

KEEPSAKE SINGERS

The Keepsake Singers have been meeting on Tuesdays at 95 Forfar St. Led by Steve and his ukulele we have been singing a range of songs with gusto. We have sung show tunes, traditional ballads, pop songs, songs from our childhoods - anything that is remembered with pleasure. Suggestions are welcome, and if we don't know the words or are a bit wobbly on the tune Steve checks it out and sets us right the following week. The focus of the singing group is people with memory loss. Singing is a huge benefit to people with memory issues because the activity of remembering is good for us, and also because the memories of old songs are quite resilient and long-lasting, and revisiting them helps preserve that shared treasure of our personal history. It's also an experience that can revive other old memories, and whether that brings laughter or a poignant sadness, it's a pretty special experience. The variety of our repertoire, the opportunity to include personal favourites, and the easy going, friendly atmosphere means that it's a great outing, enjoyed even where mobility and stamina are a challenge. Keepsake singers are a diverse group in terms of age, health and favourite song! Some people attend regularly, while health and other issues mean others are more casual attendees. Everyone is welcome and there's a cup of tea and time for a chat as well as plenty of singing.

Jacinta O'Reilly

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

INSTRUMENT LESSONS AT WAINONI SCHOOL

Our project bringing instrument lessons to Wainoni School (in collaboration with the Christchurch School of Music) is back on track after a bit of a glitch in Term one. Currently 12 children are learning keyboard with Phoebe Leyten. Phoebe is a great teacher and she is building strong relationships with her students. It's great to be able to offer this opportunity in an area so badly impacted by the earthquake. The children really enjoy the opportunity to build their skills. They are eager to learn and to be creative, and eager to show what they have learned. They have let us know quite clearly how much the lessons mean to them. Next term our hope is to get the rest of the programme running as it was last year.

OUR LIBRARY

Lisa Jonathan has started setting up the library in her garage in Linwood. She would appreciate some help getting things organized. Please get in touch with her if you can help. I've recently done a clear out and donated some books from my personal library, and I encourage others to do the same. It's a great feeling to make a bit of space and know others may make better use of these resources. You can also 'lend' your books to the library, instead of gifting them. This way you can recall them any time you need them for an extended period. We have two keyboards available, as well as the ukuleles and teaching books. Get in touch with Lisa if you would like to borrow anything, including some new Kodály teaching resources.

Nikki Berry



Greetings to all our Friends.

I'm writing this on my first flight as I set off on a two month adventure, first to the U.S. then to Australia. I'm feeling sorry for you all who will have just experienced a big winter blast when you get this. Our group of Friends is quite small now, but your regular contribution does make a big difference to us. Thanks again for being a Friend of The Muse and I hope you get to some of our wonderful events coming up this term. Best wishes,

Nikki Berry

THE TEAM IS GROWING!

We are delighted to have Nadia joining our team. Here's a brief overview of the team. Jacinta answers phone queries, does our press releases and works with Nikki with long and short range planning and programme management. Nikki plans and runs the programme and manages most of the online and print information. Magenta manages the Facebook page. Pippa does the banking. Nadia currently takes care of course bookings and payments to The Muse. Eventually she will take over more of our tasks.

Here's a brief introduction from Nadia.

"I'm excited to be joining The Muse team as office manager working part-time from home. I am a mother to three active young boys who are all passionate about football. We live rurally near Rolleston where we have plenty of room to kick around a ball, and I'm actually getting quite good at it myself! One of my projects is restoring native vegetation on our ex-farming block. So far my husband and I have planted about 600 natives. It's a work in progress. As I get up-to-speed with how things are done at The Muse and as tasks are handed over to me, you'll begin to see emails coming out from me rather than other team members. Please feel free to contact me via the usual email address if there is anything I can help you with." Nadia Sole

TO BOOK:

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



THE GREAT MUSE GUITAR AND UKULELE ORCHESTRA

We are very excited that local composer, arranger and guitar player, Glen Wagstaff has agreed to facilitate an ongoing guitar and ukulele orchestra. He will be writing and arranging for a wide range of abilities, so that there will be parts that can be played by all levels. If you aren't sure it's for you, feel free to check it out the first night before enrolling for the whole term. Kerry is taking a break from teaching ukulele through The Muse. Demand has dropped off so we don't intend to offer the beginner classes this year. If demand increases, we will find another teacher and resume the classes.

