



NEWS

DEVONPORT MUSICIAN HAS MANY STRINGS TO HIS BOW

DEVONPORT musician Nigel Keay is a violinist with more than one string to his bow — and we are not talking about his violin.

This year he is the composer in residence for the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra (APO), an associate violinist with the orchestra, is a member of the Mosaic String Quartet, is teaching the violin and viola, and organised the music for the Devonport Arts Festival.

“Everything’s happened at once!”

Not that he is complaining.

“I guess in some ways I’m very lucky in that I’ve got so many strings to my bow.”

As the APO’s composer, Mr Keay receives a salary funded by a New Zealand Arts Council grant, and is required to write three pieces which will be performed by the orchestra.

He has already written one piece called *Fanfare*, which will be performed in June, and will write a chamber work for the orchestra’s new music season and a longer piece which will be the equivalent to a symphony.

The longer pieces will be performed by the orchestra next year.

Mr Keay’s compositions will also be performed by the Mosaic String Quartet, which is performing a number of concerts around Auckland during the next couple of weeks.

Other members are Simon McLellan, Sarah Hart and Judith Williams, all of whom play for the APO as well.

The quartet has received Arts Alive funding from the Auckland City Council.

Mr Keay says it is rare for a quartet to have its own composer.

“It’s great because I can give them music hot off the press, and we can sit down and discuss it and modify it, which is good for me too.”

Mr Keay says the quartet is also trying to introduce audiences to work by local composers, as well as playing traditional pieces.

The Mosaic Quartet is playing at the Watershed Theatre on Friday, March 10, and Saturday, March 11, at 8pm. It plays on Sunday, March 11, at 2.30pm.

Mr Keay has lived in Devonport for two years.

He studied music at Wellington Polytechnic and Victoria University, and then spent five years in residency at the Nelson School of Music, and served as a Mozart fellow in Dunedin.



BUSY MUSICIAN: Devonport musician and composer Nigel Keay.