

WHERE
THE
WORLD
FALLS
AWAY



Classical music in the
heart of the Southern Alps

Queenstown Lakes | 7 - 20 October 2023

At the World's Edge
Music Festival 2023

Welcome

It is such a pleasure to welcome you to the third annual At the World's Edge Festival. Over the last year, we've been sharing our beautiful corner of the world with audiences in London and New York – but there's no place quite like home, and we're thrilled to be back for another year.

We're passionate about sharing the best of Aotearoa New Zealand with the world, and we can't imagine a more powerful way to do that than through the AWE Festival. This mountain landscape tucked into the Queenstown Lakes is the beating heart of everything we do, and we never feel more at home than playing our music surrounded by the awe-inspiring Southern Alps.

This year, our programme explores the dimensions of identity and the shared space that unites us all: music. We delve into the personal and cultural realms that define who we are, and explore how music connects and unites us as people and as nations.

Alongside the ticketed festival programme, we also have an expanded selection of free AWE+ events, from open rehearsals to artist talks and short concerts. We feature our first AWE Fellows from the AWE Mentorship Pathway, deep diving into our 2023 theme and introducing our first music and dance collaboration with the talented CONJAH. Look out for the '+' that signals a free event, or head to the AWE+ section to explore this year's community events.

Again, and from the bottom of our hearts, we want to say a huge thank you for joining us on this incredible journey. We hope you enjoy every note.

Benjamin & Justice

Festival Performances

Sono

Saturday 7 October | 4pm & 7pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

Hommàge

Sunday 8 October | 2pm & 5pm
Coronation Hall, Bannockburn

Muzikální

Thursday 12 October | 6pm
Cloudy Bay Shed, Cromwell

Immemorial

Friday 13 October | 8pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

Homeland

Saturday 14 October | 4pm & 7pm
Rippon, Wānaka

Manifesto

Sunday 15 October | 2pm & 5pm
Rippon, Wānaka

AWE+ Free Events

Abhi Chinniah: A Migrant's Path

Fri 29 Sept – Sun 19 Nov
Te Atamira, Queenstown

Open Rehearsals

Fri 6 Oct & Wed 11 Oct | 2–6pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

Twilight | French Horn

Sat 7 Oct | 6pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

Ligeti Focus

Sun 8 Oct | 4pm
Coronation Hall, Bannockburn

Composition Workshop

Fri 13 Oct | 1–5pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

Young Musicians Session

Fri 13 Oct | 3–5pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

Emerging Artist Showcase

Fri 13 Oct | 5pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

Sei Solo | Violin and Dance

Fri 13 Oct | 6pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

Meet the Artists & Composer Talk

Fri 13 Oct | 7pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

Artist Focus: Ben Goldscheider

Sat 14 Oct | 6pm
Rippon, Wānaka

Composer Focus: Victoria Kelly

Sun 15 Oct | 4pm
Rippon, Wānaka

AWE+ in Schools

17–20 October
Central Lakes Region

The dimensions of identity

The realms that mould us. The layers that connect us. The dimensions that intertwine to create our sense of identity: this is where the beauty of our humanity lies. Every element weaving into our being offers a glimpse into who we are, a new lens and perspective through which we see the world. This year, our programme explores themes of home, culture and identity, examining new perspectives, unfamiliar dimensions and cultural realms being crossed.

A touch of home

For many of us, our sense of identity is associated with the feeling and definition of home. Likewise, this hugely contributes to the works of this year's composers and musicians, creating a programme that explores the personal and cultural dimensions tied to that feeling.

Fittingly, this begins with Aotearoa's very own Victoria Kelly, AWE 2023 Composer in Residence. A composer of great creativity, curiosity and intellect, Victoria's powerful compositions respond to her own sense of identity. Her works are woven throughout the festival programme, with the final concert revealing Victoria's AWE 2023 commission, *Ensemble*.

As Victoria describes, *Ensemble* reflects on the multiple dimensions of the word. "This piece is written for an ensemble of people. It also describes the ensemble of universes represented by each musician's instruments, universes that I could perhaps be inhabiting alongside this one. Perhaps a universe in which I can play the violin, the cello, the horn, or maybe even all three."

A people united

Slipping into a new dimension, our journey takes us to the cultural formation of what we now know as the Czech Republic. This difficult road spanned years of geopolitical challenges, but ultimately united people living in Bohemia, Moravia and Czech Silesia. Despite the uncertainty of this time, music played a powerful role in establishing and preserving Czech national identities.

The key figures in this included Bedřich Smetana, considered the father of Czech music, who became a national symbol through the ever-shifting borders of the 20th century. Antonín Dvořák and Bohuslav Martinů were hugely influenced by Smetana, further defining and immortalising the Czech style and aesthetic. The famously individual thinker Leoš Janáček went in search of his own truth through a rigorous study of speech, collecting thousands of voice recordings and notating them into what he called 'nápěvky mluvy', meaning 'tunelets of speech' or 'speech melody'. These 'windows into the human soul' hugely influenced his String Quartet No.2 *'Intimate Letters'*, a 'manifesto on love' inspired by a passionate correspondence of which more than 700 letters still survive.

A new perspective

Our final thread explores the effect of travelling through different cultural centres, changing surroundings, and our reactions to the transition between different dimensions of consciousness. At the most adventurous end of this spectrum, AWE 2023 features the famously wide influences and interests of Hungarian Composer György Ligeti through his Horn Trio (written in homage to Brahms), and the Chinese American composer Tan Dun, a composer 'swinging and swimming freely among different cultures.'

New and unfamiliar surroundings can have an inspiring and rejuvenating effect on us, and whether we realise it or not, being far from home can't help but influence our perspective of ourselves. This year's closing work is a celebration of just that, with Tchaikovsky's tuneful nostalgia remembering a summer in Florence.

