



LearnMusicNZ
Institute of Registered Music Teachers NZ

Christchurch Branch

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NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

Dates for your Diary

Term 2

Mature Students Recital – Sunday 30th June, 6pm 8 Argo Place, Casebrook

Christchurch Instrumental Competitions – 5th – 10th July, Rangī Ruru Girls School

Term 3

Visit to Tūranga to see the music collection and the audio studio – Monday 29th July, 9.30-12.00. Booking via the online form is essential as numbers are limited

Retired Members Morning Tea – Monday 26th August, 10.30, 36 Bainton Street, Bishopdale

Jazz Workshop - Sunday 15th September, 2pm Chisnallwood Intermediate School

Term 4

Christmas lunch – Sunday 1st December, 12.00, more details in the next newsletter

Term 2 Events

Mature Students Recital – 30th June, 6pm 8 Argo Place,
Casebrook

Our mature students' recital will be taking place at 8 Argo Place, Casebrook, which is the home of one of our committee members. These recitals, especially for our mature students, are a wonderful, friendly, and safe opportunity to play a piece in front of a small, friendly audience. We would welcome instrumentalist, singers, duets and small ensembles as well as pianists. Please bring a plate of finger food for a shared tea following the recital. Diane will need to know the name of your item, an idea of the grade level, and the length of the item by Friday 28th June. You can contact Diane to book your students a place in this recital on: 021 328 364 or send an email to di_jeff@xtra.co.nz



Christchurch Instrumental Competitions – 5th – 10th July, Rangī Ruru Girls School

The Festival for 2019 will be held from July 5th to July 10th.



The adjudicator for this year will be Susan Smith ONZM JP ARCM FTCL LRSM. Susan was born and educated in Auckland. After gaining both LRSM and FTCL she completed her formal studies in London, UK, gaining her ARCM. She studied Piano with Phyllis Sellick, and accompanying with Ivor Newton. On her return to NZ in the 1970's she immersed herself in all aspects of teaching, including being Director of Music at Avondale College. Also, as a member of the NZ Institute of Registered Music Teachers, Susan has given Seminars and adjudicated many of their Scholarship

Classes. In 1991 Susan was appointed to the International Examining Panel, of The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, resulting in Tours of NZ and many overseas countries. In 2004 she received an ONZM for services to music.

The programme is now available on line, and it can be found on the competitions' [website](#).

We will again be holding the competitions in the new Music Suite of Rangī Ruru Girls School in Merivale Lane, Merivale. Videoing is not permitted throughout the competitions. However, if you contact the Convener Mrs Nahzee Maleki Amin on 021 041 4353 you may be given permission to video your own child. Photos of students other than your own, can result in disqualification.

Any enquiries to be directed to Mrs Nahzee Maleki Amin –Cell: 021 041 4353. Email: instrumentalcomps@gmail.com

Term 3 Events

Visit to Tūranga Library

Monday 29th July, 9.30-12.00am

The IRMT will be visiting Tūranga on the morning of Monday the 29th of July to have a tour of the music collection. This is a very useful resource for us and our students. We will also be having a media specialist from the library give us an overview of the sound production studios. Many young people are keen to produce their own recordings of themselves, and of music which they have written. Students may need to do this for school NCEA exams, or for their own enjoyment, and it will be great to have a look in detail at the amazing audio studio at Tūranga. Instrumentalists also need to make recordings for NZSSSO and NYO and could use the studio to make a high quality recording. We will also be viewing the online music resources and the relevant software in the computer lab. The timetable for this visit may change, but will be along the lines of:

