

THE FEATHERSTON CAMP SCULPTURE TRUST
PRESENTS

AN AFTERNOON WITH PIANIST

MICHAEL HOUSTOUN

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

JOHANNES BRAHMS

FRANCIS POULENC

GABRIEL FAURÉ

SUNDAY JUNE 26

ANZAC HALL

FEATHERSTON



Programme Notes

Six Preludes and Fugues from Book 2 of The Well-Tempered Klavier, by J S Bach

Can there be a better pairing in music than a prelude and fugue? Johann Sebastian Bach gave us 48 of them, in two books of 24 each – all told, two preludes and fugues in all the major and minor keys. And if they are all to sound harmonious they have to be played on a 'well-tempered' instrument, its tuning the very definition of compromise.

Apart from anything else (and there's a lot else) this music is a wonderful test of a pianist's intuition. In all of Book 2 there are only three tempo indications, and even fewer dynamic markings! To discern the mood of a fugue is not always easy, likewise to find the most telling connection between prelude and fugue.

But the lack of textual assistance is in fact a door to freedom. Here is music to be played spontaneously, reinvented afresh with every iteration.

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| D major | Prelude: the opening fanfare sets the tone Fugue: 4 voices, extremely concentrated yet done with the greatest ease |
| D minor | Prelude: a Toccata Fugue: 3 voices, a turbulent, dramatic theme in two distinct halves |
| E major | Prelude: an angelic duet Fugue: 4 voices, warm and stately |
| E minor | Prelude: a two-part Invention, unsettled Fugue: 3 voices, swinging, swaggering |
| F minor | Prelude: haunting simplicity Fugue: 3 voices, like a character dance |
| A flat major | Prelude: duet, incorporating phrases for wind choir Fugue: 4 voices, utter perfection |

Interval

Three Intermezzi, Op.117, by Johannes Brahms

Here is music that looks inwards, the musings of a creative genius who has the end of his composing life in sight. We can feel in every bar Brahms's solitude, his refined imagination, and his beautiful, warm, melancholic heart. He has added a few lines from an old Scottish lullaby at the top of the first Intermezzo.

1. In E flat, Andante moderato
2. In B flat minor, Andante non troppo
3. In C sharp minor, Andante con moto

Three Novelettes, by Francis Poulenc

Three gems drawing on Poulenc's favourite inspirations, Mozart and the Moulin Rouge. There is also an affecting homage to Manuel de Falla in the theme of the third Novelette.

1. In C, Modéré sans lenteur
2. In B flat minor, Très rapide et rythmé
3. In E minor, Andantino tranquillo

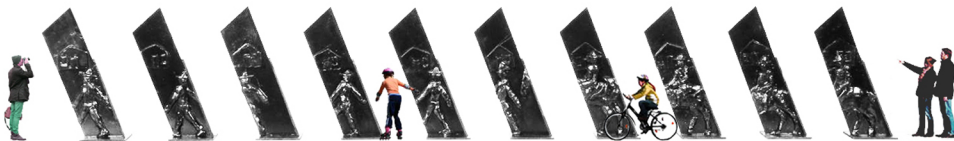
Nocturne and Valse-Caprice, by Gabriel Fauré

Nocturne in E flat minor, Op.33 No.1

Fauré is absolute master of the gorgeous melody, beautiful slip-sliding harmony, and structural balance. It is surprising that music so satisfying on all these levels is so seldom programmed.

Valse-Caprice in A, Op.30

We can add to his virtues a delicate, fast-flowing grace, perfect pianism, and not a little virtuosity.



FEATHERSTON CAMP SCULPTURE

'There is no other place with such a unique history and connection to the New Zealand soldiers of World War 1 and a small, typical rural town that supported and connected with a very large intrusion in its pastoral life. It signifies in a very particular way the impact of war separate from its confrontational and aggressive actions but silently and quietly insinuated into the day to day lives of people and with an ongoing connection. No other memorial can manifest this connection.'

- excerpt from a recent report funded by a WW100 Lottery Grant.

The Featherston Camp Sculpture Charitable Trust was formed in 2014 to commission and install a sculpture by renowned sculptor Paul Dibble in Featherston's proposed Town square.

The sculpture will mark the national significance of Featherston Military Training Camp, which played an integral part in the history of Featherston and its surrounding areas. Such an important historical influence deserves to be commemorated and we are delighted to have Paul and Fran Dibble involved in such a nationally significant project. We chose Paul as our preferred artist because of his involvement in the Hyde Park London sculpture "Southern Stand" and the significance and integrity of his work in this field.

For more information about the project, sculpture, camp history or details on how you might be able to help visit our website, featherstoncampsculpture.org.



For more information about Michael and links to his recordings, visit the website michaelhoustoun.co.nz.

Photo by Dean Zillwood, www.zillwood.co.nz

The Trust would like to extend the warmest of thank yous to Michael for his generosity in supporting our town's endeavours.