Sono

Saturday 7 October | 4pm & 7pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown



Programme

Sono begins this year's AWE Festival. The programme introduces American composer Samuel Barber, who described being 'ecstatic about getting as far away from home as possible' before settling in Europe and writing his String Quartet. The heartwrenching despair and beauty of his most famous 'adagio' from this string quartet is often attributed to struggles with his own identity.

We hear the first sounds of this year's Composer in Residence, Victoria Kelly, with her deeply expressive and evocative musical language shining through in *Sono* for piano trio. This work explores the cerebral feeling of wanting to be or trying to get back to sleep, with reality lingering in the background and ever reminding us of its presence.

The programme closes with the first sounds of the french horn at AWE and the musical language of Edwin York Bowen, a widely celebrated British composer and musician during his lifetime.

Performers

Benjamin Baker, Justine Cormack,
Vesa-Matti Leppänen & Marike Kruup
- *Violin*
Jordan Bak & Tobias Breider - *Viola*
Alice Neary & Jack Moyer - *Cello*
Ben Goldscheider - *French Horn*
Jian Liu & Otis Prescott-Mason - *Piano*

Samuel Barber String Quartet in b minor, op.11

Molto allegro e appassionato
Molto adagio
Molto allegro

Victoria Kelly *Sono* for piano trio

Edwin York Bowen Horn Quintet in c minor, op.85

Moderato serio
Andante espressivo
Finale. Allegro molto e ritmico

AWE+ Free Event Twilight | French Horn, 6pm Te Atamira, Queenstown

See page 39 for details

Hommàge

Sunday 8 October | 2pm & 5pm
Coronation Hall, Bannockburn



Programme

AWE's first performance in Bannockburn features Victoria Kelly's homage to TVNZ's end-of-day Kiwi animation that once signalled the end of nightly broadcasts on local television. Dedicated to her late mother, 'the emotional landscape tries to evoke that feeling of nostalgia... from a time in life that wasn't weighed down with responsibilities or fears for the future.'

Hommàge also features one of the most unique pieces of AWE 2023's programme, György Ligeti's Trio for violin, horn and piano. A composer known especially for his cross-cultural influences, this piece takes influence from African drumming, the player-piano music of Conlon Nancarrow, and the piano music of Chopin and Schumann. A composer of extremes, Ligeti deconstructs and reassembles tonality on his own terms, while playfully and meticulously constructing organised chaos.

We come back down to earth with Dvorák's famous Piano Quintet, beginning our journey into the sounds of Czech music.

Performers

Benjamin Baker, Justine Cormack
& Vesa-Matti Leppänen - *Violin*
Tobias Breider - *Viola*
Alice Neary - *Cello*
Ben Goldscheider - *French Horn*
Jian Liu & Otis Prescott-Mason - *Piano*

Johannes Brahms

Academic Festival Overture
in c minor, op.80 arranged
for piano, four hands

Victoria Kelly *Goodnight Kiwi*
for solo piano

György Ligeti Trio for violin,
horn and piano (*Hommage*
à Brahms)

Andantino con tenerezza
Vivacissimo molto ritmico
Alla marcia
Lamento. Adagio

Short break

Antonín Dvorák Piano Quintet
No.2 in A Major, op.81

Allegro, ma non tanto
Dumka: Andante con moto
Scherzo (Furiant): Molto vivace
Finale: Allegro

AWE+ Free Event

Ligeti Focus, 4pm
Coronation Hall, Bannockburn

See page 42 for details

Muzikální

Thursday 12 October | 6pm
Cloudy Bay Shed, Cromwell



Programme

AWE's popular music and wine pairing evening returns, featuring an intriguing path through three centuries of Czech music, both Bohemian and Moravian. Heinrich Biber wrote one of the first pieces for solo violin in 1676, leading up to Bohuslav Martinů's explosive *Three Madrigals* for violin and viola in 1947.

Also featured is the NZ Premiere of esteemed British composer Nicola LeFanu's *After Farrera* for horn, violin and cello. Inspired by a village high in the Catalan Pyrenees, LeFanu took a composing retreat here to write her music. In her own words, 'it is a wonderful location for quiet and solitude, in an expansive landscape that is perhaps reflected in my short trio.' Perhaps no place better reflects this sentiment than the Cloudy Bay Shed itself.

During the evening, Festival Director Justine Cormack will host a lively Q&A with Composer in Residence, Victoria Kelly. Victoria's *Waraki* opens the programme, referring to the dawn chorus, and within that chorus, two individuals whose distinct calls interact to create a new one.

Performers

Benjamin Baker, Justine Cormack
& Vesa-Matti Leppänen - *Violin*
Jordan Bak - *Viola*
Alice Neary - *Cello*
Ben Goldscheider - *French Horn*

Victoria Kelly *Waraki* for two violins – AWE 2023 Commission

Antonín Dvorák *Terzetto* in C Major, op.74

Introduzione: Allegro ma non troppo
Larghetto
Scherzo: Vivace — Trio: Poco meno mosso
Tema con Variazioni

Heinrich Biber *Passacaglia 'The Guardian Angel'* for solo violin

Nicola LeFanu *After Farrera* for horn, violin and cello – AWE co-commission with the Vaughan Williams Foundation (UK), NZ Premiere

Josef Suk *Melodie* for two violins

Zoltán Kodály *Intermezzo* for string trio

Bohuslav Martinů *Three Madrigals*, H.313 for violin and viola

This special evening of music, wine and light dining is presented in partnership with Cloudy Bay. We would like to acknowledge their support with the presentation of this unique event.