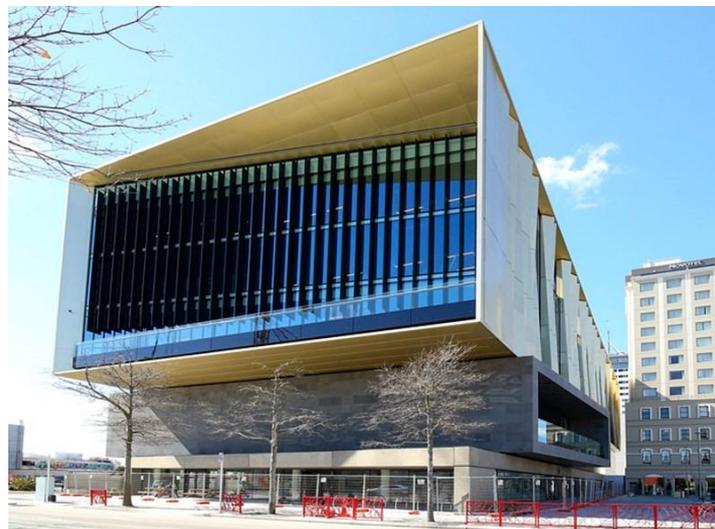
9.30-10.30 Tour of the music collection

10.30-11.00 Morning tea in Tūranga Cafe

11.00-12.00 Visit to the audio studio and computer lab

Booking for this trip is via the [Turanga online form](#)

Numbers are limited to 25 and we expect this to be very popular, so please book your place as soon as possible.



Retired Members Morning Tea –

26th August, 10.30, 36 Bainton Street, Bishopdale

Alison Hansen will again be hosting our morning tea for our retired members at her home in Bishopdale. This is a wonderful event to catch up with friends, to chat and reminisce over a cup of tea and cake. We are looking forward to seeing as many of our past teachers there as possible. RSVP to Margaret Maw by 20th August to let her know that you will be coming. You can send Margaret an email on: margaret.maw@gmail.com or phone 327 6404.



Northern Outpost Annual IRMT Recital

Date 24 August

Time 4pm

Venue Rangiora Small Theatre

Supported by the Waimakariri Creative Communities

Please send performers entries (include name of performer, title and composer of piece, approximate grade level and length of performance) to Jane Jarrett janejarrett51@gmail.com or phone 03 310 0633 by 16 August.



JAZZ WORKSHOP

Sunday September 15th

Chisnallwood Intermediate School Performing Arts Block, 2.00pm,



The feature of this event is the unique opportunity for your students to perform their jazz(y) pieces with live backing. It is open to students of all ages - from beginner to advanced and is particularly worthwhile in helping students to grasp the jazz 'feel' in their rhythm. There is also a short workshop component taken by Judith Bell where all students are able to be actively involved in learning more about jazz style. Please book early as it is one of our most well attended events each year. Admission is \$5 per person or a family rate of \$10. To register a student, please use the online form. Any questions, please contact Katherine Jones, katejj.kj@gmail.com Click on this link

[Jazz workshop form](#)

to register by Thursday 12th September.

Term 4 Events

Christmas lunch

Sunday 1st December, 12.00

This year's IRMT Christchurch branch Christmas lunch will be on Sunday 1st December and we will be meeting at 12.00. It will be a nice occasion to meet with fellow music teachers and catch up all your news for the past year. We hope that you will all come and join us. More details to follow in the next newsletter.



Congratulations to Joanie Lee on becoming an Associate member of the IRMTNZ. Joanie was presented with her certificate at the CHCH Branch recital on 22 June.

Editors note

In line with our environmental policy, from April 2020 there will be a \$10 charge per year for those who wish to receive a printed copy of the newsletter. Retired members will be exempt from this fee.

Past Events

Marvin Blickenstaff Pedagogy Workshop

The Piano Wednesday 24th April

What an informative day this was! Marvin Blickenstaff, from Philadelphia, is a very experienced teacher of piano to students at all levels. He was invited to NZ by IRMT to give workshops to music teachers in Auckland and Christchurch.

