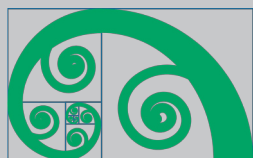


Thursday, 15th March • 5 pm Refreshments & Book Sales • 6 pm Lecture

**Professor Marcus
du Sautoy**

University of Oxford



New Zealand Institute of
Mathematics & its Applications

The Music of the Primes

Why did Beckham choose the number 23 shirt? How is 17 the key to the evolutionary survival of a strange species of cicada? Prime numbers are the atoms of arithmetic – the hydrogen and oxygen of the world of numbers. Despite their fundamental importance to mathematics, they represent one of the most tantalising enigmas in the pursuit of human knowledge.

Mathematics is the science of patterns. Yet the most fundamental numbers in the subject seem to have no patterns to them at all. They seem scattered randomly through the universe of numbers. But by looking at these numbers in a new way, mathematicians have discovered what they believe is the secret to the way Nature chose the primes.

Marcus du Sautoy is Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford. Esquire Magazine chose him as one of the 100 most influential people under 40 in Britain. He is author of the best-selling popular mathematics book “The Music of the Primes” which has been translated into 10 languages. He writes for the Times, Daily Telegraph, Independent and the Guardian and frequently comments on BBC radio and television. Marcus is in New Zealand as a Visiting Maclaurin Fellow of the NZIMA.

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