Immemorial

Friday 13 October | 8pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown



Programme

The turning point of our 2023 programme is marked by *Immemorial*, a programme arc that explores ideas and forms from the past. The evening begins with Arvo Pärt's *Passacaglia*, an ancient musical form, alongside Schnittke's Piano Quintet dedicated to the loss of his mother. Georgina Palmer, AWE 2023 Emerging Composer, presents her new work *Maramataka*, paired with one of Victoria Kelly's very first pieces – one she sent to Schnittke for advice, who was a pivotal influence on her musical language and a figure of inspiration.

The programme approaches its conclusion through Eleanor Albergá's *Shining Gate of Morpheus*, a piece inspired by her fascination with dreams in Greek mythology. Finally, we come full circle and reconnect with the music of Arvo Pärt and his exploration of infinity, an idea explored by looking into a *Mirror in the Mirror (Spiegel im Spiegel)*.

Performers

Benjamin Baker, Justine Cormack,
Vesa-Matti Leppänen, Marike Kruup
& Lorna Zhang - *Violin*
Jordan Bak & Tobias Breider - *Viola*
Alice Neary, Rolf Gjelsten & Damon
Herlihy-O'Brien - *Cello*
Ben Goldscheider - *French Horn*
Jian Liu & Madeleine Xiao - *Piano*

Arvo Pärt *Passacaglia*
for violin and piano

Alfred Schnittke Piano Quintet

Moderato (attacca)
Tempo di Valse (attacca)
Andante (attacca)
Lento (attacca)
Moderato pastorale

Georgina Palmer *Maramataka*
for horn, violin and cello

Victoria Kelly *Piece for violin
and piano*

Eleanor Albergá *Shining Gate
of Morpheus* for horn and
string quartet

Arvo Pärt *Spiegel im Spiegel*
for violin and piano

AWE+ Free Events

Emerging Artist Showcase, 5pm
Sei Solo | Violin & Dance, 6pm
Meet the Artists & Composer
Talk, 7pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

See page 40-43 for details

Homeland

Saturday 14 October | 4pm & 7pm
Rippon, Wānaka



Programme

The penultimate programme of AWE 2023 features two quartets by Dvorák and Smetana, both completed in 1876. The younger Dvorák also played the viola in the private premiere of Smetana's iconic Quartet 'From my Life.'

Smetana, regarded as the founder of Czech national music, wrote this semi-autobiographical string quartet as a series of sketches from periods of his life. The first movement he described as a 'romantically driven sketch of his youth.' The second movement details his love of dance in the form of a polka, while the finale depicts his suffering from tinnitus, and later, deafness.

The final ingredient of this programme is the inventive Tan Dun, a Chinese-American composer who describes himself as 'swinging and swimming freely among different cultures.' *Eight Colors* for String Quartet was the first piece written by Tan Dun after moving to New York in 1986. The piece is strongly influenced by the unique sounds of Peking Opera, alongside his first contact with the concentrated, lyrical language of western atonality.

Performers

Benjamin Baker, Justine Cormack,
Vesa-Matti Leppänen & Marike Kruup - *Violin*
Jordan Bak & Tobias Breider - *Viola*
Alice Neary, Rolf Gjelsten - *Cello*

Antonín Dvorák String Quartet No.8 in E Major, op.80

Allegro
Andante con moto
Allegro scherzando
Allegro con brio (Finale)

Tan Dun *Eight Colors* for String Quartet

*Peking Opera, Shadows, Pink Actress,
Black Dance, Zen, Drum and Gong,
Cloudiness, Red Sona*

Short break

Bedřich Smetana String Quartet No.1 in e minor 'From My Life'

Allegro vivo appassionato
Allegro moderato à la Polka
Largo sostenuto
Vivace

AWE+ Free Event

Artist Focus: Ben Goldscheider,
6pm
Rippon, Wānaka
See page 43 for details

Manifesto

Sunday 15 October | 2pm & 5pm
Rippon, Wānaka



Programme

Opening with the pinnacle of our pathway through the personal and cultural dimensions of identity, Janáček's String Quartet *'Intimate Letters'* is a combination of the two. A deeply personal work described as his 'manifesto on love', the work was inspired by a long and spiritual friendship with Kamila Stösslov. Janáček's other muse was his study of 'speech melody', which led to him recording and dictating thousands of 'tunelets of speech' into music. He saw these notes as 'windows into the human soul'.

We then go on to celebrate this year's AWE Commission by Victoria Kelly, our 2023 Composer in Residence. *Ensemble* for horn, violin and cello explores the dimensions of an 'ensemble', including the many different definitions of the word as found in music, physics and life. She reflects on her childhood journey with various instruments, describing the different sonic universes each exists in while also imagining parallel universes in which she might have been able to play all three. Finally, the AWE Festival comes to a close for 2023, with Tchaikovsky's last piece of chamber music celebrating remembrances of a summer in Florence.

Performers

Benjamin Baker, Justine Cormack, Vesa-Matti Leppänen & Marike Kruup – *Violin*
Jordan Bak & Tobias Breider – *Viola*
Alice Neary & Rolf Gjelsten – *Cello*
Ben Goldscheider – *French Horn*

Leoš Janáček String Quartet No.2 *'Intimate Letters'*

Andante - Con moto - Allegro Adagio - Vivace Moderato - Andante - Adagio Allegro - Andante - Adagio

Victoria Kelly Ensemble for horn, violin and cello – AWE 2023 Commission World Premiere

Short break

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky *Vospominaniya o Florentsii (Souvenir de Florence), op.70*

*Allegro con spirito
Adagio cantabile e con moto
Allegretto moderato
Allegro con brio e vivace*

AWE+ Free Event Composer Focus: Victoria Kelly, 4pm

Rippon, Wānaka
See page 43 for details

Festival Artists

Benjamin Baker

AWE Artistic Director

Violin

NZ | UK



Described by the New York Times as bringing 'virtuosity, refinement, and youthful exuberance' to his Merkin Concert Hall debut, Benjamin has established a strong presence as a sought-after soloist and chamber musician both internationally and in Aotearoa.