He spent the morning giving us lots of ideas from his own teaching practice on “Teaching Little Ears To Hear” and then “Teaching Little Eyes To Read”. As well as giving us lots of “how tos”, he challenged us to remember that it is MUSIC we are teaching, that we are either sensitizing the ear or desensitizing the ear and that children learn more through game playing which can include time off the stool. I have since adopted one of Marvin’s ideas for aural and visual practice recognizing steps and skips. To do this I have adapted an old whiteboard, drawing four parallel black lines, cutting out some large black note heads which my young students can place on the lines and spaces according to what they hear played.

After lunch Marvin encouraged us that our own playing is very important. He showed us exercises he does to keep his hands and brain agile and strong.

Of much concern for him was the fact that in the States, 90% of piano students have dropped out by the end of their second year of lessons. He left us with questions to ask of our teaching, importantly, “What am I doing to keep my lessons creative and fresh?”

This was an invaluable day especially for those of us with young piano students, giving us perspective, motivation, challenge and lots of ideas.

Phillipa Brocklehurst



Annual General Meeting

Sunday 26th May, 2.30pm The Piano



This year's AGM took place at the Piano. We had a good attendance and were pleased to welcome our two new committee members, Sophie Tong and Natasha Chernousova. We are delighted that Janey Seed has agreed to be our Chair Person for another year, as she has done a wonderful job steering our meetings and running so many events. We are very grateful for the many hours of work that she does. Janey's report

started with a rundown of the previous year's events. Here is the second half of her report for those of you that were not able to attend our AGM.

Chairpersons Report 2019

At our last AGM, a decision was made to sell the Rameau Grand Piano. I am pleased to be able to report that the Rameau has been sold to Rangī Ruru Girls School. We are extremely grateful to Rangī for providing a home for the Rameau at short notice following the 2011 earthquake and we know that the piano will be both well used and well looked after by its new owners.

I am also pleased to report that the Branch has established a new scholarship with the bequest from Mrs Merle Henry to provide 50% of the fees for the student of a registered teacher who wishes to complete the Foundation Course. The Committee see this award as an excellent means to encourage young teachers to complete the Foundation Course and become members of the IRMT.

The Richard Chandler Scholarship Fund benefited from a very generous \$10,000 donation from Richard's family year and the committee were delighted to be able to make the second award of this scholarship at the end of 2018.

It has been encouraging to be able to welcome a number of newly registered teachers to the Branch this year, as the IRMT implements its new strategic plan which seeks to ensure that our organisation responds to our changing world and continues to promote music teaching of the highest standard. We are extremely grateful for the many, many hours of work which our two Council members, Margaret Maw and Katherine Jones,

do on behalf of us all. Margaret's role as our national President is a particularly demanding one. Thank you Margaret and Katherine for all you do.

When writing the Citation for Rosemary's Life Membership nomination last year, Alison Hansen and I were struck by the fact that Rosemary had been a member of the Committee of the Christchurch Branch since 1979 and that 2019 would mark 40 years of outstanding service by Rosemary. This is a truly remarkable achievement and our Branch is enormously grateful for the contribution Rosemary has made. Rosemary has been the driving force behind a great many Professional Development events, a member of numerous Conference committees and an unerring source of wisdom and encouragement. Our Branch, teachers, countless students and the musical life of Christchurch are very much richer for the enormous contribution Rosemary has made. Sadly, ill-health has precipitated Rosemary's well-deserved retirement from the committee and prevented her from being with us today. However, the committee and I will certainly be conveying the good wishes of you all and our heartfelt gratitude to Rosemary.

We often make presentations to committee members who have stepped down from the Committee after two or three years of service and I am conscious that we have a number of committee members who faithfully serve the Branch year after year without any recognition. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Marnie Barrell, Christy Yau, Katherine Jones and Margaret Maw, all of whom have given many years of service to the committee. Thank you too to Gina Fowler, who has so willingly and efficiently taken on the role taken on the role of Treasurer, to our wonderful newsletter editor Anne Robinson and to Mijin Jeon, Diane Angus and Dinah Anderson for their cheerful and willing service.

It is a great privilege to work with such a dedicated group of teachers who are so willing to give of their spare time to provide a stimulating programme for our members. