

Concert Series Opens to Acclaim

1 May 2016 by Prof. Barry Vercoe Mus.D.

Trio Éclat captivated a large audience in the first of this year's Tauranga Musica series at Graham Young Auditorium on Sunday afternoon.

With exquisite performances, Evans Chuang piano, Christine Kim flute and Rowan Meade clarinet led the audience through a varied program of international works.

Operating variously in pairs, solo or as a threesome, the Trio maintained audience interest as they flaunted their musicianship and ensemble skills.

A flute and clarinet duo by frenchman Andre Jolivet gently pushed the listener into 20th century atonal harmonies with complete acceptance.

A masterful trio arrangement of a previous quartet by New Zealander Anthony Ritchie showed how under-rated our own composers can often be.

Pianist Evans Chuang elicited audience gasps of awe as he fairly flew through one of Chopin's most difficult Op 23 Etudes, likely unheard live before by most of the audience.

Only some Brahms foot-tapping Hungarian dances seemed less in transcription than their original and familiar orchestral versions.

The surprise of the day was a delightful set of Children's Games by composer Georges Bizet, who was clearly thinking about more than his opera Carmen. Bravo Tauranga Musica for bringing things like this to town.

The next concert of the series is on July 3 at Tauranga Park Auditorium.