

Play a Part IN MSO'S FUTURE

Since 1993, the Manukau Symphony Orchestra (MSO) has delighted audiences, and provided a platform for musicians from across the Auckland region, as 'Manukau's Orchestra'.

It is the only symphony orchestra of its calibre in South Auckland, delivering high quality orchestral music to the diverse communities in the Manukau region. Its unique mix of professional, community and youth musicians is what makes its 'very special spirit'.

Like many other volunteer-based community organisations, the MSO relies on the support of its audiences, players, and funders to deliver an exciting and accessible concert series each year.

So please help us continue to do so by deepening your connection with our Orchestra and become a Chair Donor.



Jenni Khan, Ann Morris and Dr Tom Morris

"IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL ORCHESTRA OVER THE YEARS. WE LOVE THAT OUR CONTRIBUTION HELPS ENSURE THE ORCHESTRA'S FUTURE AND OUR ENJOYMENT FOR YEARS TO COME."

- DR. TOM MORRIS

Become a Chair Donor

As a MSO Chair Donor, you will be supporting the Orchestra and recognising the skills and contribution of your selected Chair Player. Enjoy the opportunity to meet your Chair Player throughout each year.

All Chair Donors will be acknowledged in our concert programmes and on our website. Donate your gift as a lump sum, or as pledged payments throughout the year. All donations over \$5 are tax deductible.

For more information on becoming a Chair Donor, please contact Terry Spragg on 09 577 3031 or admin@manukausymphony.org.nz.

PROGRAMME

Concerto for Cello and Orchestra Sir Arthur Bliss (1891 – 1975)

During the Second World War, Bliss took up work for the BBC and became its director of music. After the war he resumed his work as a composer and was appointed Master of the Queen's Music.



In Bliss's later years, his work was respected but was thought old-fashioned, and it was eclipsed by the music of younger colleagues such as William Walton and Benjamin Britten. However, since his death, his compositions have become well represented in recordings, and many of his better-known works remain in the repertoire of British orchestras.

In 1970 Sir Arthur Bliss wrote "I have always wanted to write some music for solo cello and orchestra, ever since as a young man I played through the classic repertoire for the instrument with my cellist brother, Howard. But it is only now that the decisive impulse has come, as a result of a suggestion form Mstislav Rostropovich. I sketched out the music in the Spring of 1969, and on his acceptance of the dedication, 'To Mstislav Rostropovich with admiration and gratitude', made the final full score this March. It is a light-hearted work, at any rate in the first and third movements, and is scored for a Mozartian orchestra, with the addition of harp and celesta. There are no problems for the listener - only for the soloist!"

We welcome Andrew Joyce, Principal Cellist in the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, to perform this magical work with the MSO.

INTERVAL

Scholarships to be Presented: Phil & Helen Greenbank Scholarship: Stringed Instrument Company Scholarship:

Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)

Beethoven's *Meeresstille* und *Glückliche Fahrt*, Op. 112 ("Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage") is a cantata for chorus and orchestra based on a pair of poems by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and is dedicated to him. It was first performed in Vienna in December of 1815, and first published in 1822. The work is in a single movement in two sections: (1) *Meeresstille* – Sostenuto – D major; and (2) *Glückliche Fahrt* – Allegro vivace – D major.



The cantata evokes the imagery of the pair of poems which later inspired the concert overture of the same name by Mendelssohn. In the days before steam, a totally calm sea was cause for alarm; it is only when the wind at last rises that the ship can continue on its journey. The first section depicts a ship becalmed, the second its success in resuming its voyage.

Meeresstille

Tiefe Stille herrscht im Wasser,
Ohne Regung ruht das Meer,
Und bekümmert sieht der Schiffer
Glatte Fläche ringsumher.
Keine Luft von keiner Seite!
Todesstille fürchterlich!
In der ungeheuern Weite
Reget keine Welle sich.

Calm Sea

Deep stillness rules the water Without motion lies the sea, And sadly the sailor observes Smooth surfaces all around.

No air from any side!

Deathly, terrible stillness!
In the immense distances not a single wave stirs.

