

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY RHYTHM EXTRAVAGANZA

We hope you will join us for an all ages opportunity to come together and make music. We will split into two groups, based roughly on age (with adults distributed throughout both groups and siblings kept together where desired). Each group will participate in two workshops. The more the merrier.

### West African Drumming

Experience the joy and excitement of playing in a djembe ensemble with master drummer, Robert Fugah.

### Random Acts of Music

This workshop will be an opportunity to explore improvising on tuned percussion instruments in a musically structured environment. Random Acts of Music workshops help people discover their own creative potential, and experience the joy of playing spontaneously in an ensemble. No experience needed and we welcome experienced musicians to join us on saxophones, voice and other lead instruments.

**Tuesday, 14th April, 10.00am - 12.30pm**

Chisnallwood Intermediate School,  
76 Breezes Road, Avondale.

Entry by donation:

(\$2.00 - \$10.00 per person)

*Please let us know if you are coming.*

The Muse is grateful for support from  
The Canterbury Community Trust  
and the Christchurch City Council.

Robert will follow this up with his regular African Drumming and Dance workshops on Tuesday evening.

## AFRICAN DRUMMING AND DANCING

Join Robert Fugah to celebrate the rich traditions of drumming, singing and dancing from his homeland in Ghana.

**Tuesday, 14th of April,  
6.00pm - 7.30pm, Drumming & Singing.  
7.30pm - 9.00pm, Dancing**

Chisnallwood Intermediate School,  
76 Breezes Road, Avondale.

Cost: \$30 or \$20 for one workshop only.

*Bookings helpful but not essential.*



### TO BOOK:

**all courses (including externally administered) can be booked through our website: [www.themuse.org.nz](http://www.themuse.org.nz) or phone 0800themuse (0800 843 687) email: [info@themuse.org.nz](mailto:info@themuse.org.nz).**

book here



Greetings to all our Friends.

I've just returned from a quick trip to Wanaka where I had the pleasure of working with a small women's choir. It's always interesting when I leave town, to be faced with the same question, "Were you affected by the earthquake?" It's hard to know how much information to give people. I think for those outside of Christchurch, it's almost like a 'how are you?' question, where people's eyes glaze over quickly if you actually answer truthfully. I have to admit to feeling a bit worn down lately, and I can only imagine how it is for those of you still struggling with insurance companies to get your basic housing needs met, or those living with constant noisy building work going on night and day next door. Life in Christchurch can be tough, and here we go heading into another winter. If things are getting you down, make sure you get along to at least one music group a week. Often we don't feel like going out, but once we get there, the connection we feel from making music with others has a revitalizing effect. Also, if you know people who could be lonely and are available during the day, please do let them know about our choirs and singing groups. Now that we've introduced the

Keepsake Singers, we have groups to meet a variety of needs. The Rockers, for people who enjoy singing contemporary songs in harmony, and the Keepsake Singers for people who just want to sing familiar songs in a warm, supportive environment.

Sometimes we have articles by a range of people in our newsletter, but this time it's mostly from me, with one article from Jacinta.

Nikki Berry

### NEW LIBRARIAN!

Unfortunately, there was a mix up about our stored library and much of it ended up under a half demolished garage! Fortunately, we managed to pick through and rescue most of it. I am very excited to announce that what's left of our library will soon be available for borrowing! Lisa Tui has offered to be our music librarian, and we have recently added some great teaching resources to it, and plan to keep refreshing it with new material, especially to help song leaders and community music leaders. Lisa would love a hand getting it organized and proposes to have a regular time to do this. Volunteers get the pleasure of hanging out with Lisa! Well worth it I say. Contact her if you want to help. phone: 027 257 2857 or Email: [lisatuiltj@gmail.com](mailto:lisatuiltj@gmail.com)

## STORAGE

Our other source of storage is also drawing to a close. Fi and Graham, who have generously stored our tables and chairs for four years, have let us know that they now need the space. We will have a new home for them from around June, but need temporary storage for about two months. If you are able to help, we would be very grateful. They take about as much room as a single axle trailer.

