

## **DEVONPORT CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

The DCO consists of a community orchestra comprised of a group of amateur musicians who are passionate about providing accessible classical music. The orchestra has been in existence for around 25 years and performs four concerts a year in Devonport Holy Trinity Church. You can find information about the orchestra, its past concerts and the programmes for the rest of the year on the DCO website (<https://dco.net.nz>) where you can also join the mailing list to be notified about future concerts.

## **JOHN MIETUS – CONDUCTOR**

John Mietus was born in Hong Kong and began learning double bass at the age of four. He earned his Bachelors of Music from the University of Southern California, studying with David Allen Moore, and his Masters at Rice University, working with Paul Ellison and Tim Pitts. While completing his formal training, he also studied conducting with Sharon Lavery and later deepened his appreciation for score study under maestro Larry Rachleff. John served as Music Director of the USC Student Symphony and led numerous film and video game recording sessions at the John Williams Scoring Stage. Currently Associate Principal Bass of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, he has also performed with the Houston Symphony, New World Symphony, Warner Bros. Studio Orchestra, Pacific Music Festival Orchestra, Bay of Plenty Symphonia, Chagrin Valley Studio Orchestra, and the Cleveland Philharmonic. He is honored to make his debut with the Devonport Chamber Orchestra today.

## **ADJUDICATOR – Lisa Chou**

Born in Taiwan, Lisa immigrated with her family to Auckland in 1995. Under the guidance of Associate Professor Rae de Lisle, Lisa completed Masters in Performance with First Class Honours at the University of Auckland. Previous notable teachers include Qu Yong, Carol Bognuda and Ashley Brown. As a solo pianist, cellist and chamber musician, Lisa received numerous prizes and scholarships, notably the Kerikeri International Piano Competition and NZCT Chamber Music Contest National Finals as a cellist in the winning piano quartet. Lisa pursued further studies in Vienna from 2009, where she lived, studied and worked as a performing musician for over six years. During this time, she had the privilege of learning privately from acclaimed pianist and scholar Paul Badura Skoda. Lisa is a dedicated music educator and has a private teaching studio in Greenlane. She is regularly invited as an adjudicator for piano & instrumental competitions nationwide.



North Shore  
Performing Arts Society Inc.

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## **2026 PIANO CONCERTO FINAL**



With the Devonport Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: John Mietus

Adjudicator: Lisa Chou

**Sunday 31st May 2026, 2.30pm**

**The PumpHouse, Manurere Ave, Takapuna**

### **Admission:**

Adults \$20

Students (with ID) \$15

PumpHouse booking fee \$6

Seniors (65+) \$15

Friends of the PumpHouse \$10

Card processing fee 2.5%

## PROGRAMME

### **Devonport Chamber Orchestra**

*Water Music Suite 1 in F, Bourrée and Hornpipe*      Handel

### **2025 PIANO CONCERTO FINAL**

Piano Concerto in B flat major, KV456      W A Mozart  
1st Movement and Cadenza

#### *FINALISTS:*

**Jonathan Xu**

**Jacob Liu**

**Jerry Wang**

### **Geoffrey Hill**

*Waltz No. 7*      Ravel

### **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

Announcement of the Winner of the 2025 Piano Concerto Competition

*First Prize \$1,300.00*

*Second Prize \$680.00*

*Third Prize \$320.00*

*Donated by Mr and Mrs Ian Knight*

Adjudicator: **Lisa Chou**

Special award: Most Promising Performance from 2026 Junior Piano: **Mackenzie Wu**

#### *ALSO TODAY:*

*Becroft Aria Finals, 5:30pm*

*The PumpHouse Theatre*

## FINALISTS

### **Jonathan Xu**

Jonathan Xu, 14, is a Year 10 student at Rangitoto College in Auckland. He began learning piano at the age of five and currently studies with Rachel Fuller. Jonathan was awarded the LTCL Diploma in Piano Performance with Distinction. As a regular competitor in the NSPAS Competition since 2023, Jonathan has achieved considerable success. In 2026, he won multiple awards across several classes, including First Place in the Sonata Recital, Intermediate Scholarship, and Romantic classes. In addition to his solo work, Jonathan is passionate about chamber music and actively collaborates with fellow students at school as part of a chamber ensemble.

### **Jacob Liu**

Jacob Liu is a Year 9 student at Kristin School in Auckland. He began piano studies at the age of five under Mrs Catherine Shie and Dr Jian Liu, and achieved the Trinity LTCL Piano Diploma with Distinction at age eleven. He has participated in numerous piano competitions across New Zealand and internationally. His achievements include the North Shore Performing Arts - Most Promising Performance Cup, New Zealand Chamber Music Competition - Regional Finalist, APPA / Ara Lodge Merit Prize, and the Pacific Rim International Music Festival - Gold Prize. He has also excelled in IRMT, WAPAC, and SAPACS competitions. Jacob has performed in Carnegie Hall, the Sydney Opera House, and the Auckland Town Hall. In addition to piano, Jacob plays violin and has completed ABRSM Grade 8. He also plays clarinet and glockenspiel at school, and he is an active member of his school's concert band and chamber orchestra. Outside of music, Jacob enjoys basketball and golf.

### **Jerry Wang**

Jerry Wang is a Year 11 student at Auckland Grammar school, he is currently studying piano with Stephen De Pledge, he has also learnt from Rae De Lisle and Yu Wang. He started to play piano at the age of 8 and he won many competitions, including a semi finalist of National Concerto Competition 2024, several 1st prizes of North Shore Performing Arts Competition Society (PACS), and 1st prize of IRMTNZ scholarship. Beyond the piano, Jerry is fascinated by all music genres, spending plenty of time listening to classical, jazz, rock, and pop music etc. Jerry also loves playing golf with his friends in his spare time.