Glückliche Fahrt

Die Nebel zerreißen,
Der Himmel ist helle,
Und Äolus löset
Das ängstliche Band.
Es säuseln die Winde,
Es rührt sich der Schiffer.
Geschwinde! Geschwinde!
Es teilt sich die Welle,
Es naht sich die Ferne;
Schon seh ich das Land!

Prosperous Journey

The fog is torn,
The sky is bright,
And Aeolus releases
The fearful bindings.
The winds whisper,
The sailor begins to move.
Swiftly! Swiftly!
The waves divide,
The distance nears;
Already, I see land!

Shicksalslied – Song of Destiny Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

Brahms began *Schicksalslied* (Song of Destiny), Op. 54, in the summer of 1868 at Wilhelmshaven, but it was not completed until May 1871. It is an orchestrally accompanied choral setting of a poem written by Friedrich Hölderlin and is one of Brahms' several major choral works.



Schicksalslied is considered to be one of Brahms's best choral works. Josef Sittard argues in his book on Brahms, "Had Brahms never written anything but this one work, it would alone have sufficed to rank him with the best masters." It is one of the shortest of Brahms's major choral works.

Of Land and Sea Chris Artley (NZ) Poems by Robina Adamson (NZ)

Commissioned by the Manukau Symphony Orchestra with assistance from Creative New Zealand

The Mangawhai Headland (By Robina Adamson)

In the mist from the sea he stands up on the clifftop.
A grandfather whispering and calling
into the elements for a child lost.
The trees that cling to the rocks
are now crimson adorned.
And the wind and sea is wild.
It roars and foams and swells
gnawing at rocks and roots.

But these still hold fast – They have the power.

From then to here.

Now that mist has gone the sky is clear and blue as the quiet sea.

Sunlight glints on tiny waves and heats the land.

Whales from the north come to sing and play.

The trees still stand in their beauty formidable, enduring and noble their roots like claws well attached to rock and crevice.

They will endure.

Mother Earth Goddess (By Robina Adamson)

Mother Earth Goddess,
Sacred Vessel from whom life flows.
Help us your rainbow children
to listen and venerate you.
Help us to understand
that if we have no Goddess Mother to sustain us,
we will surely perish.
Then there will be no future for us, auē.
Oh rainbow children, listen to the cries
of our Sacred Mother!

The poisons of man are deep within her soils.

They enter our bones and blood,
indeed to the very hearts of man!

Dearest Mother Goddess – Papatūānuku
Let us your rainbow children,
learn ways not to harm you.
Let us always love and cherish you,
for you are – the Sacred Vessel,
From whom all new life flows.

Papatūānuku (Traditional Māori text)

Whatungarongaro te tangata toitū te whenua
Ko Ranginui e tū nei, ko
Papatūānuku e tākoto nei,
nōreira, tēnā kōrua
Tēnei ahau e mihi ana ki o kōrua
mana

As man disappears from sight,
the
land remains
Greetings to Ranginui (the Sky
Father) and
Papatūānuku (the Earth Mother)
I acknowledge you both and your
wisdom

Chris Artley writes:

My starting point for writing any choral work is to find inspiring text to set it io. Given that the other works in this programme are all about the sea and the land, I started by looking for New Zealand poetry on this theme. Indeed, I did not have far to go, as one of my first ports of call was the poems of Robina Adamson, with whom I have worked before and who happens to be a neighbour of mine in Mangere Bridge! The moment I read her poems, 'Mangawhai Headland' and 'Mother Earth Goddess', I was taken with the wonderfully evocative text and descriptions of the sea and the land in the Greater Auckland area. I also thought that a Māori text would be really good to include too and after consultation with Māori teachers at King's College, where I work, I chose to set words about Papatūānuku and Ko Ranginui.

The words are the driving force for this composition, which is for the most part through-composed, i.e. the structure is driven by the direction taken by the text. For example, the opening movement, The 'Mangawhai Headland' opens with the lines, 'In the mist from the sea, he stands upon the clifftop, a grandfather whispering and calling into the elements for a child lost'. In order to conjure up the image of the mist and the figure of the grandfather, the piece opens with a barely audible and widely spaced bare 5th chord, played by strings using harmonics. This provides an evocative, mystical backdrop against which wind instruments take turns to play short melodic figures, before the soprano soloist enters, singing the above text in a quiet and contemplative fashion. Robina's text then moves towards stormier weather and on cue the

music changes tack and a suitably stormy musical scene follows, led by the full chorus singing, 'The Wind and Sea is Wild!', complete with frenzied orchestral accompaniment, featuring all the bells and whistles that I could muster!

