

# MEMORIAL CONCERT



Dr ELMAN POOLE

1925 - 2019

Lincoln College, Oxford

Sunday 16 April 2023, 3.30pm

Dr. Poole studied at Southland Boys' High School and the University of Otago, graduating MB ChB in 1950. Awarded a Nuffield Dominion Scholarship, he travelled to the UK and studied at Lincoln College, Oxford, in 1953.

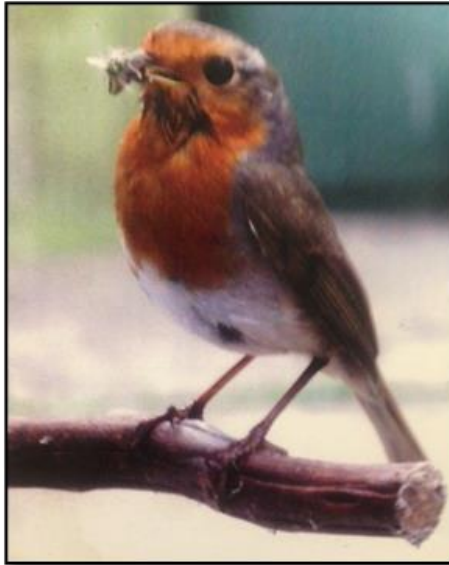
He specialised in Neurology and held posts in London at the Institute of Psychiatry and the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases. After a Rockefeller Fellowship to the Mayo Clinic, he returned to the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford in 1962 and set up the Clinical Neurophysiology department at the university. He was also clinical lecturer in Neurology at Oxford from 1979 until his retirement in 1990.

#### LINCOLN COLLEGE, OXFORD

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Elman matriculated at Lincoln College in 1953. He was a graduate student so did not spend much time at the College. However, following his retirement, his visits became more frequent, and he was a regular attendee at events, often bringing guests. He took a great interest in how the College could develop the creative talents of its students, sponsoring an annual photographic prize, and establishing an annual concert programme.

He then started a scholarship scheme for students who came to Oxford to take a Masters degree. In 2018, Lincoln elected Elman to a Murray Fellowship, in recognition of his support for the College. His extremely generous legacy allows us to continue all these programmes, and in addition, to establish a Junior Research Fellowship into Ovarian Cancer, a subject of great concern to him as it had been the cause of the death of his wife, Bertha. Elman's name lives on at Lincoln, but we miss his visits, in which he never arrived empty handed, but always with a sprig of holly, a jar of jam, or one of his own photographs of the birds in his garden.



## UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND

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In recent years Dr Poole expressed an interest in giving back to his alma mater. The scholarships he established reflect his passion for science and music, his commitment to enabling southern talent to shine and his desire to give others the experience of overseas fellowships that he had enjoyed.

In 2006 Dr Poole and the University of Otago co-founded a postgraduate Elman Poole Travelling Scholarship which supports PhD students majoring in physical or biological sciences, health sciences or music, who wish to do fieldwork outside New Zealand. A varying number of the travelling scholarships are awarded each year, and each student receives a maximum of \$20,000, and up to an additional \$5000. Preference is given to candidates born in Otago or Southland.

In 2016 Dr Poole donated NZ\$500,000 each to Canterbury and Otago universities to support undergraduate study in Engineering for

students from the two Southland high schools, of \$5,000 a year for three years for up to four students a year as well as postgraduate travel scholarships.

The University is incredibly grateful for the wonderful gift from Dr Poole. His generosity has already supported many students from southern New Zealand to further their education. His bequest of £750,000 (NZ\$1.5 million) will add to that legacy by providing even more young people with support, helping them to reach their potential and opening new doors for our postgraduates.



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## UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY, NEW ZEALAND

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Dr Poole was passionate about science, music, and enabling young people from the South Island of New Zealand to find success in their careers. Inspired by the scholarship that allowed him to study graduate medicine at Oxford University, where he specialised in

neurology, Dr Poole was dedicated to ensuring that others could benefit from overseas study in the same way.

Upon his passing in 2019, he bequeathed £750,000 (NZ\$1.5 million) to the University of Canterbury to support PhD travel scholarships in science, music, health sciences, and engineering and undergraduate scholarships for students from Southland Boys and Southland Girls High Schools to attend either Otago or Canterbury university.