As a recording artist, Benjamin has soloed with the BBC Concert and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras, and recently released two critically acclaimed albums (*1942 & 1919: Coda*) with pianist Daniel Lehardt for Delphian Records.

In recent seasons, he has also made solo appearances with the Auckland Philharmonia, Charleston, Fort Worth Symphony, Royal Philharmonic and London Philharmonic Orchestras.

In addition to winning first prize at the 2016 Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York, Benjamin also won third prize at the Michael Hill Competition in New Zealand, was

a prize winner at the YCAT International Auditions in 2013, and now makes regular appearances at Wigmore Hall and on BBC Radio 3.

Recent highlights from his successful career include his debut with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra at the East Neuk Festival and the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra in New Zealand. In addition, Benjamin has also performed at the Al Bustan Festival in Lebanon, the Sanguine Estate Music Festival in Australia, and has toured America, Colombia, China, and Argentina.

Benjamin plays a 1694 Giovanni Grancino violin, on generous loan from a Charitable Trust.

The AWE Artistic Director position is supported generously by Dr Tony Trapp MBE.

Justine Cormack

AWE Festival Director
Violin
NZ



A staunch advocate for creativity within Aotearoa New Zealand's Arts community, Justine actively supports and promotes creative communities both internationally and closer to home. A highly sought-after freelance violinist, Justine collaborates broadly as a soloist, chamber musician, guest concertmaster.

Through her creative performance coaching business, ListenFeelPlay, Justine supports musicians worldwide, encouraging them to maximise their performance success and optimise their musical enjoyment through insightful mind and body awareness.

From 2002 to mid-2017, as a founding member and violinist of NZTrio, Justine performed throughout New Zealand, Australia, Asia, South America, the USA, Europe and Scandinavia. During this time, the group's commitment and passion for promoting the music of Aotearoa saw the commissioning

and performing of close to 40 works from New Zealand composers, proudly showcasing these compositions within the trio's diverse programmes on a national and global stage.

Other career highlights include her role as concertmaster with the Auckland Philharmonia from 2000-2004, and as lecturer in violin at the University of Auckland following the completion of her Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from Stony Brook University, NY, in 2001.

An active recording artist, Justine has soloed with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and released duo recordings with pianists Michael Houstoun and Sarah Watkins, in addition to a varied catalogue of award-winning releases with NZTrio.

Justine plays an 1868 J.B.Vuillaume violin.

Ben Goldscheider

French Horn
UK



Nominated by the Barbican as an ECHO Rising Star for the 2021/22 season, Ben Goldscheider has given recitals at major concert halls across Europe, including at the Concertgebouw, Musikverein, Pierre Boulez Saal, Elbphilharmonie, Koln Philharmonie, and Wigmore Hall amongst others.

London born and raised, Ben completed his studies with honours at the Barenboim-Said Academy in Berlin with Radek Baborák in 2020. He soon went on to make his BBC Proms concerto debut in 2022, performing the Ethel Smyth Concerto for violin and horn with Elena Urioste and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Ben has also appeared as a soloist with the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, Aurora Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia,

English Chamber, Royal Philharmonic, London Mozart Players, Lucerne Symphony, Manchester Camerata, Prague Philharmonia and Sinfonie Orchester Berlin. He has also performed with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sakari Oramo.

A committed chamber musician, Ben has collaborated with Daniel Barenboim, Martha Argerich, Sergei Babayan, Elena Bashkirova, Sunwook Kim and Michael Volle at the Verbier, Salzburg, Jerusalem, Intonations (Berlin) and Barenboim (Buenos Aires) Festivals, among many others.

Ben is a member of the Boulez Ensemble and has appeared as guest principal with the Staatskapelle Berlin, West-Eastern Divan, English Chamber and Philharmonia Orchestras.

Supported by Lesa Scholl.

Vesa-Matti Leppänen

Violin
Finland | NZ



Finland's Vesa-Matti Leppänen is Concertmaster of the NZSO, a position he has held since 2002. Over the last 20 years, Vesa has supported the orchestra to become globally renowned, both leading and soloing for its 2005 and 2010 international tours to Japan and Europe. He has performed several concertos with the NZSO, including works of leading national composers, and has also soloed with all the major orchestras of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Internationally, Leppänen has appeared as a soloist, chamber musician and concertmaster in Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Scandinavia. He has performed as guest concertmaster for the Sydney and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras, Japan Philharmonic, Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, KBS

Symphony Orchestra, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, and Avanti! Chamber Orchestra.

Leppänen's career has been marked by a wide range of chamber music projects both in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally. His most recent and long-term collaborations include contemporary music group Stroma and a piano trio with pianist Diedre Irons and Andrew Joyce, principal cellist of the NZSO.

Leppänen plays a 1755 G.B. Guadagnini violin. This exceptional instrument was made available to him thanks to the wonderful generosity and support of Ainsley Walter, Mark Stewart, and the NZSO Foundation.

Supported by Ainsley Walter and Mark Stewart.

Marike Kruup

AWE Education Leader
Violin
Estonia | UK



Marike Kruup is an accomplished Estonian violinist based in London, known for her captivating performances and dedication to music and music education. Her vibrant artistry and versatility have earned her recognition as a sought-after chamber musician in small and large ensembles around Europe, including as a founding member of the Estonian Festival Orchestra with conductor Paavo Järvi.

