



Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament



**Cathedral of the  
Blessed Sacrament Music**  
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Catholic Pro-Cathedral

# Summertime Strings

Two beautiful baroque concertos by Vivaldi and Bach will be presented by the CBS Orchestra in the Catholic Pro-Cathedral, 373 Manchester St, at 2 pm on Sunday, 1 February, 2026. Natalia M. Lomeiko leads the orchestra, and musical director is Don Whelan. Programme admission prices will be \$30 and \$25.

Cello soloist Janet Cubey will play and direct her favourite Vivaldi **A Minor Concerto**, which lifts off like a rocket, and concludes with a spirited ground bass, featuring some unusual tremolo effects. Handel's 4<sup>th</sup> **Organ Concerto in F** was written to entertain one of his opera audiences, and originally introduced an early "Hallelujah" chorus. It will be played by Peter Low and conducted by Henry Nicholson.

The concert begins with Bach's effervescent **Suite No. 1 In C Major**. Thought to be his earliest, this charming set of dances was written for a Leipzig university student orchestra, in which his sons would have played. In addition to the string ensemble and harpsichord, a woodwind group of oboes and bassoon feature regularly as a virtuosic trio of soloists.

Each of the CBS February concerts includes a NZ composition for strings, and this year it will be **Concert Overture in D** by Douglas Lilburn. Written in May, 1942 while living on the site of our Christchurch Town Hall (now the Lilburn Auditorium), this lively piece displays skilful and idiomatic writing for strings, reflecting his recent study with Vaughan Williams.

The concert will conclude with Corelli's **Concerto Grosso in D**, written by the Roman composer in the church sonata style, alternating lyrical melody and sparkling vivacity. It enjoys a fascinating interplay between the full orchestral group and a talented trio of soloists: CBS leaders Natalia, Henry and Janet.

**Beloved Bach** will be recognised at 2 pm on Sunday March 1 by his **Brandenburg Concerto No. 2**, and the well-known Cantata 147: **Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring**, together with motets appropriate to the Lenten season by Victoria, Casals, Mozart and Mawby. The annual 8 pm Good Friday Bach **St John Passion** will be followed at 2 pm Sunday 14 June by **Mystical** Mozart, including his **Symphony 39**, and the rarely performed but richly varied **Litany of the Blessed Sacrament**, a work similar in style and substance to his **Requiem**, recently presented by CBS Music.

The Christchurch Choral Festival is planned for 2 pm Sunday, 9 August, and the usual Haydn concert will be 2 pm, Sunday 6 September, featuring his **Salve Regina**, **Symphony 98**, and **Heiligesmesse**. All Saints' Day, Sunday November 1 at 2 pm will be marked by the Fauré **Requiem**, **Cantique**, and Bach's **Cantata 106 Actus Tragicus**. The annual CBS **Messiah** will be at 1.30 pm on Sunday, December 6, and the Christmas Midnight Mass will acknowledge the Weber bicentennial year with his beautiful **Jubilee Mass**.

Through 2026, CBS Music continues its popular **Lunch Plus Wednesday At One** recital series, with details of each weekly artist posted on their web page – [cathedral.org.nz](http://cathedral.org.nz)

The cathedral choir musicians maintain an extensive repertoire of masses and motets, sung each Sunday at the 11 a.m. Solemn Choral Mass. New members are welcome to the 7.30 pm Wednesday evening rehearsal at the Catholic Pro-Cathedral. Sight reading ability is expected. Those interested are invited to contact the CBS Musical Director, Don Whelan, phone 358-5873.