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Faust Quartett to tour New Zealand



L to R: Simone Roggen, Annina Wöhrli, Ada Meinich, Birgit Böhme

The Faust Quartett, with first violinist Simone Roggen, will be touring New Zealand from 31 August to 17 September 2014.

Simone was born and brought up in New Zealand. Her parents are Swiss and South African. Both are talented musicians – her mum is a professional pianist, father plays the alphon, sings and yodels. No surprise that Simone and her twin brother Pascal took up music as their vocation. Simone studied the violin in New Zealand and later in Switzerland. She resides in Berne now, and belongs to a well known string quartet. I did a brief interview over the internet about the Faust Quartett.

Nelly: *How long has the quartet been going and who are the members?*

Simone: 18 years: It was founded in 1996 in Weimar, Germany. We are quite an international group: Birgit Böhme, our cellist, a founding member, is German, Ada Meinich who plays the viola comes from Norway. I joined in early 2012, being Swiss and Kiwi. Annina Wöhrli, violinist, is Swiss too and she has been with us since last year.

Nelly: *Where are you based and where do you play?*

Simone: Everyone lives in Basel apart from me, and that's where we rehearse. We regularly perform not only in Germany, but also in France, Holland and Norway, and have been building up a following in Switzerland too. There have been tours to Africa and South America in the past, and we look forward to our upcoming concert tour to New Zealand and Australia. Next year we are off to China.

Nelly: *What will you play for us in New Zealand?*

Simone: We have a varied program, with some classical works, and one from a contemporary Swiss composer which we are very excited about. You will hear: 'Death and the Maiden' by Schubert, 'Quadrige Quartett' by Helena Winkelmann, 'Letter's Quartet' by Janacek, and 'Quartet in A minor' by Beethoven.

We have a very special concert in Auckland where we will be playing the enchanting Brahms Clarinet Quintet with the incredible musician Dimitri Ashkenazy – son of the pianist Valdimir Ashkenazy.

Nelly: *Do you have any particular plans for the future?*

Simone: We have been invited to record all of the unknown quartets by Woyrsch, and we look forward to our 'Farbklang' series in Basel, where we perform together with artists from other media (sculpture, light, painter, projection), who transform sound into colour. We also will be starting a new series, playing for people who don't or can't go to concerts, like inmates, homeless, troubled youths. Of course we are excited about our tour to China too.

Nelly: Thank you Simone. We look forward very much to hearing and seeing you in New Zealand.

By Nelly Steinemann

Venues for concert tour

Wellington *

31 August 2014, 3 PM
St. Andrew's on the Terrace, The Terrace

Lower Hutt *

02 September 2014, 7.30 PM; Little Theatre

Motueka *

04 September 2014, 7.30 PM; Chancel Arts Centre

Blenheim *

05 September 2014, 6 PM; St Andrew's Church

Wanganui *

07 Sept 2014, 3 PM; Prince Edward Auditorium

Tauranga – House Concert **

09 September 2014, 7 PM

Rotorua *

10 September 2014, 7.30 PM; Concert Chamber

Auckland

12 September 2014, 7.30 PM
St. Georges Presbyterian Church
The Terrace, Takapuna

Whangarei *

14 September 2014, 2.30 PM
Old Library Building Arts Centre

Auckland – House Concert **

16 September 2014, 7.30 PM

* To book for the Concerts from the Chamber Music New Zealand series go to <http://www.chambermusic.co.nz/tickets/encompass-tickets>

** The addresses for the two House Concerts will be put on our website when they become available <http://www.faust-quartett.com/en/termine/>

Tickets for the Auckland Concert can be purchased from the 22nd of August onwards at the Swiss Bakery in Milford or through Oscar Roggen (Phone 410-4848 evenings) or the Swiss Consulate (Phone 366-0403)



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