NEWSLETTER OF CHOIRS AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND TRUST: NEW ZEALAND YOUTH CHOIR AND VOICES NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER CHOIR

THE SHARP EDGE

Registered Charitable Trust No CC22101 May 2014

Voice of the Soul

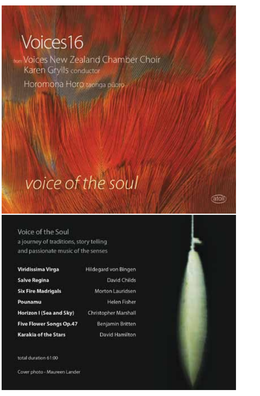
atoll

Voice of the Soul is a metaphor for a journey of traditions, story-telling and passionate music of the senses. For the listener, this CD experience is rather like walking around a gallery, where the exhibits are musical rather than visual. The voices of the instruments seduce us into the world of each new piece and fill us with expectation.

In November 2011 Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir with a choir of 16 members undertook a national tour of five main centres for Chamber Music New Zealand. Although Voices NZ was created as a flexible ensemble in order to adapt to whatever repertoire put before it, this was the first time such a large body of work was undertaken by a small chamber group. This 'Voices of Aotearoa' programme was stimulated by New Zealand's geographical landscape, the folk music of countries of our ancestors and also incorporated the sounds of Maori traditional instruments. The tour was a great success and was acclaimed by reviewers from Auckland to Dunedin.

The tour inspired Music Director, Karen Grylls, to develop a recording project utilising the same size of choir together with Taonga piūrro performed by Horo Hormona. This new release on the Atoll label features music by New Zealand composers David Childs, Helen Fisher, Christopher Marshall and David Hamilton intermingled with international choral writers Hildegard von Bingham, Benjamin Britten and Morton Lauridsen.

To buy your copy of this remarkable CD go to www.choirsnz.co.nz/d/voice-of-the-soul on the Choirs website. The CD costs $25 plus an additional $5.00 charge for postage and packaging for each order.



Voice of the Soul
a journey of traditions, story telling
and passionate music of the senses

Viridissima Virga	Hildegard von Bingen
Salve Regina	David Childs
Six Five Madrigals	Morton Lauridsen
Pounamu	Helen Fisher
Horizon I (Sea and Sky)	Christopher Marshall
Five Flower Songs Op.47	Benjamin Britten
Karakia of the Stars	David Hamilton

total duration 61:00

Cover photo - Maureen Lander

Choirs Aotearoa New Zealand Trust Board
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VOICES NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER CHOIR — NEW ZEALAND YOUTH CHOIR

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NEW ZEALAND YOUTH CHOIR

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Eternal Rest

Karen Grylls introduces the Fauré and Durufle Requiems

"Everything I possessed in the way of religious illusion I put into my Requiem, which Moreover is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest" Fauré wrote from 1921 might equally apply to Durufle's setting of the Requiem text. Neither engages in apocalyptic, dramatic moments (the 19th century views of the terror of the last judgment found in Verdi and Berlioz, with their settings of the Dies Irae text, do not reside here); such dramatic moments therefore, if they do occur, are all the more poignant in these settings. Faced by a model that might have been infinitely discouraging, Durufle followed its spirit to the letter. He not only did re use the Gregorian motifs from the Office of the Dead (in which he forced himself to reconcile Gregorian rhythms with modern metres), but also the rich harmonies of Ravel and Fauré, whose Requiem is in a class of its own, the writing unusual in the choice of text and in its restrained melodious simplicity.

Fauré's original conception of the work had only 5 movements and one soloist, a boy soprano drawn from his own choir (about 30 singers) at the Madeleine in Paris, where the Requiem was performed at a midday burial service for Joseph Le Soufache on 16 January 1888. It was accompanied by a small orchestra of violas, cellos, basses, harp, timpani and organ, with an ethereal violin solo in the Sanctus. Only later did the Requiem, as we know it, develop. "After all the years of accompanying burial services on the organ, I know it all by heart! I wanted to write something different." For Fauré, death was a welcome deliverance and an aspiration to happiness.

Durufle's setting exists in three versions (the one we will perform is with organ) and was written in memory of his father. The first performance was broadcast nationally on French radio Nov 2 1947, All Souls Day, and performed in Salle Gaveau in Paris. Roger Desormière conducted the large Orchestre national, with the Choeur de la radio (Yvonne Gouverné, director), and soloists Hélène Bouvier (whom Durufle did not know personally, but whose voice was exactly what he was looking for) and (baritone) Camille Maurane. Henriette Roget played the organ. This remains Durufle's best-known composition and arguably the best-known 20th century Requiem, full of modal harmonies and effortless polyphony.

I have loved these works for a long time and have performed both of them, but never before in the same recital. If the listener comes to them on their terms as settings of the Requiem text, at once peaceful, intimate, loving and with a confidence in eternal rest, then the listening experience will be profound.

Dr Karen Grylls ONZM

Fauré Requiem by Candlelight with Duruflé Requiem
Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir and Orchestra Wellington conducted by Karen Grylls featuring soloists Jayne Tankersley, Christopher Hillier and Bianca Andrew together with organist Michael Stewart.

