

THE SHARP EDGE

Registered Charitable Trust No CC21921

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Voices at the 9th Symposium on Choral Music [inset César Carrillo & Karen Grylls]

Volcanic Voices

Even ash clouds have a silver lining – ROGER LLOYD tracks VNZCC's visit to Argentina

On 6 June, Chile's Puyehue-Cordon Caulle volcano erupted spectacularly grounding airline flights in southern Argentina. This was of particular interest to the members of Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir as they were booked to travel to Argentina to appear in the 9th World Symposium on Choral Music at Puerto Madryn in Patagonia in early August. Just 24 choirs were selected to participate from around the world.

Prior to the trip, Buenos Aires Airport was closed intermittently as the fateful travel date of Sunday 31 July drew near, but on Saturday evening, the word came through that Aerolíneas Argentinas AR1183 would leave Auckland the next day.

The party spent the first two days in Buenos Aires. On Monday, 1 August, Voices NZ gave a concert jointly with the Toronto Children's Chorus in the Salon Dorado (Golden Hall), Casa de la Cultura, Avenida de Mayo, one of Buenos Aires' historic buildings. Performing to a large audience, both choirs received a great ovation. The NZ Ambassador to Argentina, Darryl Dunn, said, "the choir gave a wonderful performance... which was warmly applauded".

On Tuesday, Voices NZ travelled out to the city of Quilmes, 17 kilometres south of downtown Buenos Aires, to St George's College, a residential private school where they rehearsed and gave a workshop. In the afternoon, the choir shared a concert with the Rosehill College Band from Papakura. Voices presented a programme of New Zealand works, joining forces with St George's Gospel Choir for the grand finale.

The Chilean volcano had its greatest effect on the 9th World Symposium by closing the local airport at Trelew. The alternative to the 2-hour flight from

Buenos Aires was a 17-hour coach trip arriving just a few hours before the start of the Symposium. There were some casualties in this situation and a number of choirs did not make it.

Leaping pods of southern right whales in Puerto Madryn's harbour greeted the choirs and delegates arriving for the Symposium. Voices performed three concerts, including a joint concert with the Toronto Children's Chorus in Trelew. These focused predominantly on NZ music but it had the honour of giving the world premiere of César Carrillo's 'Magnificat'. Voices' performances were received with standing ovations everywhere.

During the Symposium, the choir also hosted a 'Meet the Choirs' session, where Symposium delegates could ask Voices' singers and artistic staff questions about their background, process, and the way they achieved their sound. Most were amazed that Voices could produce such high quality performances with only a few rehearsals each year. The artistic team also presented a lecture on the development of NZ choral music entitled 'Te Matatini: A Tapestry of Traditions: Voices from the Polynesian Pacific'.

In nine days, the party travelled for over 60 hours, gave five concerts and two workshops, as well as a lecture on Pacific music by the artistic team, and represented New Zealand at the most prestigious international choral event of the year. Summing up the tour, Karen Grylls said, "Voices NZ has made a huge impression at the 9th World Choral Symposium in Puerto Madryn; standing ovations from the many delegates have put the choir and our NZ composers on the international choral stage in 2011."

WE'RE BACK!

Sorry to have been away for so long. There will be another *The Sharp Edge* at Christmas 2011 and then three editions per year from next year. Circulated free to choir members, Alumni, and professional colleagues, it will also be available on subscription for choral enthusiasts.

IN THIS EDITION

- Volcanic Voices
- New Chair
- NZYC in Taranaki
- Coming Your Way
- Handing Over the Baton
- Introducing Roger Lloyd
- Autumn Landscapes
- Meet Our Sponsors
- 2011 Repertoire
- How you can help

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NEW CHAIR



In June the Choirs Aotearoa NZ Trust Board appointed **TREVOR KEMPTON** as its new Chair.

Voices New Zealand and the Youth Choir have built a worldwide reputation for excellence, Mr Kempton says. "An important component in maintaining this reputation is the backing of a first-rate executive staff and Board of Trustees. I am very proud of what we have achieved and delighted to be appointed as Chair."

