

# Muse News

Newsletter of  
THE MUSE  
Community Music Trust  
Spring 2015

Greetings to all our Friends!

I have personally hit the road running after a trip away to catch up with old friends I hadn't seen for 25 years! Tony Worrall did a fantastic job of running the Rockers Choirs in my absence and since I've been back we've had three concerts in our final week of term. Thanks to all those who came out and supported us for our 3 Choir Concert. The massed choir was awesome!

Our big news is that we have moved forward in our plans to hopefully take a permanent space at the Phillipstown Hub next year. A Capellago are trying the space out for us, and we have a few workshops booked for next term. Based on the success of the Rockers Choirs, we are going to offer more courses 'by donation' this term. We are concerned that often the people with the fewest resources are also the least likely to ask for financial help to attend our activities, so we are hoping this will help overcome that barrier for those people, and everyone will use their integrity and pay what they can afford. We've put a 'suggested donation' based on the estimated costs of each course. We are underwriting all these courses so the tutors still get paid for their time.

## FUNDING

We are delighted to report that we've received funding from the City Council and the Rātā Foundation (Previously the Canterbury Community Trust) to pay our contracted staff and from the Community Arts Development Fund to subsidize the Rockers Choirs and Keepsake Singers. Our new administrator, Nadia Sole is getting to grips with the complexities of how The Muse works. She is a delightful and efficient addition to our team. We have certainly come along way from volunteers around our kitchen table.

## LOOKING BACK

The Guitar and Ukulele Orchestra is going really well and we are delighted Glen Wagstaff has agreed to continue to lead it. Participants are finding that their musicianship and playing skills are rapidly improving. Glen now has a good overview of the ability of various members, and is arranging accordingly, striking a good balance between motivating players to practise at home, and enjoying music making together in class.

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

## PETE CHURCHILL



The flash tour by visiting Maestro, Pete Churchill was a huge success. His classes at C.P.I.T. were filled to capacity and about thirty people enjoyed the

activities based at The Muse. We had no idea the 'Jazz Choir For a Day' would be so accessible to people of all ages and abilities. He teaches everything by ear, spending plenty of time to help everyone get 'in the groove'. It was really a case of being 'in' the music fully, while experiencing harmony that was rich and fulfilling to sing. The arranging workshop and all his workshops at C.P.I.T. were also extremely helpful, with new ways of looking at and explaining many concepts within music. We hope to get him back again some time. If you missed his first workshop, make sure to come when he returns. I think he must be the best community choir facilitator and arranger I have ever worked with, while also being a very lovely person.

Gary and I recently taught a weekend 'Musicianship and Singing Skills' course. I enjoyed the chance to incorporate some of the Kodaly learning I've been doing into this work with adults. We were very pleased with the progress made by everyone on the course, many of whom surprised themselves with their own achievements and new ways of looking at things.

## LOOKING FORWARD

Robert Fugah, who leads our African Drumming and Dance classes is teaming up with two local women so that these classes can continue weekly. Tamara Smith is already offering a weekly African Dance Class. Robert will lead this class occasionally, to add to the repertoire being provided by Ra McCrostie. Maganui Stewart will be offering a regular drumming class, with Robert coming up once a term to bring new material and guidance to the group. The drum classes will be based at the Phillipstown Hub. (See Events Guide for details)

Robert is also teaming up with two African women, now based in Dunedin, to bring us a few days celebrating songs, dances and drumming from South Africa, Zambia and Ghana. See events guide for details. We are hoping to host them again early next year, along with our friend Lala, who is originally from Madagascar, in a festival celebrating African music. Lala lives in Wellington, but came to Christchurch sponsored by The Muse to attend our musicianship course. She now leads a Madagascan choir, a dance troupe and performs regularly in her own original Malagasy band and a jazz duo.

Next year we also hope to provide some more Kodaly training for teachers. I will be meeting with those who are keen to try to work out a schedule. There's so much on, the year has just flown by!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of The Muse. Best wishes,

Nikki Berry, (Programme Manager)