sensitivity aplenty; Yemtsov excelled while Collins and Morrison relished the expressive writing for violin and cello. The large audience responded with tremendous enthusiasm leading to a substantial and generous encore – Schubert's Notturmo in E flat major, Op. 148, D. 897.

Peter Donnelly

The Kettering Audience

Our musicians regularly tell us they really like the audiences at our concerts. There are many factors here, including the proximity of the audience to the players, and that they are more or less on the same level. Also the audience is not in the dark, and the musicians are not blinded by high intensity lights. This is markedly different to many concert halls, where the musicians can only see people in the front row or two of the audience. The performers in Kettering can see most of the audience and can sense the way their playing is being received. And those watching and listening usually display an intense attention. Of course the applause is usually very enthusiastic which conveys an important message. At the end, any question put about whether an encore is wanted always generates a resounding "yes".

Musicians put their heart and soul into trying to please the audience, so telling them they have been successful is an important role.

The "afternoon tea" is also a key feature where we can speak to the musicians and express our interest and appreciation in a way that is not often possible at many concerts. Questions can be put, which they usually enjoy answering, but merely asking the question reinforces the degree to which they assess the audience positively.

So keep up the good work! We want the musicians to want to return, and tell their colleagues that Kettering is a great place to perform.

Change to our ticket prices

As mentioned in the last newsletter, COVID-19 restrictions forced us to adopt on-line ticket sales. Although the fee that must be paid to purchase

tickets through TryBooking is small, nevertheless it does mean it became slightly cheaper to pay at the door than to book on-line. To eliminate the degree to which that discourages on-line purchases, we adopted a new price structure:

on-line tickets remain \$15 + small booking fee

door cash-only tickets now \$20

So please book on-line and be assured admission and a seat.

Next Concert

On 12 November we will be treated to another piano trio concert, to be given by Dianne Legg (piano), Alexandra Békés (cello) and Phoebe Masel (violin). Alexandra and Dianne have performed before in Kettering, but this will be Phoebe's first visit. She is an accomplished violinist. You may have seen her playing with the TSO. Her impressive Bio´ can be seen at <https://ketteringconcerts.au/concerts/2023-11-12.php>

The programme, bit of a Russian feast, will introduce us to two trios not before played in Kettering: Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67 by Dmitri Shostakovich and Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op. 32 by Anton Arensky. Both are challenging works to play. The programme notes are available at <https://ketteringconcerts.au/notes/2023-11-12.php>

Tickets can be booked on-line at <https://www.trybooking.com/CMRMU>.

2024 Concerts

Always a concern to announce concerts too far in advance, especially when the COVID virus continues to be out there, and airlines continue to cancel flights. But here is the plan for 2024. Be sure to be on our mailing list so should any change be needed you will receive notification.

March 17: *Piano and trumpet trio* - Jennifer Marten-Smith (piano), Zachary (trumpet) and Reuben Allen (trumpet and clarinet).

April 14: *Piano Quartet* - Alexey Yemtsov (piano), Jiwon Kim (violin), Caleb Wright (viola), Nicholas McManus (cello).

May 12: *Flute & piano duo* - Rachel Howie (flute) and Amanda Hodder (piano).

August 18: *Clarinet & piano duo* - Andrew Seymour (clarinet) and Karen Smithies (piano).

September 22: *Première of the String Quartet by Elena Kats-Chernin*. The Tasmanian String Quartet - members of the TSO.

October 13: *Piano duo* - Michele Spina & Eleonora Benignetti (France).

November 10: *Piano & viola duo* - Jennifer Marten-Smith (piano) & William Newbery (viola)

Other concerts?

If you want to find chamber music concerts, including the Kettering ones, use the [ChamberMusicTas website](#). If you know of any concerts that are not listed, please let webmaster@chambermusic.tas.au know.