Mr Kempton recently retired as Managing Director of Naylor Love Ltd, a major national construction company. He is currently an Otago regional councillor and a construction industry consultant. He joined the Choirs' Board in 2004 and became Vice-Chairman in 2008. Mr Kempton is also a member of the St Kilda Brass Band and a trustee of the Otago Festival for the Arts.

Fellow Trustee, David Caygill, former Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament, is stepping into the Vice-Chairman's role.

The Trust expresses its sincere thanks to retiring Chair, Dr Alan Walmsley, for his dedicated contribution to Choirs over the last nine years. Chief Executive, Roger Lloyd said "Building on Alan's work, the wealth of experience that our new Chair and Vice-Chair bring will be a great benefit to the management of New Zealand's two national choirs."



NZYC IN TARANAKI

In July, after a three-year absence, the New Zealand Youth Choir returned to perform in Taranaki.

During a week-long residency at the Vertical Horizons Camp in Inglewood, they joined forces with the Australian Gondwana Chorale as part of a developing relationship between two choirs, whose members are drawn from the best young voices in their respective countries.

Last year, the NZYC's international tour included a joint concert with the Gondwana Chorale in Brisbane. The New Plymouth concert gave NZYC the chance to return the favour for 25 singers from the Australian choir, accompanied by their Principal Guest Conductor, Paul Holley.

For the concert in the Theatre Royal, TSB Showplace, on 9 July, NZYC was directed by Guest Conductor, Ravil Atlas, who presented a programme of works by Palestrina, Brahms, Schumann, Stanford and Ritchie.

Atlas draws on wide experience, ranging from participation in the famous San Francisco chorus Chanticleer, his work with world-renowned choral director Paul Hilliard, over 70 leading tenor roles ranging from Lloyd-Webber to Verdi, and a stint in the chorus of the famed opera house at La Scala, Milan.

In his review in the *Taranaki Daily News*, Allan Purdy commented, "Dynamics, balance, enunciation, phrasing, intonation, vowel uniformity, rhythmic alacrity – all were perfectly controlled throughout the interestingly varied choice of repertoire.

"The familiar Brahms' 'Stille Nacht' had a magical unanimity – those forty-three voices sounded as one." and added, "NZYC rounded off their half with the rhythmically brilliant Elijah Rock.

"Gondwana Chorale had twenty-five singers chosen from throughout Australia and made a dramatic entry with natural sounds from the outback accompanying their singing. They presented an entertaining selection of mainly Australian compositions conducted by Paul Holley."

Closing, Purdy said, "It might be a long time before we hear such a great concert by expert young voices again."

COMING YOUR WAY

New Zealand Youth Choir in Tasman

New Zealand Youth Choir's second course of 2011 is being held at the delightfully named Teapot Valley Camp, Brightwater, near Nelson. Led by Guest Conductor, David Squire, NZYC will perform music by Purcell, Britten, Schumann, Brahms and others in a concert on **Friday, 2 September in Nelson Cathedral at 7.30pm**. Entitled 'The Wonder of Existence', the music explores many facets of life portrayed by composers through the ages who sought to touch the mysterious and thrilling beauty at its heart.

David Squire led his Rangitoto College chamber choir, The Fundamentals, in a platinum-award winning performance at New Zealand's 2008 Big Sing, as well as winning gold awards every year for over a decade at the KBB Music Festival. Squire was awarded a New Zealander of the Year Local Heroes Medal for services to Music Education. Tickets are available from Everyman Records, 249 Hardy Street Nelson Tel: 03 548 3083

www.everyman.co.nz



Voices NZ Chamber Choir joins the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and city choirs REAL New Zealand (Rugby World Cup) Festival - 'Odes to Joy' Beethoven 9 Tour.

Featuring Pietari Inkinen, Madeleine Pierard, Sarah Castle, Simon O'Neill and Jonathan Lemalu

Thursday, 22 September at 6.30 pm - Wellington Michel Fowler Centre (tickets from Ticketek)

Saturday, 24 September at 2.00 pm - Auckland Town Hall (tickets from THE EDGE)

Tuesday, 27 September at 6.00 pm - Christchurch CBS Stadium (tickets from Ticketek)

Wednesday, 28 September at 6.30 pm - Dunedin Town Hall (tickets from TicketDirect)

Chamber Music New Zealand 'Voices of Aotearoa' presenting Voices NZ Chamber Choir including music from Voices' Argentinean tour.

