

# Mimosa *Ensemble*



THE  
PETTMAN NATIONAL  
JUNIOR ACADEMY  
*of Music*

# MIMOSA ENSEMBLE

The importance and impact that the Pettman National Junior Academy (PNJA) has on music education in New Zealand is perfectly exemplified in the Mimosa Ensemble. The Mimosa Ensemble is a group of young New Zealand musicians, who have close links with the PNJA and are currently studying in Europe forging their international music careers.

Hugh Roberts (flute), who is studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and Todd Gibson-Cornish (bassoon), at the Royal College of Music in London, are both PNJA alumni. Somi Kim (piano), who also study's at the Royal Academy of Music, is a former Pettman ROSL prize winner and the

ensemble worked with PNJA alumni and composer Salina Fisher during their recent New Zealand visit. Thomas Hutchinson (oboe) is the only member of the ensemble that has no connection to the PNJA.

The PNJA has supported and nurtured the skills of these talented musicians which has allowed them to succeed on the international stage and reach the high standard that they are now able to perform at. It is encouraging to see PNJA alumni developing into professional musicians, the Lazarus String Quartet and the Trinity Trio are other examples of successful PNJA alumni ensembles.

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## MIMOSA ENSEMBLE UPCOMING PERFORMANCES IN NZ

The Mimosa Ensemble returned home to New Zealand in July to perform as part of the 50th Jubilee of the New Zealand Community Trust Chamber Music Contest. Three members of the Mimosa Ensemble have all been previous winners of the Chamber Music New Zealand Secondary Schools Contest themselves. This included Somi Kim, whose ensemble Far from Russia won in 2006, and Hugh Roberts and Todd Gibson-Cornish's ensemble The Genzmer Trio also won in 2010.

During the Mimosa Ensemble's visit they also took part in the inaugural 'Play it Up!' Residency, in association with Chamber Music Hutt Valley, which began on Wednesday 22 July. The residency, which takes place in schools in the Hutt Valley area near Wellington, aims to engage with the community by encouraging students at

local schools to develop their music skills further. The students will have a chance to learn from and be inspired by young musicians, who are not only establishing international careers, but may not be much older than themselves. The Mimosa Ensemble also performed on Saturday 25 July, as part of the Wellington 150th birthday celebrations.

Amongst the Mimosa Ensemble's virtuosic programme, they featured a new work by New Zealand composer Salina Fisher, whom they commissioned to write a work for their unusual combination of instruments including the piano, flute, oboe and bassoon. The ensemble said they are very grateful that Creative New Zealand helped make this unique commission possible.

## MEMBERS OF THE MIMOSA ENSEMBLE

### SOMI KIM (PIANO)

Somi is currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London, completing a Master of Arts in piano accompaniment. Somi has become a specialist accompanist, winning the prestigious Gerald Moore Award for Accompanists in 2014, in London.

When she was studying at the University of Auckland, Somi was in the all piano Estrella Quartet, which won the 6th Pettman/Royal Over-Seas League Arts International Scholarship in 2012. In 2015, Somi will make her Southbank debut at the Purcell Room as a Park Lane Group Artist. In 2006, her chamber music ensemble won the New Zealand Community Trust Chamber Music Contest. She is a proud alumni of the PNJA.

### HUGH ROBERTS (FLUTE)

Hugh is studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London and is a prize winner of the 2014 Gisborne International Music Competition. Hugh is also an alumni of the PNJA.

### TODD GIBSON-CORNISH (BASSOON)

Todd is coming to the end of his second year of study at the Royal College of Music in London, studying bassoon as part of their Honours programme. He has also formed a Bassoon Club for bassoon students to meet, play and perform together. Todd's

freelance work alongside his study has included playing in the London Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

### THOMAS HUTCHINSON (OBOE)

Thomas is studying at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris. He has performed as a soloist with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra as winner of the 2011 Australian National Academy of Music concerto competition.

### HUGH, TODD AND THOMAS

The three wind players in the Mimosa Ensemble were also section principals together in the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra National Youth Orchestra and have since variously performed with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and Christchurch Symphony Orchestra.

### SALINA FISHER (COMPOSER)

Salina was the pianist from the Genzmer Trio (with fellow musicians Todd and Thomas), which won the Chamber Music New Zealand Secondary Schools Contest in 2010. She won the '2014 NZSO TODD Corporation Young Composers Award' and the '2015 NZSO National Youth Orchestra Composer in Residence'.

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## MEDIA INTEREST

Somi Kim and Todd Gibson-Cornish were both interviewed by Radio NZ on Wednesday 21 July. The Mimosa Ensemble also had a recording featured on Radio NZ, with Somi, Thomas and Todd performing Poulenc's Trio for oboe, bassoon and piano.

The piece is part of the ensemble's 'French Flair' programme. The reason behind the ensembles selection of their name Mimosa, which is one of the stars on the Southern Cross, was explained by Todd on the programme.

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