

NZTRIO WELCOMES AMALIA HALL AND SOMI KIM AS PERMANENT MEMBERS

Multi-awarding winning chamber ensemble **NZTrio** is thrilled to announce that founding member and cellist Ashley Brown will be joined by two extraordinary musicians, violinist Amalia Hall and pianist Somi Kim, as permanent members of the group. Amalia is an internationally acclaimed soloist and Concertmaster of Orchestra Wellington, and Somi is a versatile pianist based in London, in demand as a duo partner, and as an official pianist for many prestigious summer academies and international competitions in Europe.

Alongside Ashley's indisputable talent, Amalia and Somi will bring a new perspective, and kick off this exciting next chapter as NZTrio keeps developing and growing their distinct role in Aotearoa's music and cultural landscape. NZTrio will continue to programme bold and eclectic work as they enter this new era with Amalia and Somi, who will join Ashley for much of NZTrio's 2019 concerts, before they take up their positions permanently from 2020. They will take to the stage as a group during the trio's main concert series later in 2019, with dates and programme details to be announced shortly.

"Somi and Amalia are amazing musicians. I'm stoked they're joining NZTrio. They're totally inspiring to work with and we're all really looking forward to playing together again and sharing our music with everyone. So exciting!"

– ASHLEY BROWN, NZTRIO FOUNDING MEMBER AND CELLIST

In 2018 the NZTrio family grew richer and stronger through working with a host of incredibly skilled guest musicians, including Amalia and Somi, who joined as guests in the *TWINE* programme during the annual LOFT series. The programme was met with such wonderful reactions and excitement that the pair were offered permanent roles in NZTrio, which they enthusiastically accepted.

Widely acclaimed New Zealand born violinist **Amalia Hall** has secured her reputation for natural artistry and versatility as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral leader. She made her debut at just nine years old with the Auckland Philharmonia, became New Zealand's youngest Concertmaster with Orchestra Wellington in 2016, and is a regular soloist with orchestras in New Zealand and abroad. By her teens she had already won every major national instrumental award in New Zealand, and has gone on to perform in Europe, USA, Asia, South Africa, and Mexico.

Award-winning South Korean born New Zealander pianist **Somi Kim** has established herself as a highly regarded collaborative musician, with concert appearances in the Wigmore Hall, Het Concertgebouw, Cadogan Hall, and Slovak Philharmonic. She is much sought after as a chamber musician, song accompanist and répétiteur in the UK and across Europe. A graduate of Royal Academy of Music in London, Somi has a growing profile in England, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

"It has been exciting over the last few months to attend NZTrio concerts featuring outstanding guest players. Ashley's ability to engage them recognizes his status as a foremost musician in New Zealand, and his organisational skills. The Foundation Board is now delighted that Amalia and Somi will become permanent players with NZTrio. We're sure that audiences will enjoy the three musicians' continued development together and their exploration of the marvellous piano trio repertoire." – PETER ROWE, NZTRIO FOUNDATION CHAIRPERSON

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AMALIA HALL BIO:

Concertmaster of Orchestra Wellington, Amalia Hall has received widespread acclaim for her ability to move audiences with her "sumptuous and sweet tone", inherent musicality and natural facility. She has won five international competitions and has received laureate prizes at numerous others, including the Joseph Joachim, Premio R. Lipizer and International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians. While still in her teens she won all of the major national awards in New Zealand.

Since making her debut at the age of 9 with the Auckland Philharmonia, Amalia has been a regular soloist with orchestras in New Zealand, and has made solo appearances with orchestras including I Virtuosi Italiani, Munich Chamber Orchestra, NDR Radiophilharmonie, National Symphony Orchestra of Uzbekistan, United Strings of Europe, Filarmonica Marchigiana and Mexico State Symphony Orchestra.

Her extensive performing experience includes performing concerti, recitals and chamber music throughout Europe, USA, Asia, South Africa, Mexico and NZ; touring for Chamber Music New Zealand, Curtis on Tour and as a member of the NZ Chamber Soloists; and recording chamber music for Bridge Records and Atoll Records.

