



Hello music lovers,

We are thrilled to announce our upcoming concert **'Harmony Through Hard Times'** on **Saturday 27 March**.

During times of turmoil, war, tragedy and protest, music has brought people together. Through history and across cultures and countries, music has played a vital role in times of uncertainty – by creating a sense of community, expressing sorrow, lifting spirits and providing a much-needed distraction. Join Hamilton's premier brass band under the baton of **Mason Elliot** for an evening showcasing music of resilience, crisis and hope.

During wartime, music has fulfilled a vital role for troops and those at home by inspiring action, entertaining or comforting. The toe-tapping march tune **'1914'** remembers wartime tunes 'Tipperary' and 'Take Me Back to Blighty' while **'Abide With Me'** resonates from annual ANZAC Day services in both Australia and New Zealand. Dan Price's **'An American Tale'** provides a musical tribute to the American Civil War.

Through the impossibly difficult times for African's taken to America as slaves, a time when everything that happened to them robbed them of identity and culture, music was a way for them to express their feelings whether sorrow, protest, inspiration or hope. Our programme spotlights several of our exceptionally talented musicians with solo performances of American Spirituals. Stephen Towers features with **'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot'** and Lisa Marshall will perform **'Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen'**.

Recent times have seen music used to commemorate and raise funds following tragedies. A new arrangement of the hymn tune **'Manchester – How Sweet the Name'** was released following the Manchester Arena bomb attack in 2017 and was dedicated to the victims of the attack and to the people of Manchester for their spirit and courage with proceeds going to victims.

For performers and listeners alike, music creates a sense of belonging and identity. Now as the world faces the challenges of COVID-19, musicians across the globe have turned to their craft, both to stay connected to themselves but also to bring comfort, pleasure and connection to people everywhere. With the current crisis, social distancing has meant that we've had to discover new ways of creating and sharing music and we'll look at a collaboration music video made during New Zealand's COVID-19 lockdown.

We also look to music to raise us up during tough times and Goff Richards' **'A Disney Fantasy'** is sure to buoy your spirit and put a smile on your face. Other programme highlights include the beautiful hymn **'Nearer My God To Thee'** plus a duo from one of our favourite brass band composers, Philip Sparke – his exciting composition **'The Year of the Dragon'**; and **'Dundonnell'** from **'Hymn of the Highlands'**.

We invite you to join us as we showcase music that has guided humanity through times of adversity at our poignant and moving concert, **'Harmony Through Hard Times'**.

Pre-sale tickets available at iTICKET [www.iticket.co.nz/events/2021/mar/harmony](http://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2021/mar/harmony) or phone 0508 iTICKET (484 253) – booking fees apply. Tickets available for purchase from i-Sites in Cambridge, Matamata, Morrinsville, Te Awamutu, Te Aroha, and Otorohanga – booking fees apply.

Door sales will be available – cash only – no EFT-POS/credit card facilities available.

*Our concert will proceed if we are in Alert Level 1.*

*Please follow us on Facebook (Hamilton City Brass) or online at [www.hamiltonbrass.co.nz](http://www.hamiltonbrass.co.nz) to check if concert is proceeding.*