

"RESOUNDING AFTERSHOCKS"

Two grand re-opening concerts of the
city's iconic Rieger pipe organ, by



**MARTIN
SETCHELL**

(Town Hall Organist)

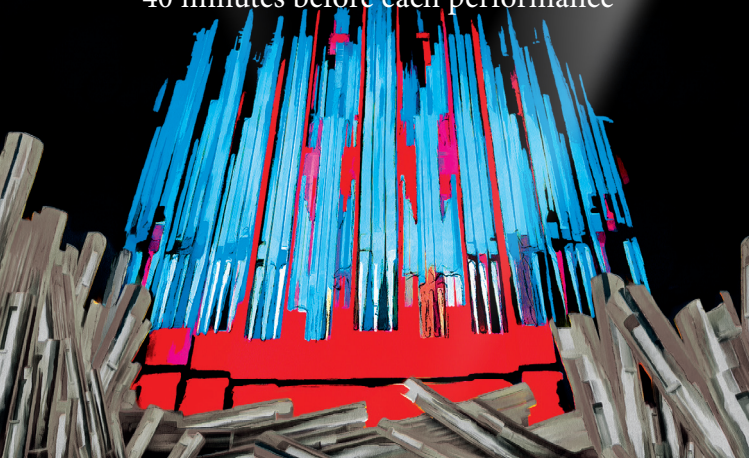
**WEDNESDAY
6 MARCH 2019**

1.10pm: (with official organ re-opening by Mayor Lianne Dalziel)

6pm: Repeat of concert

**CHRISTCHURCH TOWN HALL
FREE ADMISSION**

No reserved seating. Doors open
40 minutes before each performance



ABOUT THE CONCERT

The iconic pipe organ in the Christchurch Town Hall was installed in May 1997 by Rieger of Austria, 25 years after the hall itself opened in 1972. About 96% of the cost came from public donations and bequests, so this is essentially the people's organ.

In early 2011, 12 new ranks of pipes were being installed by Rieger (thanks to a bequest from the late Frank Partridge) when the devastating earthquake struck. Since then the organ has been silent for eight years while the building was repaired after severe earthquake damage. The organ suffered only minor damage and was fully restored by Rieger between November 2018 and January 2019. All 4307 pipes will resound once more in joyous celebration under the skilled fingers and feet of Christchurch Town Hall's international concert organist Martin Setchell, who will introduce and play a programme of entertaining music in his inimitable style. The hour-long concert will highlight the new solo colours (such as the clarinet and voix humaine) as well as the enhanced stunning full organ. A highlight will be the world première, appropriately entitled **Celebration**, specially written for the occasion by the popular Norwegian composer Mons Leivdvin Takle. Martin's new CD **Resounding Aftershocks** recorded in January, will be on sale at the concerts.

For details of the opening events, further concerts, and the new CD, please regularly visit the organ's website nzorgan.com

ABOUT THE ORGANIST

Martin Setchell, called 'New Zealand's most widely-travelled concert organist' is an international performer who believes in promoting entertaining organ music to a wide audience.

Over the last 20 years he has regularly performed throughout the world. This year he will play concerts in Singapore, Australia, Germany, and at the Bergen Festival in Norway, as well as around New Zealand. At home, he has served as organist/organ curator at Christchurch Town Hall since the new pipe organ was opened in May 1997, and post-earthquake has devoted himself tirelessly to preserving this fine instrument and giving inaugural concerts on new city church organs (the Transitional Cathedral, Knox, Oxford Terrace, All Souls Merivale).

Born and educated in England where he was awarded his Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists, he studied with Pierre Cochereau, Marie-Claire Alain, Piet Kee, and Peter Hurford. He was appointed to the University of Canterbury in 1974, but resigned as Associate Professor of Music in 2014 to pursue his international performing career full-time. In 2008 he received a Civic Award for services to music in the community, and particularly the Town Hall organ.

Martin's most recent CD, **Resounding Aftershocks**, is the first recording on the restored and enhanced Town Hall organ. Visit Martin's website organist.co.nz for his other concerts and recordings.

SUPPORTED BY



The Friends of the Christchurch Town Hall Organ Trust.