Another key part of her musical identity is the Alkyona String Quartet, which Marike joined in 2020. Current String Quartet Fellows at the Royal College of Music in London, the Quartet performs regularly around the UK and the Netherlands. In 2023, the Alkyonas were one of the ensembles in residence at the ANAM Quartetthaus Festival in Melbourne, alongside the Australian and Marmen String Quartets.

Marike's musical journey began in Tallinn under the guidance of Mari Tampere-Bezrodny. Later, she moved to London to further her education at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Royal College of Music, completing her studies with Krzysztof Smietana and Radu Blidar.

Beyond her performances, Marike is dedicated to pedagogy and carries on a family legacy of teaching. Since 2019, she has served as a faculty member at the Rachmaninov Music Academy in London, nurturing a talented class of violin students. She actively engages in educational projects to inspire and educate young musicians.

Jordan Bak

Viola
USA



Award-winning Jamaican-American violist Jordan Bak has achieved international acclaim as a trailblazing artist, praised for his radiant stage presence, dynamic interpretations and fearless power. Critics have described him as ‘an exciting new voice in classical performance’ and ‘a powerhouse musician, with a strong voice and compelling sound’, lauding his ‘haunting lyrical grace.’

Bak’s enthusiastically-received debut album *IMPULSE (Bright Shiny Things)* was released in May 2022, garnering over one million streams on major digital media platforms and featuring new compositions by Tyson Gholston Davis, Toshio Hosokawa, Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti, Quinn Mason, Jeffrey Mumford, and Joan Tower.

Bak has appeared as soloist with orchestras such as the Sarasota Orchestra, London Mozart Players, New York Classical Players, and Lexington Philharmonic among others. As a recitalist and chamber musician, he has performed in such venues as Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Jordan Hall, Elgar Concert Hall, and Helsinki Musiikkitalo. He is further looking forward to upcoming concerts at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival in Germany, and at the Lichfield Festival in England.

Recent accolades include being named one of ClassicFM’s ‘30 Under 30’ Rising Stars, Musical America’s New Artist of the Month and a featured artist for WQXR’s inaugural Artist Propulsion Lab.

Supported by AWE Music Foundation.

Tobias Breider

Viola
Germany | Australia



Tobias Breider is the Principal Viola of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. As one of Australia’s most sought-after viola players and chamber musicians, Tobias regularly collaborates with Australia’s finest musicians and ensembles, such as the Australia Ensemble, Selby & Friends, Ensemble Q, and Melbourne Chamber Orchestra.

As a soloist, Tobias has performed at the Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Domain, Parramatta Park, Sydney City Recital Hall and Sydney Town Hall. Further solo appearances include performances at the MRC Melbourne and Griffith University Brisbane. Tobias especially enjoys more intimate recitals in smaller venues or private homes, and teaches viola privately in Sydney.

Every year, Tobias performs at the Sanguine Estate and Bendigo Chamber Music Festivals. He has appeared at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, Coriole and UKARIA24, and has been invited to festivals in the United States, Germany, Austria, the UK and South Africa. In Australia, he has toured Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales.

Alice Neary

Cello
UK



Alice enjoys a varied performing career as a chamber musician, soloist and as principal cellist of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Her festival performances include the BBC Proms chamber series, Marlboro Music Festival, Bath International Music Festival, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and Lofoten Music Festival. Recent performances include Strauss Don Quixote and the IMS 50th Anniversary Concert at Wigmore Hall.

As a member of the Gould Piano Trios from 2001 to 2018, Alice performed the complete piano trio of Beethoven, Schubert and Dvorák at Wigmore Hall, has commissioned new works from Sir James MacMillan and Mark Simpson, has over 25 album releases and has toured the USA regularly.

Alice has appeared as a guest cellist with numerous groups including the Nash Ensemble, Ensemble 360 and the Endellion, Elias and Heath Quartets. Regular visits to IMS at Prussia Cove provide ongoing inspiration. Alice has benefitted hugely from her association with the Royal Over-Seas League since winning the String Prize in 1996, including a tour of New Zealand in 2011. Future plans include a cycle of Beethoven Sonatas with Viv McLean, and a return visit to Marlboro Festival.

Alice has tutored cello at the RNCM and RCM, and is now based in her home town of Cardiff at the RWCMD, where she was awarded a Fellowship in 2015. Alice is also a mentor for ChamberStudio. She and her husband, David Adams, founded the Penarth Chamber Music Festival in 2014.

Alice plays a cello by Alessandro Gagliano of 1710.

Supported by the Royal Over-Seas League.

Rolf Gjelsten

Cello
Canada | NZ



Rolf Gjelsten's musical journey began in his hometown of Victoria, Canada, with Norwegian folk-dancing parents and accordion-playing sisters. He became an accomplished accordionist at a young age before taking up the cello at 13 years old. Later at 22 years, he became the youngest member of the Berlin Symphony Orchestra.

Rolf later returned to North America to work with Zara Nelsova and members of the La Salle, Hungarian, Vermeer, Cleveland and Emerson string quartets. As a member of the Laurentian Quartet for almost a decade, he toured internationally and taught cello at Sarah Lawrence College in New York. During this time he was also a member of the New York Piano Trio.

Rolf furthered his studies at Rutgers University alongside the Pablo Casals protégé and Beaux Arts Trio cellist, Bernhard Greenhouse. It was here he received his doctoral degree in cello. He has performed with many eminent artists, such as Menahem Pressler, Anton Kuerti, Piers Lane, Alexander Longuich, Tasmin Little, Nobuko Imai, Gervaise de Peyer and the Tokyo, Prazak, and Jerusalem Quartets.

Rolf joined the New Zealand String Quartet in May 1994. In 2014 he was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for his outstanding services to music in New Zealand.

Rolf plays a Francesco Goffriller cello made in Venice in 1705.