I have previously written a number of works for choir and orchestra, including Missa Brevis Akarana (2018) and several awardwinning Christmas carols. 'Of Land and Sea' is my first work for choir and orchestra that is secular in nature and it is the first, which also features a vocal soloist. Having such a wide range of instrumental and vocal forces available is both liberating and slightly daunting. The scoring possibilities are endless and yet it is also very exciting to have such a wide range of musical timbres and colours at your disposal. In addition to standing playing techniques, I have used harmonics on strings, flutter tonguing on flute and overtone singing by basses and tenors to provide additional colour.

This is my first through-composed work for such large forces. It allows for musical storytelling on a grand scale, particularly in terms of the wide range of moods and colours and twists and turns in the music's direction. To sum up in one sentence: 'Of Land and Sea' could be described as very colourful and varied musical storytelling, of three poems about the land and sea.

Uwe Grodd | Conductor

Uwe Grodd, New Zealand based German conductor and flutist, has performed and recorded internationally for over 25 years.

A graduate of Mainz University, Germany, Uwe studied with teachers of international repute and attributes his major musical growth to the guidance of two of Europe's finest musicians: Robert Aitken and Maestro Sergiu Celibidache.



In addition to many concerts and recordings over the years, Uwe was appointed Music Director of the Manukau Symphony Orchestra in 1993 and in 2008 was invited to take up the position as Music Director of Auckland Choral Society.

For Uwe, conducting, a solo career, chamber music, teaching and music editing are complementary disciplines. Every aspect of music-making, each musical engagement, every activity makes a vital contribution to the development of the whole musician; and to the fascinating complexity of musical interpretation, that magical process of discovery that is a distillation of rigour and imaginative intuition. As Uwe remarks: 'And during the 18th century one would also have composed, and even made one's own instruments!

Andrew Joyce | Cello

Before joining the NZSO in September 2010, Andrew spent five years freelancing in London, during which time he worked regularly with the London Symphony and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, touring and performing in the world's great concert halls. He also played as Guest Principal with Northern Sinfonia, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.



A dedicated chamber musician, Andrew co-founded the Puertas Quartet who have performed in both the UK and New Zealand to great critical acclaim, and recorded two CDs for Atoll Records. He performs regularly in a trio with pianist Diedre Irons and NZSO Concertmaster, Vesa-Matti Leppanen.

Born in Norwich, England, at 11 he went to London to pursue his musical studies at the Purcell School of Music where his teachers were Amanda Truelove and Michal Kaznowski. He continued his studies at the Royal College of Music with Alexander Boyarsky and the Musikhochschule Lübeck with Troels Svane, as a holder of the coveted DAAD Scholarship. He has performed in masterclasses with the late Bernard Greenhouse, Alexander Baillie, David Geringas, Alexander Rudin, Natalia Gutman, Karine Georgian, Leonid Gorokhov, the Takacs Quartet and the Kopelman Quartet. Violinist, and Artistic Director of the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, Gordan Nikolitch, also played a very important role in his artistic development and continues to be a source of inspiration.

He plays a beautiful old English cello by Thomas Dodd, c.1800, kindly loaned to him by Old and New Strings Ltd.

Gina Sanders | Soprano

Gina has a very busy, multifaceted career as one of New Zealand's established soprano soloists, an examiner at all levels in New Zealand and internationally, and an advanced teacher and choral conductor. She completed seven degrees and diplomas in piano, voice, theory, musicology, pedagogy and languages at Auckland and Queensland Universities



and Trinity College London, and then became the first New Zealand musician to be awarded a Rotary International Graduate Scholarship, enabling her to undertake post-graduate studies in Stuttgart, Germany. Since her years of study overseas she has completed many international concert tours with engagements throughout the UK, Europe, Asia and the Pacific, covering over twenty-five cities and also fulfilling invitations to present her courses: The Developing Singer, The Developing Teacher and The Developing Musician in several different languages.

