New Zealand Doctors' orchestra not to be missed

The New Zealand Doctors' Orchestra will be returning to New Plymouth, performing on Sunday 23 July 2.00pm, at the Theatre Royal, TSB Showplace.

All proceeds from the ticket sales will be going to Hospice Taranaki – a very worthwhile cause.

The orchestra has over 70 players and is made up of doctors and medical students from around New Zealand, including one New Plymouth doctor and three medical students who are from New Plymouth and/or currently working in New Plymouth.

The Opunake & Coastal News profile four of the performers in the New Zealand Doctors' Orchestra who have a connection to Taranaki.

Raimond Jacquemard

Dr Raimond Jacquemard, a pediatrician who plays trumpet in the Doctors Orchestra retired last year after working at Taranaki Base Hospital for 20 years and is now doing private work in developmental pediatrics.

Originally from Holland, he trained in Belgium and, after practising in Holland, Belgium and South Africa, 20 years ago settled in New Zealand with his wife who works as a General Practitioner and three children. His son is a percussionist in the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra. He also plays cornet locally in brass bands, and is in the Taranaki Symphony Orchestra and the Ritz Big Band.

He started playing trumpet "in my 40s" and says "I've always liked classical music."

His favourite composer is Shostakovich - which is part of the Doctors orchestra's programme - and describes his music as "quite dramatic but beautiful also. It's got a lot of emotion in it."

Though the Russian composer visited the west, all his music was composed entirely in Russia. Raimond comments: "In the Soviet Union, the state dictated how



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Commented Lynette Murdoch, organiser for the New Zealand Doctor's orchestra, they were "delighted" to be returning to New Plymouth and invites everyone to come along.

It should be a full programme and a great afternoon's entertainment. So keep Sunday afternoon

on July 23 free. Tickets are \$25, or \$10 for under 18 years (service fees apply) and can be bought at: • TSB Showplace Box Office Online at: www.premier.ticketek.co.nzPhone: 0800 TICKET

(842 538)Preconcert door sales will

be available



Dr Raimond Jacquemard.

composers should write their music. In Shostakovich's case we are unsure what his music means in relation to



ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO HOSPICE TARANAKI

Ritchie Procession Canteloube Bailero from Songs of the Auvergne Shostakovich Symphony no.5 Soprano FRANCES CAMPBELL Conductor MARK HODGKINSON

NZDO New Zealand Doctors Orchest Tickets from TSB Showplace Box Office, online at www.premier.ticketek.co.nz, or phone 0800 TICKET (842 538). Pre-concert door sales available



SUNDAY 23 JULY, 2.00PM

TICKETS \$25 | UNDER 18 \$10

THEATRE ROYAL

TSB SHOWPLACE

NEW PLYMOUTH

Service fees apply

the Soviet system." He adds it's fascinating music and advises "Just listen to it and enjoy it."

He adds "It's quite complex music" he says and "ambitious" but says "this orchestra will play it well."

The Doctor's orchestra is comprised of doctors or doctors in training from all over New Zealand.

The individual musicians are each given their parts two months beforehand and

Daniel Chow

Daniel is currently a final year medical student on placement at Taranaki Base Hospital. Before attending university in Auckland, he grew up in New Plymouth and attended Francis Douglas. He says "Returning to the regions this year, it is great to be home and fantastic that the NZDO is performing locally!"

It is his first time playing with the NZDO, and in their upcoming concert will be playing the 2nd trombone part in the orchestra.

"Prior to picking up the trombone, I started playing the euphonium with the local brass band. I have always loved the full, bold sound that the brass family of instruments offers. Playing the trombone gives me the ability to be part of orchestras and many other ensembles which speaks to the versatility of the instrument," he says.

"The upcoming NZDO

practice their parts. They then all meet for 3-4 days where the music is to be performed to collectively rehearse.

"It's quite intense," admits Raimond. He adds though it's an effective system and the performance is "of a good standard."

The orchestra performs only once each year and this year New Plymouth is the venue. They rotate through a few cities across the country in the bigger provincial areas.

They last performed in New Plymouth in New Plymouth in around 2014, 2015.

Some may be surprised that doctors can also be accomplished musicians. Raimond adds, "The medical profession is high pressure – that's why its good for your own well being to do something totally different such as the arts. "It's a healthy concept."



concert has a fantastic programme with all proceeds towards Hospice Taranaki, a very worthwhile cause. Hope to see you there!"

Fascinating programme "Just listen to it and enjoy it."

Tom Winter

Tom Winter is in his sixth and final year studying medicine.

