

In Your Neighbourhood

FLUTE & STRINGS

Akī
Phil.
2026
SEASON

6.30pm, Tuesday 8 September
St Peter's Church, Takapuna

Mozart	Flute Quartet No.1 I. <i>Allegro</i> II. <i>Adagio</i> III. <i>Rondo</i>
Foote	A Night Piece
Debussy	Sonata for flute, viola and harp I. <i>Pastorale: Lento, dolce rubato</i> II. <i>Interlude: Tempo di minuetto</i> III. <i>Finale: Allegro moderato ma risoluto</i>

Featuring	Melanie Lançon, Principal Flute
Violin	Joella Pinto-Roberts
Violin	Natalia Harvey
Viola	Robert Ashworth
Cello	Martin Roberts
Harp	Ingrid Bauer

Programme Notes

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Flute Quartet No.1 (1777)

Mozart completed his First Flute Quartet in Mannheim on Christmas Day, 1777, while travelling through Europe in search of a permanent musical position. The work was commissioned by Ferdinand De Jean, a wealthy Dutch amateur flutist, and is the first of Mozart's four surviving flute quartets. In three contrasting movements, Mozart treats the flute not as a soloist accompanied by strings, but as an equal partner in an intimate musical conversation. The radiant opening *Allegro* gives way to a haunting *Adagio* in B minor, where the flute floats above pizzicato strings, before the sparkling *Rondo* finale brings the work to a playful close.

Arthur Foote (1853-1937)

A Night Piece (1918)

American composer Arthur Foote was a member of the 'Boston Six', a group of late-19th- and early-20th-century American composers whose music drew strongly on European Romanticism. Written in 1918, *A Night Piece* began life as the Nocturne from a larger work for flute and string quartet. Its dreamy, rhapsodic character is shaped by long, lyrical melodies that pass fluidly between flute and strings, with moments of darker harmonic intensity emerging from the shadows. Foote's musical language is Romantic but carries a distinctly French elegance, creating an atmosphere that is intimate, sensuous and nocturnal. The work was later arranged for flute and string orchestra and became Foote's best-known composition.

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Sonata for flute, viola and harp (1915)

Written in 1915, Debussy's Sonata for flute, viola and harp belongs to a set of six sonatas he planned during the final years of his life. Only three were completed. Despite its traditional title, this is anything but a conventional sonata. Debussy creates a uniquely delicate sound world from the contrasting colours of flute, viola and harp, drawing inspiration from the elegance and restraint of 18th-century French music while embracing a distinctly modern harmonic language. Across three movements, ideas appear and transform with remarkable freedom: a dreamlike opening, a mysterious and stylized minuet, and an energetic finale in which rhythmic figures dart between the instruments. The result is music of extraordinary intimacy, colour and imagination.

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