



Presents

Sweet Sorrow – Music inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*

On 30 November **Resonance Ensemble conducted by Tony Ryan** will present a concert of musical works inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Many composers have found inspiration in this timeless love story and its tragic consequences.

Tchaikovsky's Fantasy Overture *Romeo and Juliet* is possibly the best-known musical masterpiece derived from Shakespeare's great tragedy. With its dramatic fight music and heart-melting love theme, the overture's colourful orchestration and lyrical melodic richness make it one of Tchaikovsky's best-loved orchestral works and an obvious first choice for this programme.

Described by many as the greatest ballet score ever written, Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* is one of the composer's most powerful and moving compositions. The suites that Prokofiev extracted from the score make superb concert pieces and the seven movements of *Suite No. 2* in this concert contain some of Prokofiev's most original and inventive music.

West Side Story remains one of Broadway's most successful shows. Its modern take on *Romeo and Juliet* demonstrates Shakespeare's universal relevance across generations and centuries. Resonance Ensemble will include an orchestral selection of four favourite extracts from Bernstein's masterly score, which later had a profound influence on the youthful energy of the street fight scenes in Zeffereilli's famous 1968 film of Shakespeare's play. Resonance Ensemble's programme includes Nino Rota's poignant love theme *A Time for Us*, from the movie, which became a popular hit at the time.

Perhaps every love story brings Shakespeare's ill-fated lovers to mind. Also included in this concert, Christchurch composer Pieta Hextall's *Wedding Mixtape* was written at the time of her brother's wedding to celebrate a real-life love story. Saxophonist **Lana Law** brings her virtuoso skills as soloist to this piece.

Charles Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet* is the most well-known and inspired of several operas derived from *Romeo and Juliet*. From Gounod's masterpiece, soprano **Emily-Jane Stockman** joins Resonance Ensemble to sing *Je Veux Vivre* where Juliet tells her parents that she doesn't want to listen to their plans for her to marry – she wants to live and be free.

Timeless and soul-stirring themes of love and humanity bring Resonance Ensemble's 2025 Season to a close with music that will melt your heart – what better way to end the musical year?

When: 3pm, Sunday 30 November

Venue: The Piano (156 Armagh Street, Christchurch)

See more information at <https://www.resonance.net.nz/>