

THE SHARP EDGE

Registered Charitable Trust No CC21921

November 2011



New Zealand Youth Choir in rehearsal at Nelson Cathedral



Baton Change

Leadership change for NZ Youth Choir - introducing DAVID SQUIRE

Following his highly successful guest appearance in Nelson with the New Zealand Youth Choir in September, Choirs Aotearoa NZ Board has appointed David Squire as the NZYC's new Music Director. He takes over the job from Karen Grylls who is stepping down after 22 years conducting the Youth Choir, although she will continue to have an active role in NZYC as Artistic Director of Choirs Aotearoa.

David Squire says he is looking forward to following the vision of Guy Jansen, Peter Godfrey and Karen Grylls, while setting in place new artistic goals for the choir. "I am very excited to be working with such a dynamic group of young people, who all desire to create music with integrity and passion."

David Squire is a founding member of the newly-formed New Zealand Association of Choral Directors. He studied singing with Isabel Cunningham, Glenese Blake and Beatrice Webster, and conducting with Karen Grylls and Juan Matteucci. He has sung with many top choirs in New Zealand, including the Dorians, Auckland University Singers and the New Zealand Youth Choir. He was also a founding member of Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir and the V8 Vocal Ensemble.

David Squire comes with a string of notable successes. His Rangitoto College chamber choir, The Fundamentals, won a platinum-award at New Zealand's 2008 Big Sing, and his Westlake Symphony

Orchestra has won gold awards every year for over a decade at the KBB Music Festival. In March this year he was awarded a New Zealander of the Year Local Heroes Medal for services to Music Education.

David lives on a small lifestyle block just north of Auckland with his wife Michelle and sons Liam (6) and Declan (4). He recently conducted NZ Choral Federation choirs to a world-wide TV audience in the Rugby World Cup. The family enjoyed attending some of the games where David was conducting and, in particular, the quarterfinal when the All Blacks beat Argentina.

The NZYC's debut performance with David Squire as Music Director will be in the Hawke's Bay Opera House 21 April 2012.

Choirs Aotearoa New Zealand Trust Board

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WHY SUBSCRIBE OR E-SUBSCRIBE?

From 2012 Choirs Aotearoa intends to produce three 'The Sharp Edge' newsletter editions per year. To cover the cost of production, postage and packaging there will be a charge of \$25 per annum (\$20 for Youth Choir Alumni). If you are happy to receive the newsletter electronically by email there will be no charge – naturally, we will need to have your email address. Either way, complete the form on Page 4 with your details in order to join the mailing list:

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YOUTH CHOIR IN NELSON

By special invitation the New Zealand Youth Choir performs in Nelson Cathedral.

NZYC members Joanna Wells (soprano) and Hazel Fenemor (alto) found themselves in the limelight performing in their hometown and featured on the pages of the Nelson Mail. Both former Waimea College students, Joanna is studying for her B Mus at Canterbury University and Hazel has just completed her degree at the New Zealand School of Music in Wellington.

The NZYC course, 29 August – 4 September, was held in the charmingly named Teapot Valley Camp in Brightwater and it turned out to be a very happy time for all involved. Directed by guest conductor, David Squire, the week culminated in a concert in Christ Church Cathedral in Nelson on Friday, 2 September and an educational workshop the next day at the camp with 40 children attending from 4 local schools.

David Squire's programme called 'The Wonder of Existence' was an eclectic mix including music by Andrew Baldwin, Brahms, Britten, Helen Caskie, Elgar, Farquhar, Howells, Poulenc, Purcell, R. Murray Schafer, Schumann and Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck with arrangements by Bob Chilcott, Diane Cooper and William Dawson.

Nelson Cathedral's glorious acoustic provided the perfect setting for this collection of contemporary New Zealand music mingled with the ecclesiastical, Classical and Romantic traditions of the Old World. The performance, given to a full house, was very well received.



2003 NZYC members
– Chris Bruerton (front)

From NZYC to The King's Singers

"We are thrilled to announce that New Zealand-born baritone Christopher Bruerton has been appointed as the first ever foreign national member of The King's Singers."

– The King's Singers website

Chris Bruerton, a member of the NZ Youth Choir from 2003 to 2007, was born and raised in Christchurch where he joined the cathedral choir at the age of ten later becoming a Choral Scholar and Bass Lay Clerk. After graduation from the University of Canterbury he taught at his old school, Burnside High and left NZ in 2010 to join the choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

By a strange twist of fate Chris' first engagement with The King's Singers will be the group's first tour of Australasia in 27 years which includes two concerts in New Zealand, Hamilton on 22 February and Auckland on 25 February. On hearing the news of his appointment Chris said "For me, as a Kiwi, it was a privilege to even sing with The King's Singers once, let alone twice at the auditions. When I got the call back I was just stoked to have made it that far."

STOP PRESS:

Auckland members of the NZ Youth Choir directed by David Squire will give a short, free concert of festive music in the Atrium of Auckland Museum on Saturday, 3 December at 2pm.

Voices of Aotearoa

Voices NZ Chamber Choir makes its debut tour for Chamber Music New Zealand.

The Voices Chamber Choir present concerts with repertoire from its recent visit to Argentina for the 9th World Symposium in Patagonia. On its first national tour for Chamber Music New Zealand, Karen Grylls conducts a 16-voice choir accompanied by Horomona Horo performing on taonga pūoro (traditional Maori instruments).

This wide-ranging programme includes music by Hildegard, Britten and Purcell and New Zealand compositions by David Griffiths, Helen Fisher and a new work by David Hamilton 'Karakia of the Stars'.

Saturday, 19 November 2011 at 7.30pm
Wellington Town Hall

Tickets from Ticketek
0800 TICKETEK www.ticketek.co.nz

Sunday, 20 November 2011 at 5pm Napier
St John's Cathedral

Tickets from TicketDirect
0800 4TICKET www.ticketdirect.co.nz

Monday, 21 November 2011 at 8pm
Auckland Town Hall

Tickets from THE EDGE
0800 BUY TICKETS www.buytickets.co.nz

Wednesday, 23 November 2011 at 6.30pm
Christchurch Aurora Centre for the Performing Arts, cnr. Greers Rd & Memorial Ave Burnside

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Thursday 24 November 2011 at 7.30pm
Dunedin Knox Church

Tickets from TicketDirect
0800 4TICKET www.ticketdirect.co.nz



Pepe Becker with pink flamingos in Puerto Madryn, Argentina



WHAT A SITE!

Roger Lloyd introduces the new Choirs Aotearoa New Zealand website.

When I transferred from orchestral playing into management in 1980 the state-of-the-art office equipment was the electric typewriter. Soon the early computers, basically word processors, came on the scene and a few years later the mobile phone arrived shaped like (and weighing the same as) a brick. At much the same time the fax machine appeared and I remember begging my Board to let me buy a fax to speed up international communication; of course, like most British firms, we turned our machine off at night!

In the last 30 years technology has accelerated at such a rate that it almost feels as though a machine purchased today will be virtually obsolete next week. Whether these smaller and faster aids to management make our work easier, or we, the operators, better, is debatable. What is certain is that people expect to have far greater access to services and information now and the challenge for us is to respond to this.

Consequently, we are launching Choirs Aotearoa's new website with fresh graphics, new photos and improved functionality to provide fans and practitioners in the choral community with up-to-date information about the New Zealand Youth Choir and Voices NZ Chamber Choir. We have adopted a bright and youthful approach – although we are serious about our singing, it can also be fun!

Like all websites, this is a work in progress with news and new features being added from time to time. Why not put us on your list of Favorites and pay us a regular visit? We also look forward to hearing from you about any suggestions you might have. Please email to choirs@choirsnz.co.nz.

www.choirsnz.co.nz



Madeleine Pierard



Jonathan Lemalu



Sarah Castle



Simon O'Neill

ODES TO JOY

Voices NZ Chamber Choir join the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and city choirs for a nationwide tour of Beethoven's Choral Symphony No 9.

Its website told us that "The REAL New Zealand Festival is a nationwide celebration of all the things we love most about New Zealand, with events and experiences throughout the country." One of the main events in the Festival was the NZSO-led 'Odes to Joy' tour. Such was the appeal of this programme, two of the concerts sold out well in advance.

Featured were four internationally-acclaimed Kiwi opera singers – coincidentally all alumni of the New Zealand Youth Choir - Madeleine Pierard, Sarah Castle, Simon O'Neill and Jonathan Lemalu, and the NZSO's Music Director, Pietari Inkinen, who conducted throughout the tour.

Voices NZ Chamber Choir performed in all four concerts and was joined by a city choir in each centre, the Orpheus Choir of Wellington, the Auckland Choral, Christchurch City Choir and the City of Dunedin Choir. It was a happy and fraternal experience for all with a Choirs Trustee and the NZYC's MD singing in one of the local choirs.

The feature item was Beethoven's Choral Symphony, a work defining universal brotherhood but also a notoriously difficult sing after a 50-minute wait during the first three, purely orchestral movements. The choirs acquitted themselves well given the comments of the reviewers: "The combined choirs were thrilling" said John Button in the Dominion Post and "The combined Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir and Auckland Choral were heartily confident" wrote William Dart in the NZ Herald.

Audience members around the country could be forgiven for thinking that they had already heard the Gareth Farr work 'Kaitiaki' with words by Witi Ihimaera which opened each performance. This piece was specially commissioned for the tour by the NZSO with the proviso that the March section be composed and recorded in advance as entrance music for the teams during the Rugby World Cup games. This probably makes it the most widely broadcast music in the world during 2011.

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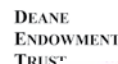
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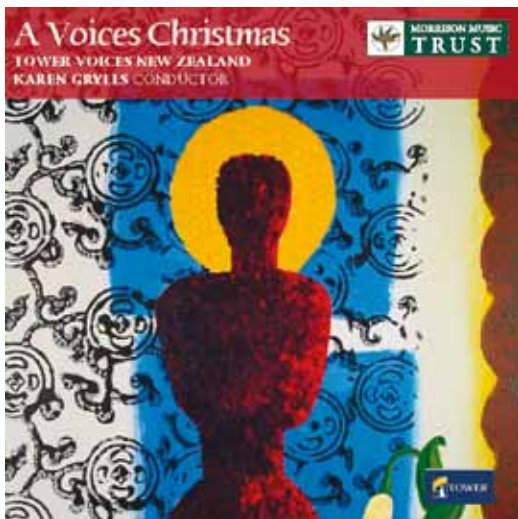
DUNEDIN CONCERT



ARGENTINA TOUR

Lilburn Trust





Christmas is coming

Looking for something a little different for a Christmas present? Look no further than – A Voices Christmas

Recorded in 2004 and coming from the Voices Tower sponsorship era, the recording was made in the wonderful acoustic of the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Wellington and includes attractive Christmas repertoire with music ranging from arrangements of traditional carols through to early 20th-century works.

See the Trust Records website www.trustcds.com for repertoire details: download track by track (\$0.99 each) or buy the CD (MMT2052) RRP \$34.95 from your nearest retailer.

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www.choirsnz.co.nz

Thank you for your support!

