



Kettering Concerts

KetteringConcerts.au

French Delights

Our next concert will be presented by the piano/viola duo Jennifer Marten-Smith and William Newbery (6th time in Kettering) joined this time by Elinor Lea, who some may remember as Associate Concertmaster of the TSO for a period.

The concert will begin with some of the Six Studies in English Folksong composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams and played by Jennifer and William. This will be followed by Three Madrigals for Violin and Viola, fun but challenging pieces by Bohuslav Martinů played by Elinor and William. Jennifer and Elinor will then team up to play *Nocturne*, *Cortège* from Two pieces for violin and piano by Marie-Juliette Boulanger. The trio will then play the major work of the concert, Trio-Suite (for violin, viola and piano) by Hans von Koessler, in three movements.

Tickets are available at

<https://www.trybooking.com/DEUCZ> or by cash at the door.

Other coming concerts

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.

Time for Sonatas

Our last concert was a great success. It introduced pianist Stefan Cassomenos to Kettering audiences for the first time, accompanying the well-known TSO cellist Jonathan (Jono) Békés. We had the largest post-COVID audience that certainly showed their appreciation for the performances.

Here is what Peter Donnelly had to say:

The teaming of TSO Principal Cellist Jonathan Békés and Melbourne based pianist Stefan Cassomenos drew a capacity crowd to this event. Beginning with Beethoven's Cello Sonata No. 4 in C major Op. 102 No. 1, the musicians immediately demonstrated great rapport. This sonata from 1815 is a personal favourite of the cellist and comes from the beginning of the composer's final period. Its unconventional form and distilled content were relished by both players in a probing and dynamic

performance.

Composer Maria Grenfell was present for this account of her 2000 work 'Time Transfixed', originally composed for soprano saxophone and piano and subsequently arranged for cello and piano in 2020 for Jonathan Békés. The sad and haunted atmosphere of the piece was inspired by the Magritte surrealist painting of the same title; this was sensitively conveyed by these instrumentalists.

The remainder of the concert featured two 20th century French composers. Olivier Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time was composed in 1941 in a German prisoner of war camp and was premiered in the camp to an audience of fellow prisoners and guards. The final of the eight movements - 'Louange à l'immortalité de Jésus' - was performed here. This music is visionary and concentrated, proceeding at a taxingly slow tempo. Both Békés and Cassomenos brought remarkable focus and intensity to this highlight of the recital.

Francis Poulenc's 4-movement Cello Sonata (1948) provided a wonderful contrast to the Messiaen to conclude the program. Full of technically tricky writing of sustained wit and melodic invention, the score mixes a variety of moods and incorporates sudden shifts of tempo and dynamic. These accomplished artists were at one, delivering playing of great verve and excitement.

Peter Donnelly

Thanks Peter!

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.