

TOKOWHĀ



Chamber Music New Zealand tour 2022
Friday 8 April 7.30pm

Presented by



music whakatane



in association with



PROGRAMME

Giacomo PUCCINI | “Questo Mat Rosso... Legna! Sigari! Bordo!” –
scenes from *La bohème* Act 1

PUCCINI | “Questo amor, vergogna mia” from *Edgar*

PUCCINI | “Che gelida manina” from *La bohème*

PUCCINI | *Sogno d’or*

Pere WIHONGI | *Te Ata Mahina*

Jamoa JAM | *Moe I Le Po Masina*

Te Rangi PAI | *Hine E Hine*

Pese: *Lo Ta Nu’u*

Hirini MELBOURNE | *Te Iwi E*

—INTERVAL—

PUCCINI | “Coro a bocca chiusa” from *Madame Butterfly* (“Humming Chorus”)

Kuini REEDY | *Homai To Poho*

Gaetano DONIZETTI | “Bella siccome un angelo” from *Don Pasquale*

William S. GILBERT and Arthur SULLIVAN | “Oh Is there Not One Maiden Breast” from *The Pirates of Penzance*

GILBERT and SULLIVAN | “I Am a Pirate King” from *The Pirates of Penzance*

Alan Jay LERNER and Frederick LOEWE | “On the Street Where You Live” from *My Fair Lady*

Oscar HAMMERSTEIN and Jerome KERN | “Ol’ Man River” from *Showboat*

Rob RUHA | *I Te Pō*

Pasifika Medley, arr. **TOKOWHĀ:**

Jean GALIBOU | *Fakateretere*

Eni F. H. FALEOMAVEGA | *Manu O Le Vaveao*

George VEIKOSO | *Isa Lei Lia*

Sione TATU | *Efiafi Peau Ongoi Vale*

Cesare Andrea BIXIO | *Parlami d’amore Mariù*

“Music making is the most joyful activity possible, the most perfect expression of any emotion...” – Luciano Pavarotti

Dear listener,

Our concert series represents our growth and the happiness we have felt as singers growing up in a community that supports us.

From the communities we grew up in we moved on to study Classical Singing at Te Kōkī – New Zealand School of Music. In the beginning of 2020, the institution made the mistake of grouping us all together in a performance of Puccini's *La bohème*, Act I Scene I. Instantly, something clicked and a fire was lit, constantly stoked by our love of singing together.

Since then, we have garnered so much through our experiences as singers. We have performed from a balcony in Te Papa, in the bowels of the Hikitia with Chamber Music New Zealand, on the fabulous stage of the Fringe Festival Awards, and now this tour is taking us around the country.

We display our love for music with a programme which ranges from grand Puccini arias to the fun of Gilbert and Sullivan. Each song represents a key moment in our journey whether it be LJ nailing the High C of "Che Gelida Manina" or Morgan constantly being asked to serenade smiling women with "Ol' Man River". We are so excited to be presenting arias, duets and even full scenes of amazing opera to you.

We have also cultivated a selection of Waiata and Pese to honour our roots and the communities that we grew up in. It is an honour to be able to present our cultures to you on a stage where we can truly be ourselves. Each piece we have arranged ourselves for the quartet and we have felt a strong connection to the music and each other with singing it.

We are also excited to be working with our dear friend and amazing pianist, Alex Jefferies. Alex was thrown into the fire pit with us in May, accompanying us in the Pōneke Classical Sessions. Since then, he has been elevating our music and his unique and infectious presence has slotted into the fun. We are so grateful for Alex's constant support and amazing musicality. Being young gives us the disadvantage of having to wait if we have truly hit our highest, happiest moment or wondering if it will pass without us even realising it. One thing we all have collectively decided however, is that we feel our happiest when we are making music. The programme for this concert is based around our growth and the happiness we feel when singing. We invite you to sit back, listen and eventually say "Oh I heard when **insert more famous opera singer here** sung this decades ago, good on you boys for giving it a go".

We want everybody to have fun with this programme, just as we will on stage. What matters most to us is that we have a good time together, enjoying music together.

Thank you for coming,
LJ Crichton, Matt Barris, Tomairangi Henare and Morgan King

LILA JUNIOR “LJ” CRICHTON (tenor) is a NZ-born Samoan Tenor who was introduced to singing at home and in the church at a young age. With Festival Opera and Project Prima Volta, LJ has performed many roles including Le Dancaire in Bizet’s *Carmen*, The Sorcerer in Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, Goro in Puccini’s *Madame Butterfly* and Beppe in *Pagliacci*. LJ is a very proud recipient of the NZSM Directors Award, The Kapiti Chorale Vocal Scholarship and most notably, the Deane Endowment Trust – Special Jonathan Lemalu Scholarship which has enabled him to work with the NZSO, Virtuoso Strings Orchestra and on an artist residency with Festival Opera NZ.

MATT BARRIS (baritone/tenor) found his passion for singing through choirs, school productions and especially barbershop groups. In 2016 he joined Vocal FX, placing top 10 in the Barbershop Harmony Society International Chorus Competition in Orlando, Florida in 2018, then becoming Assistant Musical Director in 2019. He sings in and is involved in the operation of several other Wellington-based vocal groups. This year, Matt began his teaching career as Head of Music at Kuranui College.

TOMAIRANGI HENARE (baritone) held a passion for music throughout his childhood by participating in kapa haka, choirs and musical theatre before eventually joining Hawke’s Bay singing initiative Project Prima Volta. There, he was introduced to the classical repertoire and performed various roles including Polyphemus in Handel’s *Acis and Galatea*, Figaro in Mozart’s *Marriage of Figaro* and a large-scale opera debut as the Marchesi in Festival Opera’s production of Verdi’s *La traviata* (2019). Tomairangi is studying a double major in Classical Performing and Composition at Te Kōkī NZSM.

MORGAN ANDREW KING (bass) is a young bass-baritone from Waikato. He is currently undertaking his fourth year in a Conjoint Degree of Biomedical Science and Music at Victoria University of Wellington. In 2018 Morgan was the bass soloist for the Cantoris Choir in Rossini’s *Petite messe solennelle*, and toured as a member of the New Zealand Secondary Students Choir in Hong Kong and Shanghai. In 2019 he performed Faure’s *Requiem* and NZSM’s Puccini double bill, *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*, playing the role of Betto di Signa. He finished 2019 performing with the NZSO at Te Papa, started 2020 in a masterclass with Jonathan Lemalu, and since then the bulk of his performing has been with Tokowhā.

ALEX JEFFERIES (piano accompanist) is a performance student at Te Kōkī NZSM, studying a Bachelor of Music under the tutelage of Jian Liu and David Barnard. He enjoys performing solo repertoire and is a keen accompanist and chamber musician. He has been working regularly with Tokowhā since mid-2021, and in late 2021 co-founded Asilence Duo, a four-hands piano duo with fellow pianist Shangrong Feng.

Acknowledgements

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Find out more at:

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