



NZMC Friends Newsletter - Issue No 6 – April 2017

Hi All,

On behalf of the Management Committee we are pleased to provide this latest edition of our Quarterly Friend's newsletter.

Art Deco Concert February 2017



This was a very enjoyable and successful weekend of singing and fellowship and well received with a full theatre. Some choreography needed with boaters perhaps!

Morrinsville Rehearsal & Concert weekend 8-9 April:

This concert to raise funds for a new organ at St Matthews Anglican Church was well received and with a full audience. 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.

Joe Christensen MD commented:

"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 in 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."

Anne Connolly-Munt concert organiser, wrote in too saying, *"Please pass on my grateful thanks to the Northernmen for their concert yesterday and their contribution to the morning service. I was very proud of you all. The sound was fabulous and to finish with the Easter Hymn, was a totally 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."*

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. She 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, in various capacities, including conductor, vocal coach, keyboardist and repetiteur work for show such as CATS, Pirates of Penzance, Jesus Christ Superstar, Les Miserables, Aspects of Love and Phantom of the Opera. Alex was also one 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, Opportunity.

Other NZMC Concerts scheduled in 2017:

Masterton, Waimate & Kaikoura:

- **Masterton on 12th 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.
- **Waimate on Saturday 26th August.** The concert will be in St Patrick's Basilica, Waimate and those of you who have sung there will remember how impressive the acoustics are!
- The Masterton & Waimate concerts are only a fortnight apart and work is ongoing in preparation for them both.
- The end of April Kaikoura rehearsal weekend for the South(ern)men 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 18th** in Kaikoura.
- Labour Weekend/AGM - three full NZMC concerts will happen over this weekend.
- 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 Fielding** before the AGM on the Monday morning. We will let you know the dates and venues for these concerts when they are confirmed.

Membership

We have welcomed in 2017 so far, six new members, three from the North and three from the South.

We are always looking for new members so please encourage others to make contact.

How to keep in touch

Facebook – the Choir has its own Facebook site- “New Zealand Male Choir”. Search us on the web as many supporters have, become a “Friend” to the site and keep in touch with the coming and goings of the Choir.

Website- search for the “New Zealand Male Choir” or the “National Male Choir of New Zealand” and you will find our website. It provides information on current schedules, points of interest, repertoire and other Choir information.

Choir Contacts

Royce – Secretary. Email: secretary@nzmalechoir.co.nz ph **063472395 or 021 1501423**

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Kind regards to you all,

John Botting

**Vice President
New Zealand Male Choir**

<http://nationalmalechoir.co.nz>