Jian Liu

Piano
China | NZ



An internationally celebrated concert pianist, chamber musician and educator, Dr Jian Liu has performed and taught throughout Europe, Asia, and North America. His artistry has taken him to some of the world's most prestigious concert halls, including Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center.

Jian has released many solo and chamber albums in New Zealand and the US, and his performances have been broadcast by various TV and radio stations including KPHO public radio (USA), CCTV (China), Suisse Romande Radio (Switzerland), Krakow Radio (Poland), Kan Radio (Israel) and Radio New Zealand.

Having premiered and recorded many New Zealand compositions, Jian is also a champion for New Zealand music. In 2022, he collaborated with Shanghai Music Publishing House to edit and

publish two volumes of New Zealand Piano Works, which marked the first publication of New Zealand music in China. The project has been awarded the Creative New Zealand Arts Grant.

Jian is currently the Programme Director of Classical Performance and Head of Piano Studies at the New Zealand School of Music Te Kōkī. Jian studied with Professor Jin Zhang and Dr. Caio Pagano. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale School of Music, where he was a student and assistant of Professor Claude Frank.

Jack Moyer

AWE Fellow and ROSL Pettman Scholar
Cello
NZ



Jack Moyer is a young cellist based in Pōneke Wellington. As a talented chamber musician, Jack has toured New Zealand with the Amici Ensemble for Chamber Music New Zealand's 'Another Night in Vienna' tour, and was part of *Ravelation*, the overall winner of the 2020 NZCT Chamber Music Contest. Jack is currently studying with NZSQ cellist Rolf Gjelsten.

Jack attended the Adam Summer School from 2019 - 2023, where he received chamber music coaching from the NZSQ. As an orchestral musician, Jack has enjoyed playing Principal Cello of both the NZSO National Youth Orchestra and the Wellington Youth Orchestra. Jack has played as a casual member of Orchestra Wellington and the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra.

An AWE Emerging Artist since the festival's inaugural opening in 2021, Jack was awarded a ROSL Pettman Scholarship for Emerging NZ Musicians in 2023, travelling to the UK in August 2023 for lessons, masterclasses and performances, supported by the Royal Over-Seas League in association with AWE.

Otis Prescott-Mason

AWE Fellow and ROSL Pettman Scholar
Piano
NZ



Otis Prescott-Mason is a Pōneke Wellington born pianist, currently studying piano under Dr. Jian Liu at Wellington's New Zealand School of Music Te Kōkī. Otis has won numerous competitions at a national level, most recently awarded first prize at the Lewis Eady National Piano Competition and the 2022 National Young Performer Awards. In 2020, while still in high school, Otis was awarded first prize at the New Zealand Junior Piano Competition.

Otis enjoys chamber music and was selected to attend the Adam Summer School for Chamber Music from 2021 – 2023. Otis has been invited to perform at the New Zealand International Music Festival and the Whakatipu Music Festival. Through the generous sponsorship of Professor Jack C.

Richards, Otis attended the 2022 Semaine Internationale de Piano in Blonay, Switzerland and returned to play a solo recital in the 2023 festival.

An AWE Emerging Artist since the festival's inaugural opening in 2021, Otis was awarded a ROSL Pettman Scholarship in 2023. This saw him return to Europe in August 2023 for a range of professional development opportunities, supported by the Royal Over-Seas League in association with AWE.

AWE 2023 Composer in Residence

Victoria Kelly
NZ



Victoria Kelly is an award-winning composer, arranger, musical director and producer. Last year, our festival programme included Victoria's exquisite *Songs Without Words* for string quartet, and we are thrilled to have her join us this year as Composer in Residence. Victoria has produced music across a wide spectrum of genres including contemporary classical music, popular music, and music for film, television and theatre. She has worked as a musical director and composer for both large-scale events and television programmes.

Highly sought after as a classical composer, Victoria has worked with a wide range of New Zealand musicians and artists, having been commissioned, performed and/or recorded by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, the Auckland Philharmonia, the New Zealand String Quartet, NZTrio, Stroma, Michael Houstoun and Stephen de Pledge. In 2023, her long-awaited *Requiem* was premiered by the Auckland Philharmonia with Simon O'Neill and Jayne Tankersley at the Auckland Arts Festival. Recently, she was also awarded the prestigious 2023 SOUNZ Contemporary Award Te Tohu Auaha in collaboration with APRA AMCOS NZ for *Requiem*.

In the popular music world, she has collaborated with artists including Neil Finn, Tami Neilson, Finn Andrews / The Veils, Don McGlashan, Anika Moa, SJD and Shapeshifter. As a film composer, she has worked with Peter Jackson, Jonathan King and Robert Sarkies, among others.

Special thanks to the Nicholas Tarling Trust for their funding support towards the 2023 AWE Commission.



Emerging Artists

For Aspiring Musicians



Lorna Zhang

Violin

An enthusiastic chamber musician, Lorna Zhang is one of the musicians in the *Kaha Trio*, winners of the 2022 Carl and Alberta Rosenfeldt Prize and members of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra's 'Aspiring Musicians' Ensemble. In 2020, Lorna's group *Trio Achilles* was runner-up at the NZCT National Chamber Music Competition, winning the inaugural Helen Young Diamond award.

Lorna is currently a first-year student at the University of Auckland, studying under the guidance of Stephen Larsen. Enrolled in the Chiron Music Academy since 2018, Lorna received the CLEF (Chiron Lewis Eady Foundation) Scholarship from 2019–2022. She was selected as a semi-finalist in the 2021 Michael Hill National String Competition, and in 2022 was a member of the NZSO National Youth Orchestra.

More than just a stage for local and international talent, AWE is committed to the nurturing of chamber music in our communities and in our future generations.

