



Kettering Concerts

KetteringConcerts.au

Susan Colins visits again - an extra concert

A concert that we thought was not going to happen, and we had not announced, was suddenly back, and it is coming soon, 5 October! Sue will be familiar to Kettering regular attendees; she has played 7 times so far, and all her performances have been terrific. This time she will be joined by Erin Sweetman (piano), playing works by Heinrich Biber (solo violin), Clara Schumann, Robert Schumann, and Johannes Brahms.

Sunday 5 October at 3pm. Tickets are available at <https://www.trybooking.com/DGBYS> or by cash at the door. Full details including bios on [our website](#).

Next regular concert

On October 19 we will host the group *Sequenza*: David Malone (Lute and Guitar), Matt Goddard (Percussion), and Brett Rutherford (Viola da Gamba). This will be a first appearance of *Sequenza* with quite a different group of instruments.

Sunday 19 October at 3pm. Tickets are available at <https://www.trybooking.com/DFZGD>

Last Concert of the year/

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

French Delights

The last Kettering Concert certainly delighted the audience. Whether the French connection was strongly felt is an open question. Here is what Peter Donnelly wrote:

French Delights
Jennifer Marten-Smith, piano
William Newbery, viola
Elinor Lea, violin
Kettering Hall
21 September 2025

Kettering Concerts was founded in 2004 by a group of chamber music enthusiasts. Event organisers Dave Davey, Annick Anselin and their group of volunteers have built a loyal audience base in bringing consistently high-quality performances to the Channel area. The program opened with a brief and delightful birthday piece originally for solo piano composed for Annick's birthday in 2024 by Elena Kats-Chernin. This new arrangement for viola and piano of 'Kettering Joy' was premièred here,

again on Annick's birthday. This became the third work by Elena to be given its first performance in Kettering.

Ralph Vaughan Williams's 'Six Studies in English Folk Song' date from 1926. Numbers 1, 3 and 5 from the set received liting, sensitive performances from Newbery and Marten-Smith. Czech Bohuslav Jan Martinů's 'Three Madrigals for violin and viola, H313 (1947)' are tougher, rhythmically exciting music, here given dazzling, vibrant renditions by Lea and Newbery.

This was an attractive selection of lesser-known chamber music though the title 'French Delights' was an odd choice considering that only one of the composers fitted that description. Then again, Lili Boulanger's 'Two pieces for violin and piano (Nocturne – Assez lent and Cortège) was such gorgeous music – light, sweet and very French sounding, beautifully played by Elenor Lea and Jennifer Marten-Smith.

Bavarian composer Hans János von Koessler (1853-1926) is an unfamiliar name to most music lovers. He was in fact a renowned teacher and skilled composer much influenced by Brahms in his harmonic style and feeling for structure. The 4-movement 'Trio Suite for Piano, Violin and Viola' is a late work published in 1922. The work is vivid and accomplished but its late 19th century Classic/Romantic style would have definitely been out of fashion at the time of composition. It can now be viewed as a masterly example of the genre, melodically distinctive with Hungarian influences and some unexpected key changes. The passionate advocacy of the performance certainly justified its revival.

The unexpected encore was the 'Serenade in F# minor for Piano, Violin and Viola, Op. 4' by Kevin Shen, a 19-year-old piano student of Jennifer Marten-Smith. On the evidence of this eloquent and soulful piece, commissioned especially for the concert, Kevin's future career should bring great developments.

Peter Donnelly

Thanks Peter!

And for another perspective, here is what Keith Anderson wrote:

The Kettering Concert for 21 September was very generous.

No one commented that 21 September is an equinox, but many commented that it is also the birthday of Annick Ansselin, one of the magicians who organizes these concerts. Instead of the usual cliché, Elinor Lea (violin) and William Newbery (viola) played a very recent composition by Elena Kats-Chernin entitled Kettering Joy. This was suitably light, cheerful and enjoyable, and an ideal pre-concert encore.

All three of the selections of 1, 3, 5 from Six Studies in English Folksong by Ralph Vaughn Williams were relatively short, but suitably enjoyable. The first two sounded typically Vaughn Williams, with hints of a grey English fog, while the third was brighter and more cheerful, hinting of youths frolicking in afternoon sunshine.

William Newbery told us a little of the perils Martinů endured as he escaped from Slovakia to Paris and then again to America. Despite this, his Three Madrigals were suitably jolly and cheerful. William and Elinor Lea combined precisely to deliver impressive perfection.

Elinor clarified which Boulanger had composed the Two Pieces presented at this concert. The Nocturn was suitably soothing, but not soporific and the Cortège was another frolic for children or very young youths. These played together with Jennifer.

Then the trio together. Although Koessler is relatively less well known than almost everyone, his Trio shows just how tough life is in the world of music. How could anyone write something so great and still be unknown? The first movement was bold and heroic emphasising that this is a substantial composition. The second was very beautiful and thoughtful and almost symphonic, even though played by only three instruments. A Gavotte and a Finale concluded the composition with suitable fun and jollity.

But wait. There is more. Jennifer announced that one of her students had composed a post-concert encore. Wow. It was terrific. A food critic might be able to quibble about something, but to my ears it had enjoyable tunes, which were well developed for both short range and long range structure. An enjoyable conclusion to an enjoyable concert.

Keith Anderson

Thanks also to Keith.

Thanks to Senator Nick McKim

For many years Senator Catryna Bilyk's office printed our programmes and posters. That came to an end with the August Kettering Concert due to the Senator's retirement. If you examined the September concert programme carefully, you will have noted that Senator Nick McKim has come to the rescue.

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.

Some other website resources

You may never have noticed two links at the bottom of the list of Past Concerts on our website: [List of works performed](#) (394 to date) and [List of musicians who have performed](#) (107 so far). Both these lists have links to the concerts where the works were performed or the musicians played.