Saturday, 19 November 2011 at 7.30 pm - Wellington Town Hall (tickets from Ticketek)

Sunday, 20 November 2011 at 5 pm - Napier St Johns Cathedral (tickets from TicketDirect)

Monday, 21 November 2011 at 8 pm - Auckland Town Hall (tickets from THE EDGE)

Wednesday, 23 November 2011 at 7.30 pm - Christchurch venue t.b.a. (tickets from Ticketek)

Thu 24 November 2011 at 7.30 pm - Dunedin venue t.b.a. (tickets from TicketDirect)

For updates go to www.choirsnz.co.nz

HANDING OVER THE BATON



Karen Grylls

The most publicised change to Choirs Aotearoa NZ in recent months was the announcement of Dr Karen Grylls' decision to hand over the baton of the New Zealand Youth Choir to a new conductor. She will now concentrate on directing the Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir and Choirs Aotearoa NZ is seeking a new Music Director for NZYC. Dr Grylls will continue as Artistic Director of Choirs Aotearoa NZ and will provide an artistic overview of the activities of both choirs.

Karen Grylls maintains that the NZYC has seen sustained international success and top-level music making during her tenure. However she wishes to see young conductors have the chance to further their experience alongside leading international professionals.

"A new Music Director for Youth Choir will ensure the level of choral excellence continues, while at that same time bringing fresh ideas and experiences to the national choirs," Grylls says.

Introducing Roger Lloyd

ROGER LLOYD was appointed Chief Executive of Choirs Aotearoa New Zealand in November 2010 and began full-time duties in March 2011.

Roger was born in the English Midlands and as a professional clarinettist, held positions in the BBC Midland Orchestra, the Royal Ballet Orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra in Belfast. He became General Manager of the Ulster Orchestra Society in 1980, a position he held for 12 years.



In 1993, Roger Lloyd moved to New Zealand to become Artistic Manager of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. He was General Manager of the Wellington Sinfonia (now the Vector Wellington Orchestra) for six years, and returned to the NZSO for a further period as Artistic Manager. He became Manager of the Adam Chamber Music Festival in September 2007, and Registrar of the Institute of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand in 2008. He continues to manage the Classical Expressions series of concerts in Upper Hutt and is a contributor to Radio New Zealand Concert.

autumn landscapes

On Friday 15 April Voices NZ Chamber Choir with Dr Karen Grylls and Maori instrument player Horomona Horo gathered in Dunedin for two concerts in the South Island. They performed in Knox Church that evening (see Elizabeth Bouman's review below) and on Sunday travelled on to Wanaka to give the final concert in the Festival of Colour.

In Wanaka Voices premiered a new work by Gareth Farr 'Harakeke', a setting of poems by the Maori poet Apriana Taylor. The piece includes music for taonga puoro - the *Koauau* (small flute) and the *Pukaea* (wooden trumpet).

Choir captivates large audience

Review by ELIZABETH BOUMAN in Otago Daily Times 18 April 2011

Choral music in this country achieves very high standards of excellence. We know this because international adjudicators and conductors tell us so, and our choirs return from overseas competitions with trophies and certificates of high placings.

Last Friday evening, Knox Church was filled with the unique vocal sound of award-winning Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir (formed in 1998), as artistic director Karen Grylls led them through a recital of mainly contemporary a capella repertoire.

Dr Grylls' control was impressive throughout, commanding full vibrancy to the softest nuance, with numerous exquisitely even, unwavering diminuendos.

Performing with the choir was Horomona Horo, whose study and understanding of *taonga puoro* has taken him to perform in many parts of the world. His command of Maori instruments is absolutely superb.

The dramatic deep trumpet-like

sound of the opening *Karanga*, played on the *pukaea*, led the choir into the church, immediately captivating the large audience.