The AWE Emerging Artist Mentoring Pathway exists to nurture exceptional young musicians of Aotearoa through their early careers, guiding and supporting them to become the compelling artists they aspire to be.

This year, we welcome three talented individuals to the programme. With side-by-side rehearsals, performance opportunities and coaching from our AWE Festival Artists, these musicians will be challenged to explore their artistry and craft in a whole new realm. As well as performing within the festival, our Emerging Artists will play for over 2,000 students in the Queenstown Lakes District from 17–20 October.

Special thanks to the Royal Over-Seas League, Williamson Foundation for Music, and Youthtown for their support of the AWE Emerging Artist Pathway.



Damon Herlihy-O'Brien

Cello

A skilled chamber musician, Damon's university ensemble *Kaha Trio* won the 2022 Carl and Alberta Rosenfeldt Prize. In 2020, his group *Trio Achilles* was runner-up at the NZCT National Chamber Music Competition, winning the inaugural Helen Young Diamond award.

Damon began playing the cello around 4 years old, developing his skills through the Suzuki Method before later completing intensive studies with baroque specialist James Bush. In 2021, he achieved the NZQA Top Scholar award for the highest NCEA Scholarship Music score in the country.

Damon is studying a conjoint Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of Science at The University of Auckland, under James Tennant for his cello studies. He has been the Principal Cello of the AYO since 2021 and plays a fine Carboni cello on generous loan from the Sir Michael Hill Foundation Instrument Bank.



Madeleine Xiao

Piano

Madeleine is a passionate chamber musician and collaborative pianist, both coaching and playing alongside different ensembles and instrumentalists. Madeleine's chamber ensemble *Kaha Trio* has been invited to perform around New Zealand.

Madeleine began learning the piano at 5 years old. At 16, she went on to study a Bachelor of Music at the University of Auckland, where she is now a second year student under the tutelage of Rae de Lisle, Bryan Sayer and Katherine Austin.

In 2022, Madeleine won both the University of Auckland Concerto Competition and the Auckland Youth Orchestra Piano Concerto Competition. In 2023, she attended the Adam Summer School working with the New Zealand String Quartet and placed third in the National Concerto Competition, performing with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra in the Christchurch Town Hall.

AWE Emerging Composer



Georgina Palmer

AWE 2023 Emerging Composer

Georgina Palmer is a New Zealand composer, currently studying composition at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music.

Georgina began studying piano at six years old and composing shortly after. During her school years she learned violin and percussion, and was involved in a number of chamber music groups, choirs, orchestras, jazz bands and rock bands. She has been heavily involved in brass bands around New Zealand and Australia, placing with a variety of A-Grade bands at both National Championships.

Georgina's notable career highlights include winning the 2020 SOUNZ NZCF Choral Composition Competition and the 2022 Audrey Reid Composition Prize. She has been commissioned by violinist Rakuto Kurano and the National Youth Brass Band of New Zealand. Most recently, her work was performed in the Celebrating Global Harmony Through Music concert at NYC's Carnegie Hall.

Each year, an AWE Emerging Composer is selected through a nationwide competition for composers 20 years and younger. Over a five-month period, they receive personalised composition mentoring from the AWE Mentoring Composer and are supported to create a new work, which will then be performed within the festival and in schools throughout the Central Lakes region. The young composer also attends the festival, works with the musicians performing their new piece, and personally presents the performances.

Special thanks to funding partner Youthtown for their support towards the AWE Emerging Composer competition, mentorship and residency.



AWE+

Free Performances

Twilight | French Horn

Saturday 7 October | 6pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

Presented between the two performances of Sono

Our first AWE+ free performance features two of Aotearoa's most talented young musicians and AWE's inaugural Fellows: Jack Moyer and Otis Prescott-Mason. Described as 'brimming with potential' on their recent trip to Europe, Jack and Otis join forces to perform Janáček's *Pohádka (Fairy Tale)* which depicts scenes from an epic poem by Vasily Zhukovsky. The piece was written at a difficult time in Janáček's life following the death of his daughter.

John Harbison's *Twilight Music* offers a closer look at the french horn through the eyes of one of the most respected American composers of the 20th century. In Harbison's words, the violin and horn 'share material mainly to show how differently they project it. It is the kind of music I am drawn to, where the surface seems simplest and most familiar, where the piece seems to make no effort, but some purposeful, independent musical argument is at work.'

Performers

Ben Goldscheider - *French Horn*

Benjamin Baker - *Violin*

Jack Moyer - *Cello*

Jian Liu & Otis Prescott-Mason - *Piano*

Emerging Artist Showcase

Friday 13 October | 5pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

A special programme featuring Emerging and Festival Artists performing side by side. The programme features the world premiere of AWE Emerging Composer Georgina Palmer's *Maramataka* for horn, violin and cello, alongside Zoltán Kodály's *Intermezzo*, Victoria Kelly's *Goodnight Kiwi*, Robert Schumann's *Adagio and Allegro* for horn and piano, and the first movement of Dvorák's early Piano Quartet.

Performers

Ben Goldscheider - *French Horn*
Lorna Zhang - *Violin*
Tobias Breider - *Viola*
Damon Herlihy-O'Brien - *Cello*
Madeleine Xiao - *Piano*

Sei Solo | Violin and Dance

Friday 13 October | 6pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

A first for AWE, this year brings together music and movement, exploring how they combine to create something bigger than both. Sei Solo features the powerful and deeply communicative choreography of CONJAH, a cross-disciplinary duo deeply committed to expressing and channelling the energy stemming from the land we inhabit here in Aotearoa.

