

Letter From National Concerto Competition Committee
Cancellation of 2020 Final

To all involved in some way with The National Concerto Competition

Dear Friends,

The National Concerto Competition trustees had every intention of running the postponed Final later this year, around September/October. Any later would have brought it too near to the December preliminaries of the next contest. However, the realisation that two of the three contestants would be asked to return from London and Los Angeles shortly after starting their academic year has spurred us to re-examine the issue closely.

What is of great concern also is the uncertainty of the Competition's financial situation. Many funding organisations have now asked for their grant to be returned and for us to reapply for funds for the postponed final, as it is at least six months away. This puts us in the awkward situation of applying for funding of two different competitions much closer together. We have already received indications that the grants in the next round (the competition for orchestral instruments starting in December) are likely to be further reduced or again declined.

With this in mind the trustees have voted to cancel the 2020 final and award the prize money in equal amounts of \$4,500 to each contestant. It wasn't an easy decision, to put it mildly. Of prime concern is the survival of this competition. In order to ensure this, three young finalists lost the chance to compete with full symphony orchestra in our national competition. We deeply regret that.

I apologise for being the bearer of bad news, but cannot see a better option in front of the trustees committee, which was unanimous in its decision.

Ticketek have sent out an **Event Information** sheet explaining that full refunds will be available to those who have purchased tickets. If you have any difficulties with this please email: secretary@musiccanterbury.co.nz or telephone Carmel on 027 605 8099.

Warm regards,

Michael Lawrence

Chairman

National Concerto Competition