Works by New Zealand composers included *Salve Regina* by David Childs, *Five Landscapes* by David Griffiths, Christopher Marshall's popular *Minoi, minoi, Olinda* by Anthony Ritchie and *Taonga Puoro*, which resonated as vocalisation of beautiful Maori vowel textures. Subtle evocative overlays and counter melodies from a *koauau* (nose flute) enhanced some of these works.

The variety in mood and colour of contemporary song cycle *Autumn Landscapes* by Estonian composer Velijo Tormis was well-interpreted by the 24-voice choir, but the short Brahms bracket seemed rather underweight and quite lost amidst the other works.

In August, Voices will represent New Zealand at the 9th World Choral Symposium in Argentina, and returns to Dunedin with the NZSO later this year.

Meet our sponsors

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DUNEDIN CONCERT



ARGENTINA TOUR

Lilburn Trust



Dunedin Voices NZ Chamber Choir
Knox Church, Friday 15 April 7:30pm
AUTUMN LANDSCAPES

Karanga	
Rossini	Cantemus
Childs	Salve Regina
Whitacre	Lux Aurumque
Brahms	Fünf Gesänge
Griffiths	Five Landscapes
Fisher	Pounamu
Tormis	Autumn Landscapes
Marshall	Minoi, minoi
Trad.	Manx Lullaby
Guastavino	Arroz con leche

Wanaka Voices NZ Chamber Choir
Lake Wanaka Ctr, Sunday April 17th 7:00pm
AUTUMN LANDSCAPES

Rossini	Cantemus
Whitacre	Lux Aurumque
Brahms	Fünf Gesänge
Griffiths	Five Landscapes
Fisher	Pounamu
Tormis	Autumn Landscapes
Farr	Harakeke (premiere)
Marshall	Minoi, minoi
Trad.	Manx Lullaby
Guastavino	Arroz con leche

Taranaki NZ Youth Choir (& Gondwana Chorale)
TSB Showplace, Saturday 9 July 7.30pm

William Byrd	Haec dies
Palestrina	Siuct Cervus
Robert Schumann	Zigeunerleben
Brahms	In stiller Nacht
Stanford	Beati quorum via
Durufle	Ubi caritas
Ritchie	Song of Hope
Childs	I am not yours
Parker/Shaw	What shall we do with the drunken sailor
Ivan Hrusovsky	Rytmus
Jean Berger	Alleluia
Lauridsen	Ov'e Lass' Il Bel Viso?
Lauridsen	O Magnum Mysterium
Chilcott	Nobody knows
Moses Hogan	Elijah rock
with Gondwana Chorale:	
David Childs	O Magnum Mysterium
Dan Walker	Morpheus

Buenos Aires Voices NZ Chamber Choir
Salón Dorado, Casa de la Cultura
Monday 1 August 6.30pm (&Toronto Children's Chorus)
VOICES OF AOTEAROA

Karanga from the land	
Hamilton	Karakia of the Stars
Koauau, Percussion	
de Castro-Robinson	Chaos of Delight
Taringa motukia (Tuwharetoa)	
Helen Fisher	Pounamu
Gareth Farr	Harakeke
Marshall	Minoi, Minoi
with Toronto Children's Chorus	
Wehi whanau	Te iwi e
Lydia Adams	Micma'q Honour Song
Alberto Favero	Te Quiero

Buenos Aires Voices NZ Chamber Choir
St George's College, Quilmes Tuesday 2 August 2.45pm
VOICES OF AOTEAROA

Programme as per 1 August
 plus **with St George's College Gospel Choir**
 Hampton Praise His Holy Name

Puerto Madryn Voices NZ Chamber Choir
9th World Choral Symposium,
Thursday 4 August 1.00pm
NEW ZEALAND LANDSCAPES

Karanga from the land...	
Wehi Whanau	Te Iwi E
McCallum	The Moon's Glow Once Lit
Griffiths	Oreti Beach, On Mt. Iron
de Castro Robinson	Chaos of Delight
Taringa motukia (Tuwharetoa)	
Mews	Pokarekare ana
Griffiths	Blow wind of fruitfulness
Gareth Farr	Harakeke
Marshall	Pusi Nofu
Guastavino	Arroz con leche

