

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 Ticketek or at the
door if available.