



Kevin A Lefohn
Artistic Director

7 January 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QVSS FESTIVAL OF CHAMBER MUSIC

The Queenstown Violin Summer School is delighted to announce the inaugural *QVSS Festival of Chamber Music* from 12-22 January 2010 in Queenstown. The Festival, encompassing and expanding upon the activities of the annual Queenstown Violin Summer School, features guest ensembles/artists including **NZTrio**, **Dimitri Atanassov** (Bulgaria/New Zealand), **Kevin A. Lefohn** (USA/New Zealand), **Vesa-Matti Leppänen** (Finland/New Zealand), **Tom McGrath** (New Zealand), **Professor Yair Kless** (Austria/Israel), **Kirsten Simpson** (New Zealand), **Sarah Watkins** (New Zealand) and winner of the 2005 Michael Hill International Violin Competition, virtuoso **Feng Ning** (China/Germany).

Talented violin students from throughout New Zealand and overseas arrive in Queenstown on 11 January for the eighth annual Queenstown Violin Summer School (QVSS).

The Summer School, run in association with the Southern Strings Charitable Trust, was founded in 2003 by Artistic Director and Violinist Kevin A. Lefohn. Held every January, the School is a fully residential programme - providing a unique study opportunity solely focused on solo performance for career-oriented advanced violin students. QVSS is a challenging and supportive learning environment where students work intensively with international professional musicians. In addition to providing advanced music tuition, QVSS helps students understand that motivation, focus and strength of character are values as crucial to musical success as talent.

Twenty-six students aged between 8 and twenty-five will work with professional musician artist/teachers in daily lessons, masterclasses, concerts and Feldenkrais Method® movement awareness classes. This year's QVSS students, selected by audition, are attending from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Whangarei, Auckland, Hamilton, Cambridge, Wellington, Nelson, Blenheim, Christchurch, Dunedin and Gore.

Mr Lefohn (USA/New Zealand), Artistic Administrator of Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, heads a teaching staff of leading international violinists including Professor Yair Kless (Austria/Israel), Professor at Graz University, Austria, Feng Ning, world-renowned concert violinist, Dimitri Atanassov (Bulgaria/New Zealand), Concertmaster of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Vesa-Matti Leppänen (Finland/New Zealand), Concertmaster of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Lara Hall (New Zealand), Lecturer at the University of



Shlomo Mintz, Patron

Waikato and Kristina Zelinska (Ukraine/New Zealand), first violinist with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to private and corporate partnership, the inaugural Festival and annual Summer School are supported by Creative New Zealand, Central Lakes Community Trust, Creative Communities Queenstown Lakes, Community Trust of Southland, Aspiring Arts and Culture and The Trusts Charitable Foundation.

Through its association with QVSS, Christchurch Symphony Orchestra offers a QVSS student, chosen by QVSS staff, the opportunity to perform solo with the Orchestra in its ASB Classical Sparks outdoor concert in Christchurch's Hagley Park on 5 February 2010. The winner of this competition will be announced on 17 January at the Festival event, the *Exclusive Screening of "4"*.

Six events are planned throughout the twelve-day Festival.

Young Virtuosi

Tuesday 12 January 8.00pm

St Peter's Anglican Church, 2 Church St

Award-winning alumni of the Queenstown Violin Summer School perform a dazzling and sophisticated programme.

Tickets: \$20 Adult, \$10 Student. Door Sales only.

NZTrio

Saturday 16 January 8.00pm

St Peter's Anglican Church, 2 Church St.

This internationally renowned chamber ensemble is known for their interpretations of both traditional and contemporary classical music, from violinist Justine Cormack, cellist Ashley Brown and pianist Sarah Watkins.

Tickets: \$30 Adult, \$15 Student. Door Sales only.

Exclusive Screening of "4"

Sunday 17 January, 8.00pm Skyline, Wakatipu Room

Australian Filmmaker Tim Slade's award-winning movie has been made especially available to the Festival. Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* and four outstanding violinists are the threads used to explore how nature shapes who we are. Filmed in Australia, USA, Japan and Finland. Enjoy this special evening from the top of the mountain with a complimentary gondola ride.

Tickets: \$20 Adult, \$10 Student. *Tickets available at the bottom terminal on the night.*

International Festival Concert

Monday 18 January 8.00pm

St Peter's Anglican Church

A recital presented by the internationally renowned teachers of this year's Queenstown Violin Summer School, including winner of the 2005 Michael Hill International Violin Competition, virtuoso Feng Ning.

Tickets: \$30 Adult, \$15 Student. Door Sales only.

QVSS Showcase Concert

Thursday 21 January 8.00pm
Queenstown Memorial Hall

The first of two concerts showcasing the talents of the 2010 Queenstown Violin Summer School.

Tickets: \$20 Adult, \$10 Student. Door Sales only.

QVSS Grand Finale Concert

Friday 22 January 8.00pm

Queenstown Memorial Hall. Now a much anticipated annual event in Queenstown's arts calendar. Selected for their remarkable success after twelve days of intensive study, the brilliant and best from the 2010 Queenstown Violin Summer School present their extraordinary talents.

Tickets: \$20 Adult, \$10 Student. Door Sales only.

Many of the Summer School's activities are open to the public including the Daily masterclasses and informal evening concerts offering an opportunity to experience the unique learning environment of the School.

Queenstown Violin Summer School Masterclasses

13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21 January 4.30-6.00pm

St Peter's Church and Hall, 2 Church St.

Gold coin donation.

Queenstown Violin Summer School Casual Concerts

13, 14, 15, 19, 20 January 8.00-9.00pm

St Peter's Church, 2 Church St.

Gold coin donation.

QVSS management reserves the right to change programming and concert details without prior notice.

For further information contact:

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