He plays in the second violins in the Doctors' Orchestra.

From Christchurch where he grew up, he started playing the violin aged just five. Though very young he enjoyed it "and stuck with it", he said adding "It's quite a challenging instrument if you're out of tune," though "It's a great instrument."

At Burnside High School where he did his secondary schooling and which he said had a good musical focus he also learnt the viola, saxophone and singing. He previously played violin in the Christchurch Youth Orchestra.

"I love classical music," Tom says and comments when you play an instrument it gives you an education in the artistry of playing. He also though likes popular music and electronic music.

This is the first time he's played in the Doctors' Orchestra and he says he's been able to fit in time to practice and says students are not as busy as the doctors. Of his favourite composers he says "It's hard to look past Bach" who he describes as "a musical genius."

Tom initially went to Auckland to do an undergraduate degree in anthropology, linguistics and biology though "there was always the thought" of doing medicine. On finishing his degree he gained entry into the second year of medical school at Auckland.

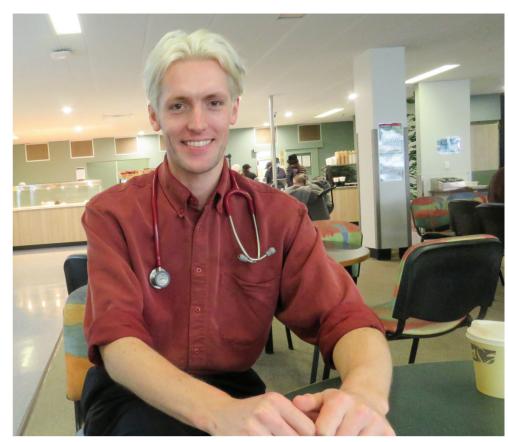
He was attracted to medicine because he says "It's hands on and that you interact with people every day. There are problems you have to solve." He mentioned psychiatry as a future area of interest.

"It's been a good challenging programme," Tom says "and difficult with COVID" which meant they had time away from campus and hospital. In fact they did their third year entirely online. In their fourth year they begin visiting hospitals. He elected to come to New Plymouth for his sixth year after being in Auckland.

"It's been great being in New Plymouth," he says. "I wanted to be in a smaller centre and have regional experience rather than being in a big hospital," he says which is more anonymous.

"It's nice, people know each other, are friendly."

He's also an enthusiastic tramper and has been up the mountain.



Tom Winter

Jacob Bond

Former New Plymouth Boys High School pupil Jacob Bond plays the cello in the Doctors' Orchestra. He is a fifth year medical student at Otago University.

He has been playing the cello for about 11 years though also plays other instruments and comments: "I started on the violin and

from there taught myself the cello as well as the double bass and viola, as well as some other instruments like the bassoon, oboe, trombone and mandolin."

Jacob describes the cello as "a profoundly expressive and sonorous instrument with a huge palette of resonant tonalities, emotions and colours that the player can utilise." He also feels that the instrument possesses a tone that is most similar to the human voice. "It sings in such a pleasant manner that almost all listeners are quite captivated by the sound it produces; I haven't noticed this effect in many other instruments." The cello also has a comparatively wide range, that is it plays low bass notes, middle baritone/ tenor notes and high soprano notes all equally well, he says. " I suppose it's the cello's great versatility and expressive capacity that attracted me to the instrument in addition to the top-notch music that's been composed for it (e.g. Bach's cello suites or Dvořák's cello concerto) and the fact that it's relatively comfortable to

play." He particularly enjoys the camaraderie of playing in an orchestra which he says "is really wholesome and being able to make



Jacob Bond

music as a group with other health professionals/medical students who play to such a high standard makes this concert extra special." Also seeing how these busy doctors take time out for this orchestra weekend highlights for us students the importance of fostering interests outside of medicine, says Jacob. "The NZDO is a great way to meet doctors with a passion for classical music as well as being a time for discussion and mentoring on medical topics for us junior players. This orchestra also brings together students from the Otago and Auckland medical schools so it's a good opportunity

for us to network with future colleagues."

He chose to study medicine because he says "I have always been deeply fascinated by anatomy, science, languages and facts and I derive great satisfaction from caring for people, so medicine dovetailed nicely with my interests and aptitudes. Medicine is also quite a rigorous, intensive and academic field which for me is a very gratifying and fulfilling sphere to operate in. I am extremely interested in surgery as a speciality and am considering ENT/ head and neck surgery at the moment."



The New Zealand Doctors' Orchestra performing.

