



Aroha
String Quartet International
8-13 July 2024
Wellington, New Zealand

International
Music Academy

Aroha String Quartet

International Music Academy 2024

Join fellow musicians from around New Zealand and overseas for six days of stimulating and enjoyable music-making in Wellington, New Zealand's cultural capital.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Aroha String Quartet International Music Academy. The 2024 Academy will take place at St Andrew's on The Terrace, 30 The Terrace, Wellington, and will begin on Monday 8 July at 9:30am. Each day, participants will be busy with chamber music coaching and rehearsals taken by members of the Aroha String Quartet. The ASQ will be joined by guest tutors to direct ensembles (including string orchestra) and run technique and musicianship classes.

The Aroha String Quartet International Music Academy will culminate in a participants Gala Concert at St Andrew's on the evening of Saturday 13 July, followed by a social function for participants and their families.

There will be a public tutors concert at lunchtime on Wednesday 10 July.

The timetable includes time to practise, to relax and socialise with other participants and to enjoy the scenic and cultural surrounds. In the evenings, there will be time for informal concerts and workshops as well as other social events.

The Aroha String Quartet International Music Academy

is ideally suited to student and non-professional string players with a minimum standard of Grade VI. Pre-formed chamber ensembles are encouraged to apply. Participants not in an existing group will be organised into ensembles for coaching. Music will be sent out in advance.

The Academy application form can be downloaded from www.arohaquartet.co.nz.

The Aroha Quartet also runs the ASQ International Academy in Asia. The next ASQ Academy in Asia will take place in Zhongshan, China, in January 2025. For further information email contact@arohaquartet.co.nz.

“
**Well organised.
A good supportive
environment, thanks
to the tutors and
Cathie. It pushed me
out of my comfort
zone but improved
my playing.**

”
2023 Participant

Aroha String Quartet

**Haihong Liu &
Konstanze Artmann**
violins

Acclaimed as demonstrating “accomplished brilliance, soulfulness and sublime intensity in perfect balance and tonal unity” (The Dominion Post), the **Aroha String Quartet** is firmly established as one of New Zealand’s finest chamber music ensembles.

Founded in 2004, this versatile Wellington-based quartet is known for its passionate musicality, impressive technique, and multicultural innovation.

Haihong Liu and Zhongxian Jin are original members of the Aroha Quartet.

Zhongxian Jin
viola & violin

Robert Ibell joined the group in 2009 and Konstanze Artmann in 2018.

The Aroha Quartet is committed to presenting string quartet works from western classical and avant-garde repertoire to traditional Chinese folk music, as well as works for larger forces through collaborations with numerous high-profile musicians.

The Aroha Quartet performs regularly around NZ in centres from the Deep South to the Far North. In 2014 they performed five concerts

Robert Ibell
cello/double bass

as part of Chamber Music New Zealand’s Kaleidoscope series. Overseas trips have seen them participate in the prestigious International Summer Academy in Austria in 2010, give concerts and masterclasses in China in 2010 and 2013, and perform at the Huntington Music Festival in Australia in 2011.

“
Thanks again
for everything, I had
a fantastic week!
”

2023 Participant





Donald Armstrong violin

Donald Armstrong is Associate Concertmaster of the NZSO. He was formerly Principal Second Violin of the Tivoli Sinfoniorkester in Denmark and Co-Concertmaster of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice in France.

He performs regularly in New Zealand as a chamber musician and conductor and has taught as an artist teacher at the New Zealand School of Music.

Donald was Music Director of the NZ Chamber Orchestra since its inception in 1987 until 2005. His incisive leadership was a major force in creating the dynamic and exciting style of the NZCO heard both in live concert and on its many commercial recordings. His chamber group, the Amici Ensemble is currently in its 36th year of concerts.

Donald is interested in preserving and advancing New Zealand's musical heritage. As a violinist, teacher, conductor and mentor he encourages young instrumentalists while continuing his quest for the wild, wacky and wonderful in music. He plays a violin by Nicolo Gagliano of 1754.



