

19 APRIL SUNDAY 5PM TOWN HALL

ESMAIL *This Love Between Us: Prayers for Unity* (NZ Premiere)  
J S BACH *Easter Oratorio* BWV249



Alanah Jones  
Soprano



Jack Doyle  
Countertenor



Daljeet Singh  
Alto



Manjit Singh  
Tabla



Jono Palmer  
Conductor

Bach Musica NZ welcomes guest conductor Jono Palmer, known for his work with the Auckland Chamber Choir, to open our exciting 2026 season with a programme that bridges eras and traditions. Bach's Easter Oratorio bursts to life with festive brilliance, propelled by orchestral writing adapted from its origins as a secular cantata, as Mary Magdalene, Mary Jacobi, Peter and John lead us through the dawn discovery of the empty tomb. Reena Esmail's *This Love Between Us* brings Western Baroque forces into dialogue with Hindustani classical music in a moving reflection on unity and compassion.

14 JUNE SUNDAY 5PM TOWN HALL

WAGNER *Siegfried Idyll* WWV 103  
DE FALLA *El amor brujo*  
BRAHMS *Nänie* Op. 82  
BRAHMS *Gesang der Parzen* Op.89  
BRAHMS *Schicksalslied* Op.54



Anna Pierard  
Soprano



José Aparicio  
Conductor

It has been stated that "people should perform more Brahms", and we answer this request with a stunning combination of choral works by Johannes Brahms. José Aparicio, our guest conductor for the second concert of 2026, is a native of Spain with an inspiring presence as a conductor and a musical style influenced by his experience in opera and orchestral ensembles across Europe and New Zealand. The beautiful Brahms repertoire in this concert will be complemented by the unique and seldom-performed *Siegfried Idyll* as well as the song cycle from Manuel de Falla's *El amor brujo*.

20 SEPTEMBER SUNDAY 5PM TOWN HALL

RAMEAU Suite from *Les Indes galantes*  
IBERT *Flute Concerto*  
FAURE *Requiem*



Luca Manghi  
Flute



Elizabeth Mandeno  
Soprano



Joel Amosa  
Baritone



Vincent Hardaker  
Conductor

When we asked Vincent Hardaker to programme the repertoire for our third concert of 2026, his immediate response was a French-themed evening spanning Baroque through to the first half of the 1900s. Opening with Rameau's *Les Indes galantes*, originally an opera-ballet and performed here as an orchestral Suite, we move to the beloved and fascinating *Flute Concerto* by Jacques Ibert, performed by the wonderful flautist Luca Manghi. Our third concert concludes with Faure's serene *Requiem*, known for its gentle and comforting approach to death rather than its terror. Vincent brings to the podium his broad experience with top New Zealand ensembles including NZSO, having conducted a broad selection of orchestral, operatic and film repertoire.

6 DECEMBER SUNDAY 5PM TOWN HALL

J S BACH *Magnificat* BWV 243.2  
HANDEL *Dixit Dominus*  
PÄRT *Fratres*



Emma Jones  
Soprano



Morag Atchison  
Soprano



Elisha Fai-So'oialo  
Alto



James Harrison  
Bass



Yanghe Yu  
Violin



David Squire  
Conductor

For our final concert of 2026, we are pleased to return to our roots as Bach Musica NZ, this time under the expert direction of David Squire. Again no stranger to the Auckland music scene, David has won numerous awards and accolades both domestically and abroad as the leader of the New Zealand Youth Choir. He is widely praised for his ability to inspire musicians of all ages, exemplified by his recent 'Most inspiring conductor' and 'Choir of the world' awards. David takes us back to an exciting and scintillating celebration of the season with his rendition of Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and JS Bach's *Magnificat*.



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### CONCERT VENUE

Auckland Town Hall, 301 – 317 Queen Street, AKL 1010

### 2026 SUBSCRIPTION SERIES (4 CONCERTS)

**Single Ticket Prices** (Town Hall – fees apply)

• Adults \$45 - \$90 • Students & Children \$30 - \$72

<b>Early Bird</b> by 20 Dec 2025	<b>Regular Subscription</b> by 28 March 2026
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Adults	\$250	\$299	<b>SAVE UP TO \$110</b>
Seniors	\$220	\$250	<b>SAVE UP TO \$140</b>

\* register online at [www.bachmusica.com](http://www.bachmusica.com) or email  
 admin@bachmusica.com to subscribe

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With your support we will be able to continue striving for musical excellence and providing *music that touches the soul*.

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**BACH**  
MUSICA NZ  
*Music that touches the soul*

Bach Musica NZ is one of New Zealand's most highly acclaimed musical organisations, made up of a professional orchestra and a 45-voice auditioned choir. We perform a wide range of music from Baroque to 21st Century and are well known for NZ premieres of outstanding music from around the world.

2026 is a watershed moment in the history of Bach Musica NZ. For over 30 years, Music and Artistic Director Rita Paczian has been our driving force. She took us from our humble origins as the Auckland Bach Cantata Society to the world-class standards that our audiences enjoy today. Rita's dedication to historically informed Baroque performances as well as being the only New Zealand ensemble that regularly performs combined choral and orchestral repertoire are at the heart of what we stand for. Early in 2025, she announced her retirement and her desire to hand over the reins to the next generation.

As we say farewell to Rita, we are enormously pleased to bring a selection of guest conductors to our stage during the 2026 season. All four represent the best of the best in the New Zealand performance arts, and we are thrilled that they have agreed to take the stage in 2026. Programme highlights include an Easter-themed concert which combines a New Zealand premiere written by Reena Esmail with JS Bach, a romantic powerhouse concert featuring Wagner, de Falla and Brahms, a French-inspired programme spanning Baroque through to early 1900s, and finally a celebratory finale to 2026 with Handel and JS Bach, returning to our roots as Bach Musica NZ, in a manner of speaking.

In 2026, we showcase established New Zealand soloists including Emma Jones, Morag Atchison, Elisha Fai-So'ialo, Elizabeth Mandeno, James Harrison, Alanah Jones, Joel Amosa and Jack Doyle. We also welcome to the stage Manjit and Daljeet Singh, in a first for Bach Musica NZ, as well as the extraordinary Luca Manghi performing Ibert's Flute Concerto. The Bach Musica NZ orchestra will be led in 2026 by Yanghe Yu.

You are in for a real treat in 2026, and we look forward to welcoming you to the Town Hall!

## 2026 WORKSHOPS

Would you like to improve your musical skills? Then our workshops are for you! They are practical, fun, offer superb tuition, and are a unique opportunity to learn from our team of top-level conductors and vocal specialists. Singers and instrumentalists of all levels and ages welcome!

### CONDUCTING WORKSHOP

Saturday 7 March

### STRING ORCHESTRA WORKSHOP

Saturday 16 May

### SINGING WORKSHOP

Saturday 5 September

### SINGING WORKSHOP

Saturday 14 November

All workshops run from 1:30 – 7pm in Somervell Church, 497 Remuera Rd, Remuera.

MORE INFORMATION AT [WWW.BACHMUSICA.COM](http://WWW.BACHMUSICA.COM)



All live photographs by Peter Jennings and Hans Weichselbaum

**BACH**  
MUSICA NZ

**SEASON**  
**2026**



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