Every Thursday during school terms.

7.30pm – 9.00pm

Cost: \$70.00 per term

TERM THREE: starts 23 July

Forfar Courts, 95 Forfar Street, St. Albans

SCHOOL HOLIDAY SPECIAL

After the great success of the Rhythm Extravaganza we ran last school holidays, we've decided to ask Koffie (Robert Fugah) to make it a regular event. We had a wide



range of ages at the first workshop and everyone had a great time. Historically, The Muse has mostly designed activities for adults but we have always welcomed young people to these workshops if they can work at the same level. Some older children have better concentration and skill than many adults, and they may



find the evening adult classes more appropriate, just as adults who love being with young people, may prefer to come to the Family Workshops. We aim to increase the amount of activities we provide for really young people but do also check out activities at the C.S.M. (Christchurch School Of Music) as they provide many activities for all ages. Bring your grandchildren and children to the 'African Drumming for Small People'. They will love it! **Friday, 10th July**

Later that night Koffie will run his usual workshop on drumming and dancing from Ghana.

Later on in the term, **Sat, 15 August**, Koffie will return to do another workshop for children in the morning and one in the afternoon for adults and older children.

Koffies Drumming for Small People Workshops

Friday, 10th July

10.00am – 11.30am
and/or

Saturday, 15 August

10.00am – 11.30pm

\$10.00 per person,
\$30.00 per family
(suggested donation)

Bookings helpful but not essential



A NEW HOME?

We are in negotiations with the Philipstown Hub to set up a base at the old Philipstown School. Hopefully by the next newsletter, we will have some more news. Meanwhile, we are very grateful to St. Chad's who are helping us out with storage. One of the projects we would like to start is to upgrade our five Macintosh computers, and provide access for people

wanting to use music software. This had just been established before our building was destroyed in the earthquake. We are excited about the possible collaborations with other groups at Philipstown School. Having a space will also help us to offer some regular after school activities. Lisa Jonathan is keen to collaborate with us again, and we hope other highly skilled teachers like Lisa who share our values may be keen to teach from our space and then also offer some more community classes.



PETE CHURCHILL

When we first started The Muse, one of our aims was to change the way music education is delivered in Christchurch. We wanted it to be holistic, involving lots of aural and whole body learning and be more 'musical'. Also, we wanted to deliver a programme that was inclusive of all people, regardless of past access to music learning. Over the last few years, I've studied a range of approaches that share these aims, in particular the Orff approach and the Kodály approach. I've discovered that there are people all over the world who are conducting research and delivering incredibly effective music

programmes. One of these practitioners is also a world acclaimed composer, conductor, performer and arranger. I heard that he was going to be in Brisbane to direct the production of one of his compositions and I cheekily invited him to Christchurch and he said yes! He's going to do some work at the Jazz school, and also offer a community singing workshop for us. I hope you can all make it. I imagine we will be learning his original songs, which are really lovely to sing. Check out his bio on our website, or even better, check out his own website. We are also planning an arranging workshop and we are open to ideas about how else to make use of his time while he's here. Ideas welcome.

Nikki Berry

JAZZ CHOIR FOR A DAY

An opportunity to work under Pete's direction, learning his original pieces. All Welcome.

Sunday, 30 August, 10.00am – 4.00pm

Forfar Courts, 95 Forfar Street, St. Albans

Cost – \$60/\$55 (Friends of The Muse)

Concessions available

Bookings helpful but not essential.

JAZZ VOCAL ARRANGING WORKSHOP

For current arrangers, wishing to learn and develop their vocal arranging. All welcome.

Monday, 31st August, 6.30pm

Forfar Courts, 95 Forfar Street, St.

Cost: Sliding scale \$20 – \$50.

Bookings helpful but not essential.