

Alice Kuo,

Also known as Chi-Ting Kuo, was born in Taiwan, and moved to NZ in 1997. She studied piano with Veronica, and eventually gained her Dip.ABRSM in 2001 and AMEB LMusA in 2003. She was a finalist in the 2001 National Concerto Competition, playing the Schumann Piano Concerto.

After finishing high school, she went to study at the Otago University School of Medicine.

She recently returned to live and work in Christchurch, met up with Veronica again, and together they decided to get back to playing piano duets, which is turning out to be quite a bit of fun.

Veronica van der Knaap

Was born in the Netherlands in 1947, and as an 18 year old enrolled at the Amsterdam Conservatorium to pursue a 6 year study with Hans Dercksen. She graduated in 1971, and a month later arrived in New Zealand with her husband. A long teaching career followed, and at the same time there were many opportunities to perform, both as soloist and accompanist. She retired from teaching when she turned 65, but has continued performing, still learning many new works, and hopes to be able to do all of that for a long time yet....together with her lifelong passion for gardening.



Piano Duets

Alice Kuo and Veronica van der Knaap
4 JULY 2 PM

Programme

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Programme First half

Mozart(1756-1791):
Fantasia no 1 in f minor, K594

Brahms (1833-1897):
16 Waltzes opus 39.

Ravel(1875-1937)
Mother Goose Suite:
1.Sleeping Beauty's Pavane (Slow).

This movement describes a procession of mourning for Sleeping Beauty.

2. Little Tom Thumb (Moderate speed).

A rather sad little story, in which Tom Thumb leaves a trail of breadcrumbs to find his way back through the forest. But the birds eat the crumbs, leaving Tom lost. Ravel's music has a limping and ungainly rhythm, imitating Tom Thumb wandering around in circles in the forest.

3. Laideronnette ("Little Ugly Girl"),

Empress of the Pagodas (March). Inspired by the Orient, this piece describes how little statues on pagodas come to life and play music as their Empress enters the water to bathe. The music is dazzling and glorious, full of oriental harmonies and exciting colors.

4. The conversations of Beauty and the Beast (Waltz). A charming little waltz, full of the nostalgia of awkward love. Beauty sees through the Beast's horrible appearance to his kindness and courage, and eventually he transforms into a handsome prince.

5 The Fairy Garden (Slowly and solemnly).

A poetically magical happy ending.

Afternoon Tea

Refreshments at the Studio Cafeteria



Second half

Mozart:
Fantasia no 2 in f minor, K 608. This is also a well-known piece for organ.

Schubert (1797-1828):
Grande Sonate , D 617:
Allegro Moderato-Andante con Moto-Allegretto

Debussy(1836-1891):
Petite Suite:
1 En Bateau
2 Cortège
3 Menuet
4 Ballet.



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