Saturday, 7 June at 7.30pm. Tickets $35 Adult, $20 Student/child from Ticketek Tel: 0800 TICKETEK (842 538)
http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=FAUREREQ14
Door sales will be CASH ONLY

Andrea Gray *Stephen Park*

New Trustees at Choirs Aotearoa

Andrea Gray

Andrea has worked in the public and private sector in roles including knowledge and information management, introduction of web services to support business service delivery and relationship management. She is currently a General Manager in the Environmental Protection Authority. She has a BMus, BA (Linguistics) and an MA (Library & Information Studies). She spent many years enjoying supporting her children in their musical endeavours, including a great deal of choral work at their respective secondary schools. This rekindled her desire to sing and she has been a member of the Orpheus Choir of Wellington since 2006. She was delighted to be selected as a Trustee for the Choirs Aotearoa NZ Trust and is looking forward to contributing her energy and skills to the organisation.

Stephen Park

Stephen Park sang tenor in the inaugural National Youth Choir (1979-1982) and was a member of the choir's management committee in 86/87. He sang for 20 years from 1969, in Auckland and Wellington, in choirs including: the Auckland Boys Choir, Auckland University Singers, St Patrick's Cathedral, Auckland Dorians, and St Mary of the Angels. He graduated in law in 81, then worked as an arts administrator at Chamber Music NZ and the NZ Festival of the Arts, before moving to the Office of the Clerk at Parliament. After living in Vancouver during the 90s, where he shifted focus into clinical information services, he returned to NZ in 2003. He has since worked at the Auckland area DHBs in clinical data and quality improvement roles.

Thank you and Au Revoir

Lindsey Lawton and **Richard Sorrenson** recently retired as Trustees on the Board of Choirs Aotearoa NZ Trust. As they are both Auckland-based, we thank them not only for their expertise as Board members but also for the extra time travelling to and from Wellington. We look forward to keeping in touch.

Helping Infratil celebrate entering its third decade the Wellington members of the NZYC sang from the unusual location of the St James Theatre Dress Circle. Infratil's dinner was held on the Theatre stage which has become a useful function venue with the temporary closure of the Town Hall. Infratil's guests greatly enjoyed four pieces from the Choir's broad repertoire which ranged from mid-20th century jazz to contemporary waiata.

PHOTO: JEN FOUNDER

Wellington members of the NZ Youth Choir, March 2014

NZ Youth Choir – SOUTHBOUND

By the time the members of the New Zealand Youth Choir gather in Dunedin for their week-long residential course at the beginning of September, it will be two years since the national choir appeared in the South Island performing Tippett's 'A Child of Our Time' with the NZSO National Youth Orchestra in Christchurch. With the old choir coming to the end of its three-year tenure, this 2014 NZYC was selected through open auditions held in all the major centres in September last year. The new choir made its debut at the New Zealand Festival in Wellington in February.

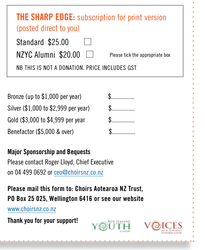
After six days of intense rehearsal the NZ Youth Choir will perform in Dunedin's Cathedral of St Paul on Friday, 5 September and travel to Christchurch to perform in the new Transitional Cathedral on Saturday, 6 September.

Speaking about this upcoming residency Music Director, David Squire said . . . "The concert repertoire includes an eclectic mix of music from around the world, with everything from a seventeenth-century double-choir sacred motet by Peter Phillips, to a 12-part male voice choir work about electric shock therapy by New Zealand composer Alex Taylor, written just last year. Some of the works are rarely heard in New Zealand, and make the most of the space and acoustics of both our concert venues. While resident in Dunedin, we hope to run an education workshop for local school choirs, and we are also looking forward to singing in the Transitional Cathedral in Christchurch for the first time."

Refer to local press and the Choirs Aotearoa website www.choirsnz.co.nz for further details.

SOUTH ISLAND PROGRAMME

Bo Hannson	Som när Handen
Eric Whitacre	Little Man in a Hurry
Ralph Vaughan Williams	Three Shakespeare Songs
	1. Full Fathom Five
	2. The Cloud Capp'd Towers
	3. Over Hill, Over Dale
Trad. arr. Moses Hogan	This Little Light of Mine
Henry Purcell	Hear My Prayer
Bob Chilcott	My Prayer
David Hamilton	Angele Dei
Lajos Bárdos	Populo Meus
Felix Mendelssohn	Ehre sei Gott in der Höhe
Peter Phillips	Ecce vicit leo
Alex Taylor	Two Years later
John Rimmer	Seven Summer Haiku
Matthew Harris	When That I Was and a Little Tiny Boy
Matthew Harris	Tell Me Where is Fancy Bred?



Roger Lloyd

Choirs Aotearoa NZ Trust's Chief Executive, Roger Lloyd, has been on sick leave since having major surgery in November. Roger and his wife Joy would like to thank the many friends and colleagues who have sent their best wishes and support during this time. Now, well on the road to recovery, Roger will be resuming his full-time duties in May.

LIST OF DONORS at APRIL 2014

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Please mail this form to: Choirs Aotearoa NZ Trust, PO Box 25 025, Wellington 6416 or see our website www.choirsnz.co.nz

Thank you for your support!

YOUTH — VOICES