AWE Artistic Director and violinist Benjamin Baker will play alongside CONJAH, adding a new dimension to Bach's Second Partita for solo violin. Interspersed with two works by NZ composers - Karlo Margetic's *On an Imaginary Folk Song* and Gareth Farr's *Wakatipu*, the performance culminates with arguably the most powerful work ever written for solo violin, Bach's inimitable *Chaconne*.

Performers

Benjamin Baker - *Violin*
CONJAH: Jahra Wasasala & Ooshcon - *Dancers*



CONJAH

Multi-disciplinary artists
within the mediums
of Live Embodiment

Jahra Wasasala and Ooshcon, under the collaborative world-bending entity of CONJAH, are a creative force within and beyond the mediums of dance, physical theatre, poetry and visual craft. Together, CONJAH bring forth the depths of their extensive solo body work, their whakapapa, and their imaginations to build into each other's visions, enabling them to do the same with the collaborators and artists they work with.

Within their developments and performances, CONJAH focuses on connection, world-building, and excavation. Their goal is to strengthen intimate connections between collaborating artists, building characters, stories and worlds into performance spaces, and creating body states and stories that shed realities as skins to reveal our own truths.

Jahra Wasasala is Fijian and Pakeha and was born and raised in West Tamaki Makaurau. Ooshcon is Samoan and Pakeha and was born and raised in Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta.

AWE+

Free Events

A selection of free experiences and informative events weaving into the festival programme.

Abhi Chinniah: A Migrant's Path

29 September – 19 November
Te Atamira, Queenstown

A journey through photographic portraits by Abhi Chinniah, exploring migrant stories of culture and heritage when settling in Aotearoa, away from “home” and in search of belonging. Curated by Lucy Moore, Programmes & Development Associate at Te Atamira, in response to this year’s themes exploring the dimensions of identity. Abhi will speak about her work within the Meet the Artists & Composer Talk on Friday 13 October.

Open Rehearsals

Fri 6 Oct & Wed 11 Oct | 2–6pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

Experience the sights and sounds of our Festival Artists deep within their performance preparation at Te Atamira.

Friday 6 October

2–4pm: Harbison *Twilight Music*; Kelly *Sono*

4–6pm: Dvorák Piano Quintet; Martinů *Three Madrigals*

Wednesday 11 October

2–4pm: Dvorák String Quartet; Smetana String Quartet

4:30–6pm: Janáček String Quartet; LeFanu *After Farrera*

Ligeti Focus

Sunday 8 October | 4pm
Coronation Hall, Bannockburn

*Presented between the two performances of **Hommàge***

We offer a closer look at the humour and wide influences of the unique composer György Ligeti, featured within *Hommàge*.

Composition Workshop

Friday 13 October | 1–5pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

This year’s Composer in Residence Victoria Kelly and Composer Mentor Salina Fisher coach local high school composers with one-on-one sessions, working together on the young composer’s instrumental compositions.

Young Musicians Session

Friday 13 October | 3–5pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

Our Young Musicians Session is an interactive event that gives young, local musicians the opportunity to meet, hear, and play alongside AWE Festival Artists, truly experiencing the fullness of AWE. This event is presented in partnership with the local pioneers of grassroots music education, Queenstown’s Turn up the Music Trust.

Meet the Artists & Composer Talk

Friday 13 October | 7pm
Te Atamira, Queenstown

A chance to meet with AWE Festival Artists over drinks and nibbles and hear Composer in Residence Victoria Kelly’s insights into the evening’s *Immemorial* programme, which will follow directly after. Artist Abhi Chinniah will also introduce her photographic portraits, dramatically exhibited within the AWE performance space.

Artist Focus: Ben Goldscheider

Saturday 14 October | 6pm
Rippon, Wānaka

*Presented between the two performances of **Homeland***

Festival Artist Ben Goldscheider introduces the french horn from his personal perspective. The presentation also includes a Wānaka performance of AWE Emerging Composer Georgina Palmer’s *Maramataka* for horn, violin and cello.

Composer Focus: Victoria Kelly

Sunday 15 October | 4pm
Rippon, Wānaka

*Presented between the two performances of **Manifesto***

This year’s AWE Composer in Residence, Victoria Kelly, introduces her music and speaks about her new AWE commission, *Ensemble* for horn, violin and cello. *Ensemble* will feature in *Manifesto*.



AWE+

In the Community

Combining community, creativity and curated compositions, the AWE team will once again tour the Central Lakes region, performing for over 2,000 students at multiple early childhood centres, primary schools and high schools between 17–20 October.

Local New Zealand music will feature at large, with works from our AWE Emerging Composer as well as the 2023 Composer in Residence, Victoria Kelly. Offering a dynamic and entertaining musical presentation, this year's AWE entourage includes both Festival Artists, Emerging Musicians, and our Emerging Composer.

AWE+ in the Community is offered free to schools and students with the support of our many generous funders.

AWE would like to acknowledge and give special thanks to:

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Thank you

From all of us here at AWE, we want to say an enormous thank you for joining us at the AWE Festival 2023. We couldn't be more grateful for the extraordinary support, in so many different ways, that enables us to continue sharing the festival together every year.

Of course, AWE couldn't exist without our very generous patrons and funders, as well as the incredible support from our Central Lakes communities. Each year we grow a little bigger and reach a little further abroad, and we have you to thank. Your positive support in the community and amongst your family and friends means so much, and we're thrilled to keep sharing the AWE Festival with the world.

We've already got exciting plans in the works for the 2024 and 2025 Festivals, so make sure to follow the journey on our website and socials. If you're interested in supporting the AWE Festival and/or our Emerging Artist Mentorship Pathway, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

So once again, thank you. Thank you for joining us, for supporting us and for trusting us with your AWE journey so far. It's been an honour sharing the AWE Festival with you, and we look forward to welcoming you back for many years to come.



At the World's Edge
Music Festival 2023

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