



NZMC Notes – Issue No 38 April 2020

Hello all,

Welcome to this April edition of NZMC Notes: We are living in an extraordinary time and the new normal is yet to be revealed to us. I trust you are all safe in your 'bubbles', and being kind. We know from the daily updates that together we are all helping to stop the transmission of Covid 19 in New Zealand. This is very good news!

On May 27th Management will meet again to ascertain the "state of play" across the nation and plan a way forward for the choir. You will all be informed as soon as possible after the meeting.

In Memoriam:

David Ayers, from Christchurch and 1st tenor, passed away in January. A good number of choristers attended his farewell on January 24th and joined the Christchurch Leidertafel to sing the hymns and Malotte arrangement of The Lord's Prayer. Bev was thrilled that so many choristers were able to say and sing farewell to Dave.

A very warm welcome to new choristers: (12 since late last year!)

Earlier in the year (January at the Southmen rehearsal, Cheviot) we welcomed Andrew Fogg into the tenor 1 section. Believe it or not Andrew was an original member of the NZMC having been on the first tour to Wales in 2000. Welcome back Andrew & Carol. Also new in the South is Rob Smith from Waimate. Welcome aboard Rob and partner Karen. Andrew & Rob have both started their probationary period.

Two other South Islanders were due at the Nelson practice weekend in March (cancelled). Dougall MacLachlan (Waimate) and Roger Brown (Invercargill). They will be coming along to the next practice weekend. In the December 'Notes,' I welcomed five (5) new North Island choristers, who are now in their probationary period and it is with pleasure that I announce three (3) more. Colin Wood and Alison from Morrinsville, John Monro and Tess from Martinborough and John Thompson from Whangarei. A very warm welcome to you all.

Resignation:

Robin Gunston has recently resigned. He has given great service to the Choir. I recall Robin's meticulous organization of the Labour Weekend three-concert series in Palmerston North, including a comprehensive report following that weekend. On behalf of the choir I wish you well with your community environmental role Robin, especially when the current situation eases and trust that you and Maureen stay safe and well.

From the Treasurer:

Current financial position :-

1. Members Fees – only a number of small amounts still to be paid – thanks everyone.
2. Concerts and practices – we have had a good year with a projected surplus of \$11,000 – a very good result and special thanks to those who put in a lot of time and effort making them happen.
3. Projection to 30 June 2020 – based on known costs we will have between now and 30 June we are on target for a surplus of \$8/9,000.
4. Donation receipts – I expect these will be with you in May.
5. Subscriptions 2020/20201 – I anticipate these will be sent to you in July 2020 and would appreciate receiving your payments asap.
6. Trusts we would normally apply to for grants have suspended all applications so receipt of your membership fees are going to be very important to assist us in paying our current financial commitments.

Warwyck



The Voice of our M.D:

Great to see the members who have taken this opportunity to upskill online. I have included the best comments and also the lamest excuses.

"this is very interesting. I have doubts about the gaps between tones and semitone"

"interested to discuss vocal technique as I have been reading up on passagio and chest voice, head voice and middle voice"

"has spurred me onto further studies of theory continuing on from where I left off 50 years ago"

An interesting exercise"

"Enjoying the theory. Refreshes the memory"

"A great initiative from which I have learned a lot"

Unfortunately I have also had the top 4 classroom excuses for not doing it as well. Those are:

"I couldn't open the file"

"My computer has crashed and lost the file"

"I didn't get the email"

"There wasn't any ink in the printer"

Joe

Tour 2021:

The Tour Committee met last Monday (20/04) night. It was agreed that currently there is insufficient information to make any decisions on the tour. They plan to reconvene on August 9th in the hope that by then the situation worldwide will be clear enough for a decision to be reached – proceed with tour planning, postpone the tour or cancel the tour!

Management also discussed tour participants at Monday's meeting. Two decisions were made:

1) The health and welfare of all tour participants is paramount and

2) Any tour participant with questions or concerns about the tour is invited to contact Tour Convenor, Ian Gabites. Email:

ilandj.gabites@xtra.co.nz or cell: 021 2093787.



Music Library:

Ken Brown is unable to carry on in the role of Choir Librarian as he & Jenny are moving house later this year. Thankyou very much Ken for your sterling work as librarian. It was a tricky time dealing with the copyright issue; you did well! My thanks also go out to Norman Phillips who was the South Island librarian during this period. He and Martha have family plans which are currently curtailed by the pandemic.

Gordon Keelty is the new librarian and has just completed a huge undertaking digitising our current repertoire. Thanks so much for offering to be our new librarian Gordon.

A note from Gordon:

All the Choir's current music repertoire has now been digitised and any member requiring a copy of any current song should contact me at gammass@xtra.co.nz or telephone 027 2236797 to receive a digitised copy. New music purchased by the Choir will be issued to members as a hard copy with the appropriate stamp, showing the member's number, affixed to the front page. Members should take a photocopy of the music for use at rehearsals, where they can make notations as required. This will ensure that the original copies are kept in good condition for eventual transfer to new members. Should members have any queries relating to their music please contact Gordon directly.

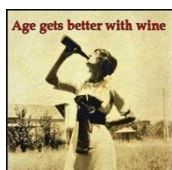
Gordon

An updated copyright policy, adopted by the Management Committee at its last meeting, has been emailed to you and will be posted on the website. We all need to familiarise ourselves with it; as choristers we have obligations and responsibilities for music issued to us by the choir.

John B

Strategic Planning:

At the end of 2019 the Management Committee sat down with Anthony Joines to review strategic planning for the choir. Recently, your views were sort on a range of issues, which had emerged from that meeting. Thank you to those of you who have sent in your responses and suggestions. Not too late to send yours in. During the year ahead the Management Committee looks forward to working jointly with choristers to implement the strategic plan. I encourage you all to work constructively to seek personal and collective improvements.



Brookfields Fundraiser:

Brookfield's wine fundraiser organised by Royce raised \$1020 for the choir which included two donations of \$60 & \$80 from members who didn't buy wine but wanted to be part of the fundraising project. Thanks to all those who bought wine or encouraged friends to and those who donated. A great effort Royce, under trying circumstances!! Thank you very much.

Further News:

Andrew Baber is currently in Rotorua Hospital and recovering well, Florence tells us. We are thinking of you both Florence and Andrew and can only guess how frustrating communicating only through devices must be, at this time.

Joe is soon to tell us of 4 more songs (part of repertoire planning for the tour) and the learning tracks which will go on the website. I encourage all choristers to learn these new songs during our enforced lockdown time.

Stay well everyone, look after each other and be kind.

With very best wishes,

John Botting
President NZMC