



Kettering Concerts

KetteringConcerts.au

A great start to the year

We had never before had the combination of flute, violin and piano in a Kettering Concert, but it certainly worked well. Maria's mastery of the flute made it look so easy!

This is what Keith Anderson wrote about it:

A generous beginning

The first concert for 2026 provided six items and three performers: Tobias Chisnall (violin), Maria Hincapie Duque (flute), and Karen Smithies (piano).

Although the first movement of "Suite en Trio", by Melanie Helene Bonis was described as "Serenade", it invoked the sounds of nature, perhaps by a stream, surrounded by trees and shrubs, inviting feelings of happy calm. Curiously, although the second movement was described as "pastoral", it was neither more nor less pastoral than the first movement, but just different and livelier, possibly depicting children enjoying innocent joys. The finale was a lively Scherzo and a lot of fun and jollity. All three performers seemed to be enjoying the challenges and opportunities to demonstrate their virtuosity.

A concert isn't a concert without Bach and the program notes advised that the "Trio Sonata BWV 1038" was probably, but only probably, by JS Bach. The composer was certainly composing at his best and this allowed the performers to perform at their best too. The fourth and final movement, "Presto" was a rollicking romp. Whee.

Although Poulenc is a modern composer, he doesn't wear his modernity on his sleeve, and his music is enjoyable with just hints of whimsy. For this concert, a sonata for flute and piano by Poulenc allowed Maria Hincapie Duque to demonstrate the versatility of the flute, and the accompaniment by Karen Smithies (piano) provided punctuation that was neither intrusive nor inadequate.

Then: a highlight for some: "Pulcinella", by Igor Stravinsky, as a duet for violin and piano. This worked amazingly well. Who would believe that a violin and a piano could imitate an orchestra so well. The enthusiastic applause was well deserved.

But wait. There is more. Naomi Dodd was in the audience for the première of her "Courting Birds",

for flute and piano. The references to birds were very well controlled and musical while revealing only hints that they were Sydney birds, avoiding the potential pitfall of becoming more encyclopaedic than musical.

And one more: El Diablo Suelto, by Heraclio Fernandez, arranged as a trio for Piano, Violin and Flute provided an opportunity for everyone to end the afternoon enjoying happy tunes and happy rhythms.

Thanks Keith!

An unusual concert - next in Kettering

The next Kettering Concert is almost upon us. It is unusual in a number of ways:

- Seven musicians - most in more than in a decade
- Five musicians making their first appearance in Kettering
- A programme made up entirely of works never played before in Kettering
- Three principal or former orchestra principals playing

The group has called itself *The Paris Chamber Music Society* - bit tongue in cheek I think. And the programme featuring the organiser trumpeter Yoram Levy called *La Trompette*. The other players will be Berta Brozgul (piano), Christopher Nicholas (violin), Margaret Connolly (violin), Damien Holloway (viola), Gwyn Roberts (cello) and Adrian Whitehall (bass).

Sunday 19 April 2026 at 3pm. Tickets are available at <https://www.trybooking.com/DKQUD> or by cash at the door. Full details including bios on [our website](#).

Car sharing

If you know people who also come to Kettering concerts, think about trying to do some car sharing to reduce fuel consumption. Especially if you drive an EV!

Goodies needed for afternoon tea

A few people who used to regularly provide snacks for the post-concert afternoon tea have moved away, and in one sad case the wonderful person who used to make the sandwiches had a bad fall and is now immobile. So if you can, please contribute to the food on offer. The teas have always provided an important opportunity for audience and musicians to meet, and is one of the reasons the musicians like to play in

Kettering.

The other 2026 Kettering Concerts

As always, bear in mind that many factors can cause plans to be changed, so be sure to check our website and emails for confirmations of the concerts listed below.

May 17: "From Argentina with Love". *Andrew Blanch (guitar) & Maria Eugenia Nieva (mezzo-soprano).* Andrew and Maria have their own love story, which started with a meeting in Sydney when Maria was on a working visa, away from her home in Argentina. They had a successful 40 concert tour of the USA last year. Andrew played in a guitar duo Kettering Concert together with Ariel Nurhadi in 2019. This will be Maria's first appearance here.

August 23: "Dance and Romance Around the World". *Maria Lindsay (violin).* Maria has an impressive history of playing in various orchestras, and chamber groups in Australia and overseas, but is also an accomplished soloist. You can see an example - [here](#). This will be Maria's first appearance here.

September 20: Piano, Viola and Bass trio. *Jennifer Marten-Smith (piano), William Newbery (viola) and Stuart Thomson (bass).* Jennifer, William and Stuart have all played many times in Kettering, but this is the first time they will be performing as a trio. Seem like an unusual instrument combo? Try this for - [a fun example](#).

October 11: Cello and Da Gamba Duo - *Martin Penicka (cello) and Brett Rutherford (viola da gamba).* Another new combination between two who have played many times in Kettering.

November 15: Piano recital - *Shan Deng and Advanced students.* Not sure who will be playing yet, but suffice it to say that Shan has had some spectacular students.

An exciting new commission

Following on the successful première of Elena Kats-Chernin's string quartet "Be.Four.Quartet" in Kettering, September 2024, Dave and Annick have been discussing with Elena commissioning a new piano quartet. Elena is enthusiastic and will aim at a première in September next year.

We wanted to have musicians lined up, and dreamt of the Kettering Piano Quartet, that played so well in Kettering and elsewhere in the 2014-2019 period being interested in performing together again. The dream will become a reality next year when Jennifer Marten-Smith (piano), Emma McGrath (violin), William Newbery (viola) and Brett Rutherford (cello) will première the new piano quartet.

Of course there is the major issue of fundraising for the commission. More of that to come.