She has appeared as a soloist with every major choral society, orches-

tra and opera company in NZ and is a NZ Concert FM artist, with over sixty opera and oratorio roles in her repertoire.

Supporting her passion for education, she has, in her 26 years of membership with NEWZATS, served six as the Editor of the NEWZATS journal and twelve on the Council. She is an active member of IRMT (NZ), having co-convened the Southern Auckland Performers' Group for the past seven years. She has a particular interest in harnessing the natural qualities of individual voices and the expressive idioms and characteristics of various languages employed by singers.

Now a Teaching Fellow at Waikato University, she continues her examining role for Auckland University and the New Zealand Music Examination Board while holding the position as Director of Chapel Music at King's College. Gina is the Patron of the South Auckland Performing Arts Competition Society and was recently awarded a Local Heroes Medal at the Kiwibank New Zealander of the year in Auckland for her services to the arts and community.

Chris Artley

Chris Artley is one of New Zealand's leading writers of choral music. He is a multi award-winning composer, with competition successes in Canada, USA, Japan, Czech Republic, Germany, England, Spain and New Zealand. His works have been performed worldwide by ensembles including: The Copenhagen Royal Chapel Choir, The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra, The Auckland Philharmonia Orches-



tra, The Auckland Symphony Orchestra, The Amadeus Choir of Toronto, The Lutheran Youth Choir of North America, The Metropolitan Chorus of Tokyo, The National University of Singapore Choir, Age of Discovery, Auckland, The Graduate Choir NZ, Voices New Zealand, New Zealand Youth Choir and New Zealand Secondary Students Choir.

Originally from England, Chris studied Music at University of Bristol (1981-84) with composer Derek Bourgeois. He has spent thirty years teaching music in schools in the United Kingdom and New Zealand, where he is now resident and teaches at King's College, Auckland.



Manukau Symphony Orchestra

Founded in 1993, the Manukau Symphony Orchestra (MSO) has served the region of South Auckland and beyond for over 27 years. A leading community orchestra, the MSO aims to achieve a balance of professional, community and youth players, and is known for its 'very special spirit'. What started as music workshops is now an established community orchestra made



up of around 80 players aged between 14 and 85. The Manukau Symphony Orchestra gives up to five concerts each year featuring local and international musicians and artists under the leadership of founding Music Director, Uwe Grodd.



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Auckland Choral

Established in 1855, Auckland Choral is a 140-strong mixed choir producing a spine-chillingly beautiful sound that conveys the essence of the world's greatest symphonic choral works. As New Zealand's oldest arts organisation, Auckland Choral aims to perform regularly with the city's great orchestras in the city's venues, invite world-class soloists and conductors to our shores, commission grand new works, and nurture the practice and performance of choral music in our community for future generations to enjoy.

Patron: Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand.

Soprano 1

Kate Blazey
Kate Burson
Lorraine Casey
Colleen Elliott
Yoshie Freeman
Debbie Hardy
Patricia Henley
Julie Jang
Anna Kofoed
Alison Lewis-Wood
Liz Manning
Minnie Noh
Shelley Robertson

Soprano 2 Karen Dombroski Jane Gee

Jane Gee Jillian Grainger Theresa Grose Linda Holdaway Doris Jung Traude Leibbrand Sharron Meadows Isabel Morris Carmen Stomberg Jennifer Weller Ann Whitehouse

Alto 1 Sandy Bulmer

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Alto 2

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Diane de St Quentiin
Laura Duntsch
Judy Morley-Hall
Pamela Nicholls
Juliana Nijmeijer
Shakira Quinn
Jerika Teare
Morag White

Tenor 1

Neil Hawkes TimStevenson George Wang

Tenor 2

Allan Bell
Dan Chen
Nigel High
Albert Wilson
Neil Wright
Tom Zhang

Bass 1

Andrew Bolton Ian Boswell Andrew Campbell Ben Coop Richard Milne Pedro Silva John Stevenson Neil Stevenson

Bass 2

Ross Blair Keith Guyan David Hamilton Joe Hancock Pat Henley Garnet Tregonning



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MANUKAU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SEASON 2021























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