Trelew, Friday 5 August 9.00pm

Piper	Te Matatini
Child	Salve Regina
Carrillo	Magnificat
McCallum	The Moon's Glow Once Lit
Griffiths	Blow wind of fruitfulness
Hamilton	Karakia of the Stars
Farr	Harakeke
Lauridsen	Fire Madrigals
Favero	Te Quiero

Guastavino	Arroz con leche
Mews	Pokarekare ana
Marshall	Minoi, minoi
with Toronto Children's Chorus	
Wehi whanau	Te iwi e
Lydia Adams	Micma'q Honour Song

Saturday 6 August 8.30pm
Gala Concert
VOICES OF AOTEAROA

Piper	Te Matatini
Hamilton	Karakia of the Stars
Marshall	Minoi, Minoi
Fisher	Pounamu
Farr	Harakeke
Carrillo	Magnificat

Tasman NZ Youth Choir Nelson Cathedral
Friday 2 September 7.30pm
THE WONDER OF EXISTENCE

Farquhar	Concerto Sul 'La'
Purcell	Lord, how long wilt thou be angry?
Sweelinck	Gaudete Omnes
Schafer	Epitaph for Moonlight
Schumann	Vier doppelchörige Gesänge
Howells	Take him, earth, for cherishing
Caskie	Ten cent mixture
arr. Chilcott	Hush, little baby
Britten	Rejoice in the Lamb
Brahms	Neckereien
arr. Dawson	Soon-ah will be done

REAL New Zealand Festival Voices NZ Chamber Choir
NZSO & city choirs, Inkinen & soloists

Farr	'Kaitiaki' (premiere)
Beethoven	Symphony No 9
22 September 6.30 pm - Wellington MFC	
24 September 2.00 pm - Auckland Town Hall	
27 September 6.00 pm - Christchurch CBS Stadium	
28 September 6.30 pm - Dunedin Town Hall	

Chamber Music New Zealand Voices NZ Chamber Choir
VOICES OF AOTEAROA

Music from Voices' Argentina tour	
19 November 7.30 pm - Wellington Town Hall	
20 November 5.00 pm - Napier St John's Cath	
21 November 8.00pm - Auckland Town Hall	
23 November 7.30 pm - Christchurch venue t.b.a.	
24 November 7.30 pm - Dunedin venue t.b.a	

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Raising money was bound to appear sooner or later in an edition of The Sharp Edge. In difficult times the arts tend to fall down the priority list even though the morale-boosting effect of a good concert greatly outweighs the costs involved. Sourcing funding for our activities has become much more difficult and we hope our supporters will continue to help us carry on providing performance opportunities for New Zealand's most talented singers.

You may already know about 'Payroll Giving' which enables you to make donations directly from your pay to a 'donee organisation'. The scheme is administered through IRD's PAYE tax system, and employers, who electronically file their employer schedule and deductions using Inland Revenue's ir-File, can sign up for the scheme and make it available to their staff. People who donate through 'Payroll Giving' receive tax credits relating to the donations they make each payday. This means you won't have to wait to claim tax credits at the end of the tax year. Alternatively, a simple Automatic Payment into Choirs Aotearoa NZ's bank account will enable you to spread your donation over a period.

Our 'Support' form gives information on how you can contribute to Choirs Aotearoa NZ. To get a copy, email choirs@choirsnz.co.nz.

CHOIRS AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR

Professional fund-raisers will tell you the most difficult part of their job is to get past the 'doorkeeper'. The itinerant salesman's 'foot in the door' is difficult to replicate by letter or on email. We need to be able to tell our story and convince potential sponsors of the importance of our national choirs and their relevance to New Zealanders.

Could you become involved in raising money for Choir Aotearoa New Zealand – the NZ Youth Choir and Voices NZ Chamber Choir? It's not difficult; NZ is really a 'village' and everybody knows somebody who could help maintain our choirs, these national treasures.

If you want to be a Choirs Aotearoa NZ Ambassador contact us at the office on choirs@choirsnz.co.nz or speak to Emma, Janice or Roger. We can provide materials to get you started.