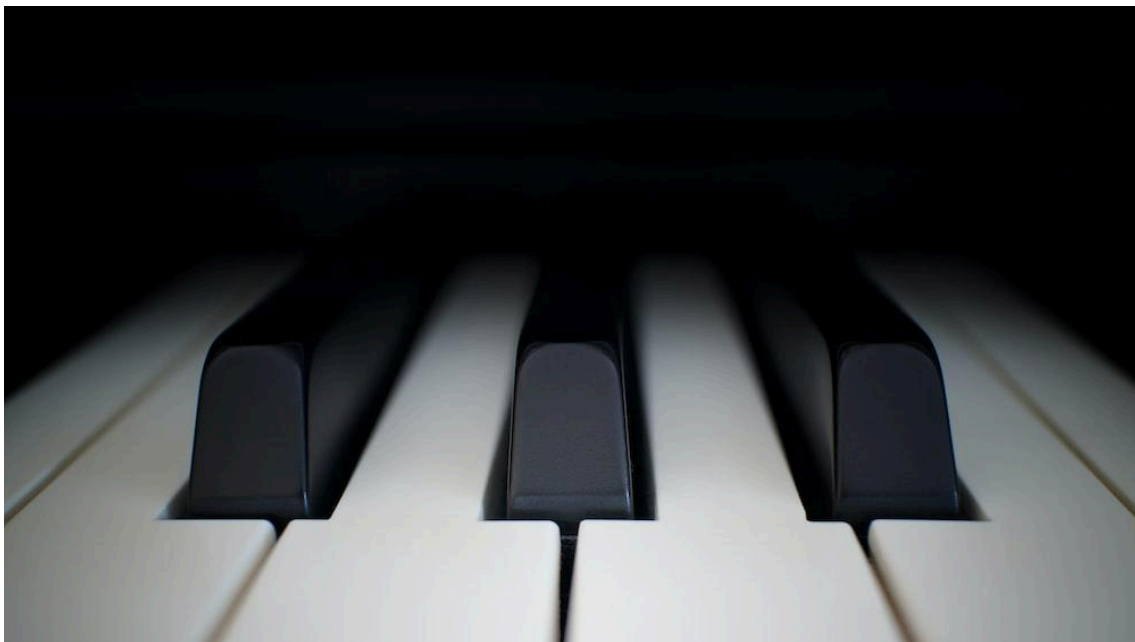




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2025 PIANO CONCERTO FINAL



With the Devonport Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: John Mietus

Adjudicator: Yun-Pai Hsu

Sunday 1st June 2025, 2.30pm

The PumpHouse, Manurere Ave, Takapuna

Admission:

Adults \$20

Seniors (65+) \$15

Students (with ID) \$15

Friends of the PumpHouse \$10

PumpHouse booking fee \$6

Card processing fee 2.5%

PROGRAMME

Devonport Chamber Orchestra

Ombra Mai Fu

Handel

2025 PIANO CONCERTO FINAL

Piano Concerto in B flat major, KV456

W A Mozart

1st Movement and Cadenza

FINALISTS:

Steven Song

Jerry Wang

Leo Zhao Xuan Liu

Devonport Chamber Orchestra

Minuet from Water Music Suite

Handel

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Announcement of the Winner of the 2025 Piano Concerto Competition

First Prize \$1,300.00

Second Prize \$680.00

Third Prize \$320.00

*Donated by **Mr and Mrs Ian Knight***

Adjudicator: **Yun-Pai Hsu**

Special award: Most Promising Performance from 2025 Junor Piano: **Chloe Wang**

ALSO TODAY:

Becroft Aria Finals, 5:30pm

The PumpHouse Theatre

FINALISTS

Steven Song

Steven Song is a Year 9 student at Auckland Grammar School. He began learning piano in 2021 and currently studies with Stephen De Pledge. In 2024, he received the Best Performance of a New Zealand Work award at the Lewis Eady National Piano Competition. He has also earned many awards at local competitions, including IRMT, NSPAS, and SAPACS. In addition to piano, Steven plays the clarinet.

Jerry Wang

Jerry Wang is a Year 10 student at Auckland Grammar School. He started piano when he was 8 years old and he is currently studying with Rae De Lisle and Stephen De Pledge. Jerry has won 1st prizes in various competitions, such as the North Shore Performing Arts Society, IRMT, he also won prizes in APPA and other concerto competitions. He made the semi-finals for the Year 2025 National Piano Concerto Competition in Christchurch. Jerry is very passionate about piano and wishes to be a concerto pianist in the future. Jerry also enjoys listening to different genres of music, he loves music a lot in general. Jerry also enjoys other activities such as basketball and bike cycling.

Leo Zhao Xuan Liu

Leo Zhao Xuan Liu is a Year 11 student at ACG Parnell College, currently studying piano with Bryan Sayer and Jian Liu. He has achieved success in many local, national, and international competitions, including 1st prize at the 2024 New York Classical Debut Awards, leading to a performance at Carnegie Hall. He won 4th place at the 2023 Lewis Eady National Junior Piano Competition and 1st place in the concerto class at West Auckland PACS (2024) and Tauranga PACS (2023). He has also performed with the Aotea Youth Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House and with the Nelson Symphony Orchestra. In 2022, Leo was awarded the Trinity LTCL Piano Performance Diploma with distinction. He also plays violin in the school orchestra.

DEVONPORT CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The DCO consists of a community orchestra comprised of a group of amateur musicians who are passionate about providing accessible classical music. The orchestra has been in existence for around 25 years and performs four concerts a year in Devonport Holy Trinity Church. You can find information about the orchestra, its past concerts and the programmes for the rest of the year on the DCO website (<https://dco.net.nz>) where you can also join the mailing list to be notified about future concerts.

JOHN MIETUS – CONDUCTOR

John Mietus was born in Hong Kong and began learning double bass at the age of four. He earned his Bachelors of Music from the University of Southern California, studying with David Allen Moore, and his Masters at Rice University, working with Paul Ellison and Tim Pitts. While completing his formal training, he also studied conducting with Sharon Lavery and later deepened his appreciation for score study under maestro Larry Rachleff. John served as Music Director of the USC Student Symphony and led numerous film and video game recording sessions at the John Williams Scoring Stage. Currently Associate Principal Bass of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, he has also performed with the Houston Symphony, New World Symphony, Warner Bros. Studio Orchestra, Pacific Music Festival Orchestra, Bay of Plenty Symphonia, Chagrin Valley Studio Orchestra, and the Cleveland Philharmonic. He is honored to make his debut with the Devonport Chamber Orchestra today.

ADJUDICATOR – Yun-Pai Hsu

Yun-Pai Hsu studied at the top ranking American music conservatory, Eastman School of Music and University of Cincinnati, where she received her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Piano performance. There she won several prizes, including the prestigious Concerto Prize. During the final stages of her Doctorate degree, she received a teaching and performance award to work and study at the University of Iowa where she pursued a second Masters degree in Music Theory. Ms Hsu has won many music awards and performed as guest soloist with various orchestras both in the United States and New Zealand. In addition, as a member of the *Center for New Music*, she has been invited to premiere new solo piano works as well as chamber music throughout America and Russia. For over 30 years, Ms Hsu has taught in various musical institutions as well as privately in America, New Zealand, and South Korea. Currently, she has a private piano studio in East Auckland and works as a music specialist at school. In addition, she performs regularly as a collaborative pianist.