The University is deeply grateful for Dr Poole's generous support. His legacy is empowering students to achieve their career goals and gain a global perspective through studying overseas.

## NZUK LINK FOUNDATION

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Dr Elman Poole made two substantial bequests to the NZUK Link Foundation for fellowships to enable New Zealand scholars to travel to the UK for study. The first contributed further to the Elman Poole Music Fellowship which has been in place since 2006 and has enabled a talented young New Zealand musician to attend the prestigious one-year Southbank Sinfonia programme.

The second endowment is for education and vocational fellowships in the fields of horticulture and agriculture, with an emphasis on forestry, climate conservation and the environment, and science and technology.

The first scholars to benefit from this second endowment are two University of Auckland Schools of Engineering undergraduates who undertook a 12 week internship at McLaren Automotive, UK, earlier this year.

Elman's vision to offer transformational experiences to young New Zealanders to study or intern in the UK dovetails perfectly with the aims of the Link Foundation. The great generosity of his two endowments will ensure many people will benefit in the years to

come for which the Board of Trustees here and in NZ are profoundly grateful.

## GREEN TEMPLETON COLLEGE

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Elman was a long time Common Room Member at Green, then Green Templeton College and enjoyed spending time engaging other members on its main site at the Radcliffe Observatory, both when he was working in the Radcliffe Infirmary and after he retired.

He was a generous supporter of activities at Green Templeton including to bring the Radcliffe Observatory telescope back from South Africa, to support musical activities, and the annual photography competition, that he actively engaged with until shortly before he died.

He is remembered fondly, including for arriving at the Dining Hall wearing a striking (trademark) beret.



## SPEAKERS

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Lincoln College - Susan Harrison

University of Otago - Libby Gordon

University of Canterbury - Patrick Cassidy

'Memories of Elman William Poole' by Russell Poole\*

read by Patrick Cassidy

'Dr Elman Poole' by Helen Middleton of the  
NZUK Link Foundation NZ Management Committee\*

read by Graham Lovelock

NZUK Link - Sally Martin (Chair)

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*\* To read these eulogies in full, please scan the QR code below*



## MUSICAL PROGRAMME

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*Performed by Fellows and Alumni of Southbank Sinfonia*

*Introduced By Simon Over, Music Director*

Edwin York Bowen - Viola Sonata No. 2 in F Major Op 22

II. *Grave, Allegro*

Marsailidh Groat, Viola (SbS 2019)

Seung-Ju Lee, Piano

Samuel Barber - *Canzone* for Flute and Piano

(from Piano Concerto Op 38)

Hugues Robert, Flute (SbS 2019)

Isabelle Mohan Cuquerella, Piano

Douglas Lilburn - Violin Sonata in E Flat Major

II. *Andante*

Annabel Drummond, Violin (SbS 2018)

Isabelle Mohan Cuquerella, Piano

Zoltán Kodály - Duo for Violin and Cello, Op 7

I. *Allegro serio, non troppo*

Doris Kuo, Violin (SbS 2021)

Paul Lee, Cello (SbS 2022)



Felix Mendelssohn - Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor Op. 49

II. *Andante con moto tranquillo*

Minsi Yang, Violin (SbS 2012)

Patrick Tapio Johnson, Cello (SbS 2015)

Isabelle Mohan Cuquerella, Piano

Pablo Casals - Song of the Birds

Davina Shum, Cello (SbS 2013)

Simon Over, Piano

Astor Piazzolla - Kicho for Double Bass and Piano

Lachlan Radford, Double Bass (SbS 2010)

