

# In Your Neighbourhood

## STRING QUARTETS

Auckland  
Philharmonia.

6.30pm, Monday 16 March  
St Luke's Church, Remuera

**Beethoven** String Quartet No.8  
*I. Allegro*  
*II. Molto Adagio*  
*III. Allegretto-Maggiore, Thème russe*  
*IV. Finale. Presto*

**John Psathas** *Abhisheka*

**Ravel** String Quartet  
*I. Allegro moderato*  
*II. Assez vif, très rythmé*  
*III. Très lent*  
*IV. Vif et agité*

**Featuring** Ashley Brown, Principal Cello

**Violin** Andrew Beer

**Violin** Minglun Liu

**Viola** Robert Ashworth

## Programme Notes

### Beethoven String Quartet No.8

We start with a deep dive into Beethoven's back catalogue and offer a fresh interpretation of his uber-classic the Eighth String Quartet. This magnificent work draws us into the nuances of interplay between instruments, while maintaining a vast, symphonic architecture. We are guided through a darkly turbulent first movement into an awestruck slow movement that Beethoven described as "the starry sky and music of the spheres", and across a gorgeously playful scherzo onto an energetic and triumphant finale.

### John Psathas *Abhisheka*

*Abhisheka* by Kiwi composer John Psathas is hauntingly beautiful. The title is a Sanskrit word meaning anointing or ritual bathing. The subtle addition of reverb to the unplugged acoustic immediately casts our senses to a faraway land, vast stone buildings echoing and pulsating in response to plaintive, exotic calls.

### Ravel String Quartet

Ravel's String Quartet is perhaps the supreme and most famous example of French Impressionism! The first movement offers singing lines, delicate harmonies and transparent textures. The brilliance of the delightful pizzicato scherzo gives way to a subtle and introspective slow movement. The Finale bristles with restless energy, recalling previous motifs and driving us to a dazzling conclusion to this evening's concert.

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