## WORK FOR THE MUSE

We are having another attempt at bringing in a bit more resource to the running of The Muse. I'm trying to free up a bit more of my time to enjoy more personal music making. If you have exceptional skills in any of the following areas, we may have a little bit of work for you.

- Accounting/Administration
- Publicity - desktop-publishing
- Organisational - programme and people.

Send me an email with your CV or a bit of a description of your skill set if you are interested in giving us a hand. Excellent remuneration and working conditions.

## PUBLICITY

Getting word out about our events has become more of a challenge over the last few years. My own email inbox is bombarded with spam mail, and it's easy to miss important emails, amongst the variety of information that comes in. Facebook can be a good way of letting people know about events. If you use Facebook, it would be great if you would 'like' our page and share our events with your friends. We're trying an A4 poster for a change for

our regular events instead of an Events Guide. We'd appreciate it if you could think of somewhere to display a poster for us. More can be downloaded from the Friends area of our website.  
<http://themuse.org.nz/friends/print/>

## KEEPSAKE SINGERS

Keepsake singers started on the 10th of March at 95 Forfar St. It is a friendly singing group led by Steve Langley, and we sing old songs - from those our parents and grandparents sang, to the more recent tunes we all love. Steve keeps us in tune with his ukulele, and has a great repertoire of songs.

Those old songs are our treasures and precious memories and a window to connect with people experiencing memory loss and dementia. Singing these songs can be deeply reassuring for people who are confused by the fast pace of life. It is also great fun for anyone who loves to sing.

Everyone is welcome at Keepsake Singers. It's fine for people to come along just to watch and you don't need to be experiencing memory loss to join in!

If you have an older relative in residential care this would be a particularly fun outing, an activity to share and enjoy together. The hall is accessible and comfortable, warm in winter and well serviced. Let us know if we can help with any barriers that might prevent someone you know from attending. Keepsake Singers runs weekly, 2-4pm on Tuesdays during school terms.

Our next session is on 21 April.

Jacinta O'Reilly

## AN UNEXPECTED GUEST

Our family had the honour recently of hosting a wonderful musician from Ghana. Odai is the leader of Wala, a touring band from Ghana, whose car was broken into in their motel car park. Amongst items stolen was Odai's passport and he found himself stranded in Christchurch. Through our mutual connection with Robert Fugah, Odai found us and we were very pleased to offer him a bed for a week. Gary and I enjoyed a week of music making with a very fine musician. Odai's singing and flute playing was just beautiful and he's also an amazing drummer. Lisa Tui helped us host a combined concert/workshop and the four of us performed one of Odai's songs together. Tamara Smith interviewed Odai on her 'Falling Through The Cracks' radio show on Plains FM and they had a wonderful flute jam as part of the interview. Tamara's show is on Fridays at 4.00pm and you can hear it on podcast: <http://plainsfm.org.nz/on-demand/tamara-joined-today-musician-and-band-leader-odai-/>

Odai has suggested we organize a choir trip to Ghana! Gary and I are thinking we may make a longer trip to more of Africa, and Lisa could bring over a combined choir to meet us over there.

## KODALY

We had our first workshop specifically for teachers this term with the wonderful Maree Henessey. It surpassed my expectations. However, we realize that finding people to train as qualified Kodaly teachers is going to be quite challenging. Our original plan was to host the Level One training in Christchurch in 2015 but we are now thinking it will be better to



*Odai at his workshop*

do a series of weekend workshops and commence Level One in 2016. If you know musicians interested in working with children, please let them know about our Kodaly training programme.

Two events that haven't made it into our poster because they are in the school holidays are involving Robert Fugah and his African drumming classes.

On the 14th of April we are hosting two events, one in the morning and one in the evening. Although young people are welcome at both events, the morning session is aimed specifically at meeting the needs of younger people. Please see the back of this newsletter and enclosed poster for more information.