

Muse News

Newsletter of
THE MUSE
Community Music Trust
Winter 2016

Greetings to all our Friends!

I'm sorry you haven't heard from us for a while. Last time we wrote, we were negotiating the move to our new rooms at the Phillipstown Hub. I'm pleased to report we are in! This has involved quite a lot of renovations. The room we were offered had been painted very badly, with a residual smell of paint that wouldn't clear. The solution was to take down all the soft board, clean up the walls, and re-paint. A team of sewers made beautiful curtains for the whole room. We've had donations of most of what we needed to set up a little kitchen at one end, and have just started organizing the store-room. Our next job is to decorate and set up the entrance foyer. Thanks so much to everyone who has contributed. Moving in to the Hub has meant a big increase in work for Jacinta and me, while we help to build a community within the Hub and reach out to the local community. Fortunately, Nadia has taken up quite a lot of the administrative work, leaving us to work on programme delivery and Hub development. Most of the work goes on behind the scenes at meetings, both formal and informal. This is my excuse for the lack of newsletters over this time. I hope you will forgive me!

Nikki Berry

IN PARTNERSHIP

Earlier this year, Community and Public Health conducted a follow up study of the health benefits of singing in our Rockers of Ages Choirs. The conclusion was that participating in the choirs improved health and well-being across many areas. We are excited to be presenting the Kodály training at the end of the month, in collaboration with the C.S.M. and Music Education Canterbury. One of the great strengths of living in a city this size is the way we can collaborate to achieve our aims. We are also building a relationship with Rehua Marae, who love having the Rockers Choir to visit. Steve Langley is going to start teaching an ukulele class there soon, and we have more visits in the pipeline.



How to find our new home.

*The Muse gratefully acknowledges
the support of the Community Arts
Development Fund, the Christchurch
City Council & the Rātā Foundation,*

Please return to The Muse Community Music Trust
708 Selwyn Road, RD 8
Christchurch 7678



Learning body percussion at Lift the Roof
photo by Gary Easterbrook

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

We had a fantastic event earlier this year, called 'Lift The Roof' with four leaders and their 10 choirs all contributing songs to a massed choir learning and singing session. Some members of our community said it was too long, and some said it wasn't long enough! However, everyone agreed it was fantastic to come together and interact with our extended community. I'd love to personally extend the model to include interactions with cultural communities within Christchurch. At the Hub there are several churches that represent different cultural communities from around the world. I'm hoping we can collaborate musically.

Nikki Berry

THE WAINONI SCHOOL PROJECT ENDS

If you follow our Facebook Page (The Muse NZ) you can watch snippets from the final performance of students participating in the Wainoni School project. The project has been running since 2012 in conjunction with the Christchurch School of Music.

Over the last four years we have run a Circus Skills programme, class music

lessons and individual instrument lessons at various times. There are students who have participated in everything we have offered and we are very proud and pleased to have been present at the school for so long.

Wainoni School closes at the end of the year to become part of the large Aranui campus, and we will miss the regular contact with the young people we have grown to know. We are most grateful to the C.S.M. and to all the music teachers who have supported this project.

Jacinta O'Reilly



Ago and Abli from Wala. Photo by Gary Easterbrook

WALA - THE SAGA

I wrote to the email list earlier this year about our friend Odai who was stuck in Australia due to bureaucratic bungling on behalf of N.Z. Immigration and the Police after his passport was stolen and returned to the police. A block on his passport (only in N.Z.) prevented him returning, and neither department was willing to talk to the other to sort it out. Finally, with the help of the Ghanaian Embassy it was sorted, but too late for their New Zealand tour. The rest of the band presented a spirited concert for us at Cathedral College, and a workshop at The Hub that was well attended and loved by all.

Nikki Berry



Ready for the final number at the Big Muse Concert.
photo: Luiz Peyon

COMBINED CHOIR CONCERTS

Our Open Song choir has been experimenting with a new form for the last few terms. Instead of an end of term concert, we are having a party and 'soiree' where members of the choir have the opportunity to perform for each other. This gives the less confident people a safer place to build confidence, helps to build our community and is very entertaining! We are also carrying more songs over that we don't want to lose, and starting to share more material with the other Muse associated choirs so that we can perform together. We plan to have two big concerts a year, with all the Muse associated choirs and ensembles. Our June concert was a huge success. It included the newly established West African Drumming group who surprised us with their amazing energy and proficiency after only six weeks of learning. Maganui is doing really well with this group, under the mentorship of Robert (Koffie) Fugah. This term she is offering a two week introduction so that others can become integrated into the group. The ongoing class will run for four weeks before Koffie comes up to pull the rhythms together and add some extension. He'll also offer a series of workshops on that day. If you haven't tried West African drumming yet, do get along. It is great fun.



Rockers of Ages at the Rangiora Town Hall.
Photo by Shelley Caldwell

THE ROCKERS OF AGES - IN DEMAND!

When we first started the Rockers of Ages Choirs, it was purely for the benefit of the members. We never dreamed we would be juggling a busy schedule of performances. At the end of the term we had three gigs in one week! We've performed at four libraries, the Rangiora Town Hall, and recently at the Winter Blast at the Woolston Club. The Rockers of Ages and the Open Song Choir also enjoyed a 'flash mob' type performance, joining A Capellago at the opening of the beautifully restored Great Hall at the Arts Centre. The North Canterbury Rockers are moving to Rangiora from the start of next term to lessen the travel time for most members. To celebrate the move, we gave a free concert in the acoustically beautiful 'gallery space at the Rangiora Library.



Muse Choirs join A Capellago at the Great Hall
photo by Justine Holvoet