

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 orchestra will perform New Zealand composer Anthony Ritchie's Procession, Joseph Canteloube's exquisite Bailer from Songs of the Auvergne, with soprano Frances Campbell, and Dmitri Shostakovich's amazing Symphony no 5.

All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to Hospice Taranaki.

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.premierticketek.co.nz

• Phone: 0800 TICKET (842 538)

• Preconcert door sales will be available

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



Dr Raimond Jacquemard.

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

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

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.

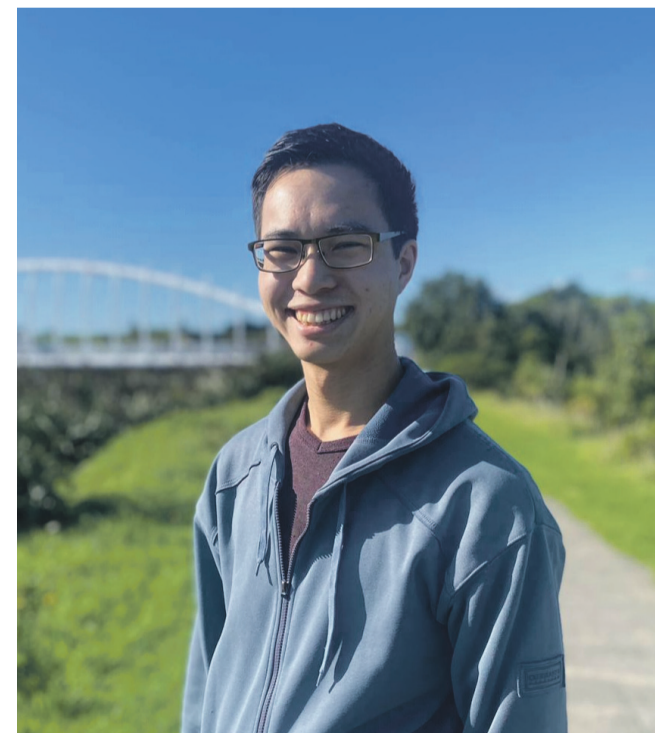
Some may be surprised that doctors can also be accomplished musicians. Raimond adds, "The medical profession is high pressure – that's why its good for your own well being to do something totally different such as the arts. "It's a healthy concept."

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



Daniel Chow

concert has a fantastic programme with all proceeds towards Hospice Taranaki,

a very worthwhile cause. Hope to see you there!"

NZ
DO

NEW ZEALAND
 DOCTORS'
 ORCHESTRA
CONCERT 2023

ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO HOSPICE TARANAKI

SUNDAY 23 JULY, 2.00PM

THEATRE ROYAL
TSB SHOWPLACE
NEW PLYMOUTH

TICKETS \$25 | UNDER 18 \$10
Service fees apply

Ritchie Procession

Canteloube Bailer from Songs of the Auvergne

Shostakovich Symphony no.5

Soprano
FRANCES CAMPBELL

Conductor
MARK HODGKINSON

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