

# Very grand piano dwells in the Bay

An 18th-century-style grand piano resides in Hawke's Bay, a copy of a grand piano of 1784. The Bay piano was made in Wellington in 1980 from parts and plans imported from the US. Named Constanza, after the wife of Mozart, it made its debut at a concert in Wellington on April 10, 1980, and has since travelled all over New Zealand, and to Australia, for concerts with its owner, pianist Colleen Rae-Gerrard.

Rae-Gerrard and Constanza have now settled in Hastings, after living in Canberra since 1992.

They will make their first public appearance together at 7pm this Sunday in a concert in St Matthew's Church, Hastings, with Hawke's Bay friends soprano Eileen von Dadelzen and NZSO violinist Yury Gezentsvey.

"When I returned to New Zealand, Yury, an internationally recognised artist, expressed a wish to play Mozart with Constanza," says Rae-Gerrard. "He is delighted to be a part of this Hastings Blossom Festival concert, when we shall take the audience back into the world of Mozart in 18th-century Vienna, with a selection of music for piano, voice and violin."

Gezentsvey was born in the Ukraine and came to New Zealand via the US and Venezuela. He was concertmaster of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and leader of the Chicago Chamber Ensemble, while in Venezuela he was Concertmaster of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Caracas.

Currently, he is principal first violin in the NZSO.

**■ A Mozart Celebration —**  
Sunday 7pm, St Matthew's Church, Hastings. Adults \$20, seniors/students \$15, from Tickets or at the door if available.