

QUINTESSENCE

AN NZSQ CELEBRATION

FRIDAY 7 JUNE 2024 | 6.30PM | HUNTER COUNCIL CHAMBER



NEW ZEALAND
STRING QUARTET
TE RŌPŪ TŪRŪ O AOTEAROA

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Tēnā koutou,

A warm welcome to this very special evening of music and celebration.

Tonight, we farewell Monique Lapins, our much-loved second violinist, who has been an integral member of the quartet for the past eight years. Monique's artistry, energy, and dedication to music has inspired audiences across Aotearoa and beyond. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Monique for her contribution to the NZSQ, to the New Zealand School of Music - Te Kōkī, and the wider cultural landscape. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

This evening also marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter as we welcome Peter Clark, our newest member, to the New Zealand String Quartet whānau. Peter brings a fresh perspective and vibrant energy to the ensemble, and we look forward to the new ideas and creativity he will bring to the organisation.

We would also like to acknowledge the generosity of David Duncan Craig and Lily Duncan Trust for loaning the Storioni violin that Monique will be passing on to Peter this evening.

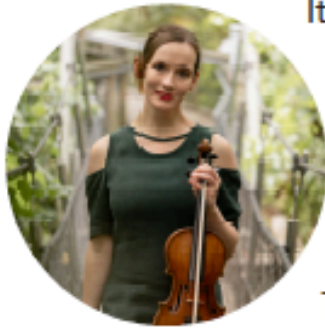
We invite you to join us in celebrating this momentous occasion for the New Zealand String Quartet. Your support is vital to our continued success, and we are grateful for your continued presence in our musical community.

Ngā mihi nui,

Jeremy Johnson
Chairman – New Zealand String Quartet Trust



A MESSAGE FROM MONIQUE



It's hard to believe this is my final concert as a member of the New Zealand String Quartet. It has been the greatest honour to share the stage with Helene, Gillian and Rolf. Their boundless energy, enthusiasm, rich musicality, and unwavering commitment to music will leave a deep and life-long impression on me.

These years have been filled with adventure, inspiration, and the enriching chance to share music with communities around the globe! It's been a privilege to mentor young musicians at the New Zealand School of Music - Te Kōkī, and at the Adam Summer School for Chamber Music. I leave with many wonderful memories of witnessing young musicians growing in strength and confidence.

I am grateful to our incredible management team - without whom this ship simply wouldn't sail - and our wonderful network of supporters who are indeed the NZSQ's extended family.

It's the greatest pleasure to welcome Peter Clark - and to make music together. I'm excited for your adventures and will be cheering you all on in this next chapter.

In bidding farewell, I will carry with me the passion, spontaneity, and soul that the NZSQ has forever instilled and inspired in me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Monique Lapins, Violinist

PETER CLARK

Peter brings a wealth of experience to the Quartet, having previously held the role of Principal Violin of Australia's Omega Ensemble, and first violinist of the Australian Chamber Orchestra's Inspire Quartet. He has performed on prestigious stages worldwide, including Los Angeles' Walt Disney Hall, the Sydney Opera House, and New York's Carnegie Hall, and has held the role of Concertmaster with renowned companies including New Zealand Opera, Victorian Opera, and Sydney Chamber Opera.

Peter is a committed advocate for the importance of music in society. He has performed in more than 130 regional towns and cities across Australia and developed a beloved music programme at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital. His research on social innovation and cohesion through music is generously supported by Judith Neilson AM, the General Sir John Monash Foundation, and the American Australian Association.



