

In Your Neighbourhood

STRING QUARTETS

Auckland
Philharmonia

6.30pm, Thursday 19 March
St Heliers Church & Community Centre

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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