

Resonance Ensemble presents

The French Connection

Resonance Ensemble from Christchurch will present a programme of diverse and enticing orchestral masterpieces in its final concert of 2018 at 1.00pm on Sunday 25 November, at The Gaiety in Akaroa.

Because of Akaroa's special history, everything in this concert has a connection to the land of berets, baguettes, romance and croissants. Bizet's youthful and effervescent *Symphony in C* and Fauré's exquisite and popular *Pavane* are, of course, French to the core. But other works on the programme also have strong French connections, from Vaughan Williams' wistful and nostalgic *The Lark Ascending* completed after his wartime experience in France, to Manuel de Falla's *The Three-Cornered Hat*, written for Diaghilev's Paris-based Russian Ballet, and Sarasate's spectacular *Zigeunerweisen* (Gypsy Airs), another Spanish composer, although he lived for most of his life in France.

Conductor **Tony Ryan** has chosen music that will appeal to everyone, beginning with Suppé's sparkling *Light Cavalry Overture*. All of these pieces reflect corners of the repertoire that are less practical for traditional orchestras and which Resonance Ensemble has delighted in bringing to life – they are sure the audience will enjoy them just as much as the orchestra has enjoyed rehearsing them.

Well-known to Christchurch audiences from his work with professional organisations, but also particularly for his work with the Linwood College Orchestra and The Christchurch School of Music (CSM), Tony Ryan has now re-settled back in Christchurch after some years abroad and is hugely enjoying music-making of the highest level with this outstanding ensemble, now in its seventh year.

A noteworthy feature of the concert will be two works featuring violin soloist **Cathy Irons**, including New Zealand's favourite classical musical work (according to RNZ's annual ranking based on listeners' votes), *The Lark Ascending* by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Cathy played in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Philharmonic Orchestra in South Africa before emigrating to Christchurch in 1997. She is currently a first violinist with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, and also performs regularly with the Tres Cordes String Trio and the Classical Jazz Quartet. She has broadcast on South African Radio and TV, Radio NZ Concert, Plains FM and CTV, and regularly performs recitals and chamber music concerts throughout NZ.

The French Connection is Resonance Ensemble's first venture out of Christchurch city where this impressive orchestra has established a growing and very enthusiastic following.

This an ideal opportunity to make a day of it for those who live in Christchurch and unmissable for visitors and residents of Akaroa. For this special concert the audience is warmly invited to join the players for *le goûter* (afternoon snacks) after the concert.

Tickets (cash only) will be available at the door – \$20.00 (Concessions – \$15.00; Child – \$10.00)

Resonance Ensemble presents *The French Connection*

1 pm, Sunday 25 November, The Gaiety, Akaroa

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