Simon Over, Piano

David Popper - Requiem Op 66

Paul Lee, Cello

Patrick Tapio Johnson, Cello

Davina Shum, Cello

Simon Over, Piano

*Thanks to all and please stay for a drink*

*to continue the reminiscence.*

*Reception kindly provided by Lincoln College*

## SOUTHBANK SINFONIA

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When we founded Southbank Sinfonia, the first Fundraising Board was chaired by Lord Thomas of Gresford who had the idea that players from abroad might have their bursary for the Sinfonia programme funded from their own country. He told me I should meet Anna Yallop who works in the House of Commons and sings in the Parliament Choir. She in turn introduced me to Barbara Abensur (who has subsequently told me that she thought: How do I get this man off my sofa?...I'll introduce him to the Link Foundation!). A meeting on an Oxford Station with Francis King (Executive Office, NZ Link) followed in 2005 and about a year later, Francis phoned to say: "I've found your man; Dr Elman Poole, from Invercargill, based in Oxford; he already supports medics coming from NZ to the UK but his father was a violinist and he would like to do something in the realm of music." Elman then linked me to Philippa Harris, the General Manager of the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra (at the time called Southern Sinfonia) and I was sent to NZ to meet key people in all the significant music institutions of New Zealand, including the NZSO and the regional professional orchestras and the educational establishments of Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland. I list the cities in that order because Elman was very keen to focus on the South Island; he believed everything was prejudiced towards the north and he wanted to 'level up' as we say these days!

That trip was life changing for me and as a result I was - a few years later - appointed Principal Guest Conductor of Dunedin Symphony Orchestra and over the years was involved in some major events (representing New Zealand and Australia, conducting the orchestra as part of Asia Orchestra week in Tokyo; helping the orchestra to acquire its own permanent home in Dunedin and commissioning a work - 'Gallipoli to the Somme' by Anthony Ritchie - funded by Creative New Zealand and conducting the premiere in Dunedin in 2016. A few years later I invited the City Choir Dunedin to travel to the UK for the Northern Hemisphere premier in London and Oxford,

the concert in Oxford being the last performance by SbS that Elman attended. Since my first trip to NZ in 2008 we have been privileged to have more than twenty players supported by Elman through the programme, most from NZ and a few from Scotland (Elman's wife was Scottish) and we were thrilled and honoured that he left a substantial legacy to continue the Elman Poole Fellowship well into the future.

Elman asked me to make a speech at his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at Lincoln College in which I reflected that he was an inspiration to us all; not always easy, but that was because he cared so much and had high standards. What impressed me time and again when I visited him in his very modest home, was his simple lifestyle, entirely without luxury, whilst giving so generously for the benefit of so many young people. The world needs more people like Elman; I hope that others will be inspired to follow his example!

*Simon Over*

## MESSAGES OF THANKS

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*"I am forever grateful for Elman's incredible generosity in his support for my position in Southbank Sinfonia's 2018 orchestra. His financial support enabled me to experience the most important year of my musical development. I was fortunate enough to meet Elman on a couple of occasions and I will remember his kind spirit and genuine interest in my musical activities."*

Taylor MacLennan, Flute, SbS 2018

*"Having spent 9 years in London and calling the UK my second home for the majority of those years, I am indebted to Elman for the opportunity he gave me to work with Southbank Sinfonia and to strengthen the bond of international musical partnerships."*

Lachlan Radford, Double Bass, SbS 2010

*"I am so grateful for Elman's generosity which gave me the opportunity to play with Southbank Sinfonia. I very much enjoyed meeting him in Oxford and remember his thoughtfulness and interest in helping people. Elman's generosity has made a real impact on my life, and I admire his efforts to support New Zealanders."*

*Leah Johnston, Violin, Sbs 2007*

*"I will be forever grateful to Elman and to Southbank Sinfonia for helping me at a formative time in my career. Southbank played a huge part in my development as a musician, and Elman's recognition of the importance of the arts through his sponsorship enabled me to have this experience. His generosity has been greatly appreciated by me and the previous members of Southbank whom Elman supported."*

*Marsailidh Groat, Viola, Sbs 2019*

*"I am hugely grateful to Elman's generosity, without which I would not have had the opportunity to participate in Southbank Sinfonia 2017. It was a such a valuable and enjoyable year for me, and I think all beneficiaries of Elman's sponsorship are lucky that he saw value in supporting young musicians in this way. Along with a fellow colleague from my Southbank year, I also had the pleasure of visiting Elman for lunch in Oxford one day. He had a wonderful sense of humour and I think seeing so many musicians continue to succeed past Southbank Sinfonia was a great source of joy for him."*

*Jessica Coleman, Violin, Sbs 2017*



Lincoln College  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD