

# Doctors practise healing arts

“Music increases healing by 80 per cent,” a quote on my desk says. If I didn’t believe the connection already, the exquisite grandeur of this performance would have convinced me.

Healing is the day job for these 70-plus musicians: medical practitioners and students from around New Zealand, who gave Nelson the privilege of hosting their second national performance following last year’s sell-out success. Proceeds from this sold-out event benefit Nelson Tasman Hospice.

That many of the doctors also have impressive musical CVs is unsurprising given their disciplined, consummate execution as individuals and a unit. They came from Northland, Dunedin and points between, at their own ex-

## REVIEW

### **New Zealand Doctors’ Orchestra**

Conducted by Mark Hodgkinson, Nelson School of Music, yesterday.

Reviewed by Judith Paviell.

pense, hampered by stormy weather. You’d never guess they’d only rehearsed together since Friday, for which much credit goes to conductor Mark Hodgkinson.

The programme produced a feast of big sounds, the kettle drums, cymbals, big brass and woodwind given full rein, all sections seizing with gusto their place to shine.

*The Fanfare of King Arthur: Suite for Orchestra*, by Benjamin Brit-

ten and Paul Hindmarsh heralded this rich, full sound, which made sweeter the contrast of delicate whispering among multiple violins in the final movement.

Violin soloist David Choi then stunned with a virtuoso performance of the first movement of Sibelius’ *Violin Concerto in D minor, Opus 47*.

Saint-Saen’s *Symphony No 3 (with Organ)*, provided a hugely satisfying and exciting finale, the melodic theme allowing each instrument its moment, from triangle to tuba, pipe organ, piano and lyrical strings, before sweeping to a majestic crescendo.

One patron said he’d heard various recordings of the piece over many years “but never as fine as this”. A tonic indeed.