Amalia has held teaching positions at the University of Waikato and has given masterclasses at universities and conservatories in Italy, England and Mexico. Born and raised in New Zealand, Amalia studied at the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music with Pamela Frank and Joseph Silverstein, preceded by studies at the University of Auckland with Dimitri Atanassov.

SOMI KIM BIO:

South Korean born New Zealand pianist, **Somi Kim** has established herself as one of today's most highly regarded young pianists with a string of competition successes and an extensive concert experience.

Somi graduated from the Royal Academy of Music with an Advanced Diploma in Performance and Master of Arts with Distinction, receiving the HRH Princess Alice the Duchess of Gloucester's Prize, a DipRAM and the Christian Carpenter Prize for the Best Recital. Somi is the 2017 winner of the Royal Over-Seas League Accompanist Prize, and has received the Gerald Moore Award for Accompanists, AESS Patricia Routledge National English Song Accompanist Prize, Mozart Singing Competition Accompanist Prize, Bromsgrove International Musicians Competition Accompanist Prize, Vivian Langrish Memorial Trust Prize, Thomas Art of Song Accompanist Prize, Major van Someron-Godfery Prize for Accompanists, WCOM Concordia Serena Nevill and Barthel Prizes and the 6th Pettman/Royal Over-Seas League Arts International Scholarship. Somi made her debut with Chamber Music New Zealand in 2015.

Sought after as a chamber musician, song accompanist and répétiteur, Somi is an artist for the Kirkman Concert Society, Park Lane Group, Concordia Foundation and is a Yeoman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians. Somi is a scholar on the Britten-Pears and Samling Artist Programmes, Georg Solti Accademia, and is a staff pianist at the International Holland Music Sessions, International Vocal Competition's-Hertogenbosch, Gisborne International Music Competition and the New Zealand Opera School.

In recital, Somi's recent and future appearances include Het Concertgebouw, Slovak Philharmonic, Wigmore Hall, St. John's Smith Square, Cadogan Hall, Bridgewater Hall and the Edinburgh Fringe, Ryedale, St Endellion and Oxford Lieder Festivals.

<http://www.somikim.com/>

ASHLEY BROWN BIO:

Acclaimed as a musician of "unimpeachable artistry" (William Dart, NZ Herald), Ashley Brown is one of New Zealand's leading soloists, collaborators, chamber musicians and recording artists. He is a founder of NZTrio and a passionate advocate for New Zealand music. His teachers have included Alexander Ivashkin, Aldo Parisot and William Pleeth helping him to success in auditions, competitions and awards, both local and international. His musical curiosity has led him from an Artist Diploma at Yale to a Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Auckland exploring the collaborative relationship between composer and performer, and onward to sharing the stage with composers and artists as diverse as Dame Gillian Whitehead, Moana Maniapoto, Michael Houston, Kristian Jaarvi and Neil Finn. He continues to enjoy a musical career that leaves no colour of the musical spectrum unexplored. Ashley plays the 1762 William Forster 'Liberte' cello.

NZTRIO BIO:

Described as a "national treasure" and "New Zealand's most indispensable ensemble" (William Dart, NZ Herald), NZTrio is renowned for its eclectic repertoire, outstanding talent and warm kiwi stage presence. The trio smashes outmoded preconceptions of classical music being stuffy or intimidating by presenting a fresh and approachable style that appeals to listeners from all walks of life.

NZTrio is a respected ambassador of contemporary New Zealand music. As a sector-leading ensemble, NZTrio holds a remarkable track record of over 50 new commissions to date (more than 2/3 from New Zealand composers). In 2017 NZTrio was awarded its first Tui – the *Vodafone Music Award for Classical Artist of the Year*. Touring widely around the country and internationally, as well as regular album recordings, the trio deftly showcases its commissions alongside other skilfully-matched contemporary and classical master works, proudly featuring at least one New Zealand composition in every NZTrio concert.