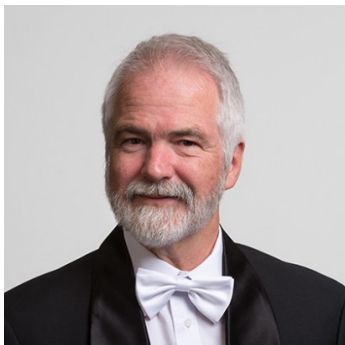
Belinda Veitch viola

Belinda Veitch studied viola with Vyvyan Yendoll. She was appointed to the position of Principal Viola with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra before joining the NZSO Viola section in 1989 after a period of study in London.

Belinda was inspired to begin music at the age of ten when her parents took her to an NZSO concert in Palmerston North. She heard the violins play and was mesmerised. Clace Schwabe was her teacher and mentor.

At age 15 Belinda realised that she was more suited to the viola than the violin.

Belinda really enjoys tutoring, teaching and performing music in the local community. She regularly tutors for WELLSO and the Hutt Valley Orchestra as well as performing with Camerata, the St. Peter's Orchestra and the Kapiti Concert Orchestra.



David Chickering cello

Born and raised in upstate New York, **David Chickering** (Chick) began his musical studies on the piano at the age of 5. The cello was added a few years later after a brief and embarrassing stint with the baritone horn.

After completing a performance degree at Northwestern University and prior to his appointment to the NZSO, David was a member of several orchestras worldwide including those in Milwaukee, Syracuse, Chicago, Santa Fe, San Jose (Costa Rica) and Auckland. But his first orchestra was the Little Falls Symphony where, at the age of 12, he would help the conductor, Leon Dussault, set up the chairs and stands before each Monday night rehearsal.

Originally Section Principal Cello of the NZSO and paired with the legendary Allan Chisholm, he has been steadily making his way towards the back.

Oleksandr Gunchenko double bass

Born in Kyiv, Ukraine, **Oleksandr Gunchenko** is a graduate of the Lysenko School of Music and the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Kyiv. He became a member of the National Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra at the age of 19, gaining a position with the National Chamber Orchestra of Ukraine a year later.

In 1999, Oleksandr immigrated to New Zealand where he joined the Christchurch Symphony as Associate Principal Double Bass. He completed a Bachelor of Music degree with First Class Honours at the University of Canterbury, studying with Dale Gold and Edith Zaltzman, and participated in the National Youth Orchestra as a Principal Double Bass section.

Oleksandr joined the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Double Bass section in 2007.

He has participated in Master Classes with Paul Ellison, Thomas Martin, Joel Quarington, Catalin Rotaru, Miloslav Gojdos, Ekkahard Beringer, Hans Roelofsen, Eric Hansen, Barry Green.

In 2011, Oleksandr was invited to study with Jeff Bradetich at the Pirastro Strings Elite Soloists Masterclasses. He is a member of the contemporary ensemble 'Stroma', regularly performs solo recitals and chamber music concerts.

Oleksandr enjoys to be involved in education programs and teaches double bass, chamber music groups and orchestra.





Cathie McCallum Administrator

Cathie McCallum's background is in project administration and management. She was born and worked in Wellington before travelling to the UK as an I.T. Consultant in the mid 1980's.

After London she worked for 6 years in Hong Kong for multi-national companies such as Moët & Chandon and United Distillers in I.T. Consultancy.

This was followed by a move to Barcelona, Spain with her family for a further 3 years.

In late 1998 they returned to Wellington where she has undertaken several admin roles.

She has more recently assisted with the Trinity Music exams.



“
I really appreciate the enormous efforts of the ASQ and Cathie in making this remarkable Academy happen. Thank you so much. You all deserve gold medals!
”

2023 Participant

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Chris McDonald

chrismcdonald.co.nz



“
Thank you so much for an incredible week. I love the
music and learnt so much. Looking forward to next year.
”

2023 Participant



www.arohaquartet.co.nz

