



NZMC Notes - Issue No 26 - May 2017

Hello all,

Welcome to the May edition of NZMC Notes.

Website: Anthony is still looking for someone to run the website - could be someone's partner, as it does not need to be a chorister necessarily. In addition, a reminder to provide Robin Gunston with news items/photos to consider for the Facebook.

Update of Design in Promotional templates: The choir, through Anthony, are updating its entire print and online media getting design templates for all concerts and promotions. This work is continuing our marketing improvement.

Concerts scheduled in North & South:

Ongoing work continues in the North and South Islands with preparations for the Northmen's **Masterton [Waiarapa] Concert** on **August 12th** and the Southmen's **Waimate concert** on **August 26th**. It is time for us all to **start promoting** these concerts to our friends and family.

Remember too the **Labour W'end trio of concerts involving the whole choir (Palmerston North, Feilding & Levin)**, and the Southmen's **mini concert in Kaikoura November 18th**. These too should get a **mention to your friends and family in these areas**.

Latest Waiata & others on website:

Joe has put the English translation of our latest waiata "Wairua O Te Puna" on the website as well as learning tracks for the following songs:

Llanfair, Ubi Caritas, Oculi Omnium, Pilgrims Chorus, Hey Look Me Over. Others from the current repertoire are also there.

To find all these on the **website** go into the Members section **Username is members** and password is **NZchoir2000**. **Then to Music Library.**

Membership - it has become standard practice for members to invite people along to our practices as a way of promoting the choir and gaining new members. Thank you to those who have already extended invitations. Please actively continue to do this.

Musical Director Joe Christensen

Joe started his musical journey in amateur theatre taking leads in some 40 musicals and dramatic productions before going to Queensland Conservatorium where he studied with Donald Smith OBE and Joseph Ward OBE. While there, Joe performed a wide range of repertoire from soloist in various performances for Brisbane Chorale to John Falstaff in *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Dulcamara in *Elisir d'amour* and Claggart in *Billy Budd*.

After graduating with a Dip Mus (voice) and a Post Graduate in Opera Performance, he returned to Hastings to teach at the E.I.T. Opera course for two years. He then spent time as a freelance performer working as soloist with most of the opera companies and choral societies throughout the north island.

Eventually finding the need to be home more often, Joe went back to EIT to study for a Teaching Diploma (secondary) gaining the Head of Music position at Karamu High School which he held for 12 years progressing to Head of Performing Arts Faculty for 3 years while still being HOD Music.

Joe developed an urge to improve his conducting skills so he travelled to Auckland University weekly for an extended time to study with Professor Karyn Grylls. Joe is now a freelance musician, conductor, teacher in Hawke's Bay conducting community based choirs, and high school choirs while also being the Trinity College of London representative and teaching a bit of singing in his spare time.

Alison Holden's bio was in last month. I'm happy to tell you that she also has a life outside of music. **Read on:**

In her spare time, Alison enjoys spending time with her large extended family and is very involved in her local church. She regularly goes out to Christchurch Women's Prison to help run church services there and to encourage the women in making positive changes in their lives. She also enjoys being a competitive tennis player (playing both tournaments and

interclub competitions), running, skiing, and travelling is always on her agenda. She is also a very keen photographer.

Good news on Keith Spragg:

It is 9 months since Keith had surgery and he was told it would probably be at least 18 months before he would feel A1 OK - that puts him half way there !As you will see there's lots of promising stuff mixed in with some not so good.

Keith told me, "Physically I'm probably 80%, slowly recovering some degree of fitness. Mentally OK. Still having issues with double vision so wearing a patch on my glasses, which helps enormously. I am getting used to being totally deaf in one ear. But I am enjoying life and being able to be at work and doing family stuff."

He went on to say this about his all-important voice. "After a second operation I can now talk without hyperventilating, a great relief I can assure you. As far as singing goes, I can manage a range of just over an octave but with little volume. It has improved a bit, but it is going to be a long haul to get back to any sort of useful standard."

Maurie & Sue Smith report that Sue has come through her surgery well and is recovering well and now waiting for a date for radiotherapy.

Kind regards to you all,

John Botting

Vice President [On behalf of management committee]

NZMC

New Zealand Male Choir
Te Ropu Waiaata Tira Tane O Aotearoa

<http://nationalmalechoir.co.nz>