

PETTMAN  
OPEN CHAMBER  
*Music*

# CONCERTO AUCKLAND

**Transfigured Night**  
Chamber Orchestra with Clio  
Gould and Jonathan Morton

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 7pm**

Auckland Art Gallery  
Lower Grey Gallery

Pettman National Junior  
Academy Chamber Orchestra  
Directors: Clio Gould  
and Jonathan Morton



THE  
PETTMAN NATIONAL  
JUNIOR ACADEMY  
*of Music*

2016



**REPORT:**  
VISITING ARTISTS  
CLIO GOULD &  
JONATHAN MORTON

# VISITING ARTISTS CLIO GOULD & JONATHAN MORTON

The past month has been a whirlwind of adventures in the Pettman Academy. Not only have we had two students concerts (with the first concert held in Christchurch on the 14<sup>th</sup> April and the second concert held in Auckland on the 20<sup>th</sup> April), we have also had a fantastic time with the visit from international guest artists Clio Gould and Jonathan Morton. Clio and Jonathan arrived in Auckland on the Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> April and left on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> April (beginning their teaching on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> April and completing their final concert on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> April). Every moment of their time here in Auckland was cherished by staff, students and general audience members, as they managed to inspire everyone with not only their incredible playing, but also their passion for teaching and charisma.

A special selection of students received the opportunity to work with Clio and Jonathan, similar workshop settings which they currently offer at the Royal Academy of Music. As it is usually a very competitive process to be involved in Clio and Jonathan's workshops (most often only after acceptance through auditions), the students were very appreciative of this special opportunity and gave everything they had, throughout the many hours of rehearsals and master classes.

A total of twenty students (all of which were either current PNJA scholars or alumni members) were selected to perform in the 'PNJA chamber Orchestra', which was used as a large project to present in a concert on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, in the Auckland Arts Gallery. The projects included Dimitri Shostakovich's 'Chamber Symphony in C minor, Op. 110a' and Arnold Schönberg's 'Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night), Op. 4'. The experience of playing in a larger ensemble without a conductor (Clio, Jon and Edith led within the ensemble) meant all of the students had to perform with a solo attitude whilst playing together, alongside professionals. As this is the most difficult form of ensemble playing combined with demanding repertoire, the students all made a huge step up in their playing ability and ensemble skills.

The students selected for first violin included Stella Kim, Shauno Isomura, John Han, Benedict Lim and Britta Balzat. The second violinists included Robert Moon, Athiya Voravjitrupun, Olivia McNeill, Joella Pinto and Eliana Dunford. The violists included Julie Park, Grace Leehan, Martin Qi, Caroline Norman and Cecile McNeill. The cellists included Yotam Levy, Martin Roberts, Paul Lee, Sally Kim, Mariko Windecker and Tahhe Kim. The bass part was performed by guest Evgenyi Lantchikoff, Edith Salzmann lead the cellists, whilst

Clio Gould and Jonathan Morton took turns on first and second violin (depending on the item).

An even smaller selection out of the students was made for an earlier project that would be mastered in time for a concert on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April, with Ernest Chausson's 'Concerto for violin, piano and string quartet in D major, op. 21'. The selected students included Shauno Isomura and Benedict – violin, Julie Park – viola and Sally Kim – cello. As the work by Chausson is a seldomly performed masterpiece, it was a unique chamber music experience that the students treasured, especially as they were able to perform it alongside world class musicians.

Benedict especially grew from the musical projects due being introduced to new musical languages, with the very late romantic era through the works by Chausson and Schönberg, as well as the demanding 20th century with the item by Shostakovich. Benedict also gained deep musical insight through his private lessons with Clio Gould and Jonathan who both challenged him with how to open up his musical expression. Clio guided Benedict through working on solistic secure performances, whilst Jonathan challenged Benedict to take risks in his interpretation of musical styles.

The first concert 'Guests from the UK' was held on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm in the School of Music Theatre. The concert featured Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's work 'Quartet for piano, violin, viola and cello in g minor, KV 478', performers Stephen de Pledge – piano, Clio Gould – violin, Jonathan Morton – viola and Edith Salzmann – cello. The musicians gave an outstanding performance and played at an incredibly high standard and with great poise, leaving the audience excited for the second half of the concert.



After the interval, the audience returned to quite a treat with a performance of Ernest Chausson's 'Concerto for violin, piano and string quartet in D major, op. 21'. This time the performance included a mixture of professional musicians and students, with Jonathan Morton who performed the demanding violin solo; Stephen de Pledge; Clio Gould, Shauno Isomura and Benedict Lim – violin; Julie Park – viola; and Sally Kim – cello. The ensemble gave an incredibly emotional yet powerful performance, demanding the audience's full attention. The audience erupted into a large applause in admiration of such an incredibly high standard of music making in front of them.

On Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, the students and professionals gave everyone a real treat of a phenomenal performance. First of all, we had invited a list of VIP's to a reception at 6pm, held in the ...Gallery. This included Stephen de Pledge, Barbara Glaser, Wyn Davies and Diane Brand who enjoyed wine and nibbles with Clio Gould and Jonathan Morton, as well as several other VIP guests. The reception went very well with a fine selection of white wine and high class finger food, all set in a room full of remarkable paintings. The VIP guests then moved to the Mackelvie Gallery, where the other audience members were seated for the concert.

At 7pm, the concert 'Transfigured Night' was underway, with Antonin Dvořák's 'Waltzes for chamber orchestra, op. 54' performed only by the artists Clio Gould, Jonathan Morton – violins, Edith Salzmann – cello, Julie Park – viola and Evgenyi Lantchikoff on the bass. The performance was absolutely beautiful, especially with the featured colorful artwork that hung from the high ceiling. The audience could also enjoy the 'back drop' of the concert, which was a clear wall/window looking onto the streets. People passing through Albert Park could also capture glimpses of the concert and would stop by to take a peek (behind the audience, upstairs from the outside balcony).

Dvořák's masterpiece was set as a perfect contrast to the most vigorous item of the evening, 'Chamber Symphony in c minor, Op. 110a' by Dimitri Shostakovich. This item was the most demanding

project for the Pettman Chamber Ensemble to take part in and challenged the audience through the uncomfortable tension it created. The energy was incredible and the 'machine like' effects which the students worked towards, was well communicated. The ensemble were given an eruption of applause from a large audience of over 100 people.

The audience were then treated to a 20 minute interval with complimentary nibbles in the downstairs foyer, before returning to their seats to listen to the featured item of the evening 'Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night), Op. 4' by Arnold Schönberg. Before performing, Jonathan explained the background of the pieces, which was set to the poem 'Transfigured Night' by Richard Dehmel (the audience were given an English translation of the poem by Stanley Appelbaum). The audience were captivated by the sad poem, which led to a delightful outcome of acceptance within a relationship. The performance of the work was stunning in all its beauty, drifting the listeners away in imagination.

After the concert, all of the musicians (students and professionals) gathered at the Mezza bar and bistro, where they celebrated their week's accomplishments. Everyone was buzzing with excitement, before saying their final goodbyes to Clio Gould and Jonathan Morton, who were ready to leave the county the following day. Everyone went home both exhausted from the heavy workload yet ecstatic at how well it all went.

We have been given much positive feedback on the entire experience of Clio Gould and Jonathan's visit by Stephen de Pledge, Barbara Glaser, Wyn Davies and Diane Brand who were all impressed at the incredible standard which the students were able to perform in such a short length of time, under Clio and Jonathan's admirable guidance.

We are now spending time in the office making plans towards the upcoming visit from Ekaterina Derhagina in June as well as Elisabeth Kufferath in June and September/October.