

DR JUSTIN BIRD

Justin Bird is an acclaimed pianist, teacher, arranger, tuner, and collaborator whose fresh interpretations include an affinity for underrated repertoire. He has won the New Zealand Kapiti Coast National Piano Competition and was awarded the NZ Young Performer of the Year for piano. Other awards have been finalist in the NZ Young Musician of the year Competition, MTNA National Young Artist Competition in the USA, and representing New Zealand in the finals of the Kowhai Australasian Piano Concerto Competition.

Justin has performed with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, and two of these performances were to an audience of over 250,000 people in the Auckland domain. In the USA he won concerto competitions awarding performances with both Florida State University Philharmonia and the Indiana University (IU) Orchestra. Taking advantage of the talented musicians at IU he joined forces with conductor Nicholas Hersh to give a memorable performance of the Delius *Piano Concerto* which was filmed and published online.



As a young pianist Justin studied with Pam Burdette, Rae de Lisle, then Bryan Sayer in Auckland, NZ. Continuing his studies in the USA with Read Gainsford at Ithaca College and Florida State University, and Marian Hahn at the Peabody Institute, Justin then moved to Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music to complete a Doctorate in Music studying with André Watts. He has also had the honour to play for Leon Fleisher on multiple occasions. Justin has been sharing his love for music since the 90s, always maintaining a private studio wherever he lives, as well as teaching class piano in many different colleges and schools. After his Associate Instructorship at IU, he taught at Vincennes University as Adjunct Faculty, and was then appointed as Artist Faculty at Omaha Conservatory of Music in Nebraska.

Now living again in New Zealand, Justin teaches students in his Auckland studio, performs violin and viola with various orchestras and ensembles, and tunes pianos. This year he returns to the stage to perform a solo benefit recital, Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 1* with Orchestra Auckland, and Bruch's *Double Piano Concerto* with Wairua Sinfonietta.

For upcoming performances, and more, visit justinbirdmusic.com.

Justin Bird presents a lecture-recital with soprano Andrea Creighton in Auckland, Sunday 23 October 3pm – 5pm.