



NZMC Notes - Issue No 25 – April 2017

Hi All,

Welcome to the April edition of NZMC Notes. Welcome also to Oliver Lane from Whanganui. Oliver will be joining the first Basses.

From all accounts, the Morrinsville weekend went extremely well with the highlight being the performance on Sunday afternoon.

**MD Joe writes:**

“I felt the concert was a success and a step up in quality. The work we are doing on blending is starting to show results and the new formation gave me an opportunity to work some voice balancing.

There is a regular comment from members of the audience that the diction is excellent and the quality of the quiet singing is constantly improving.

Pilgrims chorus needs to be sung a lot more before it will start to flow but we have the right sound and intent to make it work.

The Easter Hymn seemed to be a bit of a surprise to some but they stepped up on the day.

It was a lovely venue and a full house was a real incentive to rise to the occasion.”

Further to Joe’s comments, Ray Seymour said there was a great audience appreciation as witnessed by the comments afterward. Also as a result, the Choir have had two requests to sing at venues in the Waikato / Bay of Plenty area. Thanks to Joe and Alex for leading us in a most enjoyable weekend.

Anne Connolly-Munt wrote in too saying, “Please pass on my grateful thanks to the Northmen for their concert yesterday and their contribution to the morning service. I was very proud of you all. The sound was fabulous, finishing with the Easter Hymn, was a total uplifting experience. There have been many ongoing fabulous comments about the whole day. I hope it is not too long before you can come again.”

Moreover, guess who was sighted in the audience at Morrinsville? - None other than David Qualtrough the second MD for the Choir!

**Accompanists:**

The Choir are very fortunate to have two brilliant musicians as accompanists. Their resumes make impressive reading.

## **South Island: Alison Holden**

Alison lives in Christchurch and works professionally as a concert pianist, accompanist, vocal coach, and teacher. She received her Masters degree and the Certificate of Post Graduate Studies in solo piano performance from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in the United Kingdom. A First Class Honours degree and Diploma in Arts from Victoria University; a Bachelor of Music degree majoring in Musicology from Canterbury University, and also the F.T.C.L. Diploma in solo piano performance. Alison has performed in many places in the United Kingdom, Denmark, Australia, and throughout New Zealand. She has performed with various orchestras, has recorded for Concert FM, and given numerous solo recitals throughout New Zealand, as well as appearing as accompanist with many different instrumental soloists and singers.

Over the last few years, Alison has worked with the NZ Opera Company, and the formerly known Southern Opera Company, as a repetiteur and accompanist for opera rehearsals and in concert. She has worked with the National Youth Choir on a number of occasions, too. She has also been an accompanist with the University of Canterbury, Burnside High School, St. Andrews College and other schools around Christchurch, and as a tutor of chamber music – including coaching groups into the National finals. She is also enjoying being a recent addition to the New Zealand Male Choir since mid-2016. She has a busy private teaching practice, too.

## **North Island: Alex Wiltshire**

Alex returned to NZ in 1998 after spending 16 years overseas working for several major theatrical companies. These included Cameron Mackintosh Productions, The Really Useful Company and the Victorian State Opera Company, Alex worked in various capacities for these companies including conductor, vocal coach, keyboardist and repetiteur work for shows such as CATS, Pirates of Penzance, Jesus Christ Superstar, Les Miserables, Aspects of Love and Phantom of the Opera. Alex was also one of the first women in NZ to work as a professional conductor, with her initial appointment as Assistant Conductor for the Marriage of Figaro for the NZ National Opera Company, followed by shared conducting duties with Sir William Southgate for several of the NZ Ballet Company's productions. Before leaving for overseas, Alex also spent several years at TVNZ, as a session musician and vocal repetiteur, working with a range of top TV personalities. Since returning from Australia, Alex has combined her work as a Clinical Practice Supervisor and Practitioner, with musical commitments such as touring throughout NZ and internationally for 6 years as an Accompanist for the professional musical performance group, Operatunity.

## **Other NZMC Concerts in 2017:**

### **Masterton, Waimate & Kaikoura:**

Ray says the concert in Masterton on 12 August will be a first in the Wairarapa for a number of years. It will be great to be working with a good local choir. Visitors/choristers from the South are most welcome, however they do need to let Ray know. Bookings for accommodation to be booked at the Solway Park Motel.

John B reminds all Northmen of the invitation to join the Southmen in concert in Waimate on Saturday 26th August. The weekend rehearsal will be in Timaru and it is only a 30-minute trip south to Waimate. The concert will be in St Patrick's Basilica, Waimate. Those of you who have sung there will remember how impressive the acoustics are! Northmen wanting to come down should fly to Christchurch Friday night

25<sup>th</sup> August. You will be hosted by some of the Christchurch lads and drive south with them to Timaru on Saturday morning. Motels are available in Timaru for Saturday night (own booking) or contact John Kember about the Grosvenor Hotel where a number of the Southmen stay. Choristers from the North are most welcome; however, they do need to let John B or John K know.

The Masterton & Waimate concerts are only a fortnight apart and work is ongoing in preparation for them both.

### **Kaikoura mini concert on November 18th:**

The end of April Kaikoura rehearsal weekend for the Southmen will include a workshop with the Kai Chorus ladies choir. This is in preparation for the mini concert we will do with them on November 18.

### **Labour Weekend/AGM & three full NZMC concerts**

Ray and his team report good progress putting arrangements in place for the weekend based in Palmerston North and singing in Palmerston North, Levin and Feilding before the AGM on the Monday morning. (As already circulated to members) Another reminder from Ray to get your bookings into and out of Palmerston North done as soon as possible.

### **Other Choir News:**

- Robin Gunston is now taking over the editing of the Facebook site so a reminder to send anything of interest to him for consideration.
- Anthony is looking for someone to take over running the website. Anyone interested please contact Anthony.
- Tax receipts will be out by the end of May.

On your behalf I want to wish Sue and Maurie well as Sue awaits further surgery on 4<sup>th</sup> May for breast cancer.

We also wish Warwyck well for his knee surgery on 1st May and for good recovery.

Kind regards to you all

John Botting  
**Vice - President (on behalf of the Management Committee)**  
**New Zealand Male Choir**

---

**New Zealand Male Choir**  
***Te Ropu Waiata Tira Tane O Aotearoa***