MONIQUE'S HIGHLIGHTS WITH THE NZSQ

- 2016
Monique is appointed second violinist of the NZSQ.
- 2017
NZSQ collaborates with dancers of the Royal New Zealand Ballet and choreographer, Alexander Ekman, in a production of "Three by Ekman".
- 2018
An international tour across North America and Europe.
"Some memorable moments were performing in Romania, seeing the landscapes Bartók would have traversed, and making music with the Tiberius Quartet."
- 2020
The 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth and a chance for the NZSQ to perform all of Beethoven's string quartets around New Zealand.
"Amongst the Covid-19 pandemic we found many opportunities to share music, including recording digital broadcasts of concerts, and carrying on our teaching our NZSM students online. With restrictions gradually relaxing, we eventually began to embark on socially distanced tours of Beethoven's string quartets. These were memorable moments for us and truly highlighted the importance and power of live music and art in all forms as a connecting force for humanity."
- 2021
National Tour 2021.
"An incredibly special memory, as it marked a whopping 20 Seasons of NZSQ's National Tour. Further to this, there were still Covid restrictions to negotiate, so every concert that went ahead felt incredibly special."
- 2022
Canberra International Music Festival.
"This was not only special travelling and performing in my home country, but it was also the first international tour since 2020."
- 2023
Arts on Tour NZ.
"This tour was special - it took us to smaller centres through NZ and - in many cases - to audiences who had never heard a string quartet before. The sense of community, warmth and appreciation in these regions was unforgettable."
- 2024
Monique's final tour as second violinist in the NZSQ.
"A vivid and even more profoundly concentrated musical experience that was all about enjoying every musical moment together - I will never forget this experience. It's wonderful to end this journey with a warm welcome and celebration for incoming violinist, Peter Clark."

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

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SCHOOL OF MUSIC
TE KŌKI

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Adam Foundation



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA



Quintessence: An NZSQ Celebration

Friday 7 June, 6.30pm, Hunter Council Chamber

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

String Quartet No. 3 in B flat major, Op. 67 (1875)

I. Vivace

II. Andante

III. Agitato (Allegretto non troppo) – trio – coda

IV. Poco Allegretto con Variazioni

Brahms's contribution to chamber music was significant. In 1875, while holidaying in Ziegelhausen near Heidelberg, he completed the Piano Quartet, Op. 60, and began work on his final string quartet, the Quartet in B flat major, Op. 67. Published the following year, the latter was dedicated to Professor Theodor Wilhelm Engelmann, his host during a concert tour of Holland in January 1876. The first movement of the quartet starts with a cheerful theme that soon allows the intrusion of cross rhythms. The second subject, appearing after a transition that touches on the minor, is a happy dance tune, and these elements form the substance of the central development and subsequent recapitulation. The F major slow movement features an emotive melody for the first violin, with moments of drama and meter changes in the middle section. The muted D minor third movement, marked *Agitato*, showcases intense thematic material for the viola, leading into the A minor Trio before concluding gently in D major. The last movement brings a simple melody, followed by eight variations. The first of these is dominated by the viola, which starts the second variation. The third brings triplet figuration, the fourth a sombre opening for first violin and cello two octaves apart, the fifth a change of key to D flat major and the sixth a *molto dolce* G flat major. The seventh variation, in doubled speed, brings back the key and principal theme of the first movement, followed by a final variation that recalls the transitional material of the first movement, in B flat minor. The movement, the longest of the four, ends with a coda that combines elements of the seventh variation, and therefore the first movement, with the theme of the finale, a statement of perfect unity.



W.A. Mozart (1756–1791)

***String Quintet No. 1 in B-flat major,
K. 174 (1773)***

- I. Allegro moderato*
- II. Adagio*
- III. Menuetto ma Allegretto*
- IV. Allegro*

This beautiful work is not as well-known as his quintets in g, D, C and E flat, which Mozart wrote quite late in his life. However, it is an astonishing product of a 17-year-old composer. Hallmarks of this piece are the lively conversational elements, use of varying duets of instruments, irregular phrase lengths and musical surprises which will have been quite radical for the time. The overall sense of good humour reaches its zenith in the Trio of the third movement, where the ongoing use of extreme echoes is almost at the level of Marx Brothers' slapstick. The heartfelt, muted Adagio second movement begins with a unison melody which cleverly reappears as accompanimental material, and it also features some exceptionally lovely second violin solos – apt for our occasion tonight!

Written by Helene Pohl



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About NZSQ

Founded in 1987, the New Zealand String Quartet has established an international reputation for our insightful interpretations, compelling communication, and dynamic performing style.

We are dedicated to providing dynamic and high-quality musical experiences for audiences of all levels of familiarity with chamber music.