



Kettering Concerts

KetteringConcerts.au

Time for Sonatas

Ending our winter break on 17 August at 3pm will be a concert by Jonathan Békés (cello) and Stefan Cassomenos (piano). A first appearance for the highly acclaimed Cassomenos.

Tickets are available at <https://www.trybooking.com/DDAEI>. or by cash at the door.

Other coming concerts

September 21: French Delights. Jennifer Marten-Smith (piano) and William Newbery (viola) will be joined by Elinor Lea (violin).

October 19: Sequenza. David Malone (Lute and Guitar), Matt Goddard (Percussion), and Brett Rutherford (Viola da Gamba). This will be a first appearance of Sequenza.

November 23: Piano trio. Karen Smithies (piano), Christopher Nicolas (violin), Ivan James (cello). Another new group for Kettering, and a first for Christopher in Kettering.

Piano Recital - Sheng-Yuan Lynch

The last concert of 2024 was a stunning recital by Sheng-Yuan Lynch. He has made available a video of the concert at <https://youtu.be/DoNzPs0e8zY>.

Cawrse, Debussy, Mendelssohn

Our last concert before the winter break was presented by the new piano trio: Rohana O'Malley (violin), Martin Penicka (cello) and Karen Smithies (piano). It was extremely well received. Here is what Keith Anderson had to say:

A generous feast

The concert began with an original composition, "Songs without Words", by Anne Cawrse, and the plural, "songs" is significant. Although presented first, it was not a simple appetiser, but a full bodied composition, with three generous movements. The Kettering Hall is of almost exactly the right size for chamber music and all three instruments blended beautifully to fill our ears with delicious sounds. All cellos are famous for their warm, rich sound, which Martin Penicka demonstrated from the first note. Scrumptious.

Until I saw the program notes, I hadn't known, for nearly 80 years, that Debussy isn't just "Claude",

but "Claude-Achille". We are never too old to learn something new. His Trio #1 was an early work and more tuneful and less modern than I expected, and all four movements received a performance that would have delighted Debussy himself. I remain unconvinced that Debussy was "finding his feet" as one commentator commented. Maybe that commentator should come to the concerts at Kettering, Tasmania.

Weirdly, the Trio #1 by Mendelssohn sounded more modern than the Debussy. It is the sort of work that musicians love to play and that audiences love to hear. The excitement of the first movement was thrilling, and the third movement gave us just the right amount of tranquillity for us to build our strength for the finale. I was particularly amazed that people who can play with such precision can be so generous. Bliss.

Thanks Keith!

Tasmania Collective

Founded by cellist Alexandra Békés, new group of chamber string players have formed this "collective". A very professional video of their first concert on 23 June 2025 is available at <https://vimeo.com/1097311086/8b43f16a2c>.

Newsletters available on website

There is a new tab on the banner of the Kettering Concerts Website <https://ketteringconcerts.au/Newsletters>. There you can find Newsletters going back to 2018.

Afternoon Tea - Help Needed!

The after concert afternoon tea is an important part of the Kettering Concerts. It gives an opportunity for musicians and audience members to meet in a casual setting. The musicians love it! But there is work involved: setting up; serving tea and coffee; cleaning up afterwards. At the last concert the small number of volunteers was hard pressed. Help is needed.

Also, part of the success of the post-concert gathering is the goodies on offer. Contributions, sweet or savoury, gratefully accepted.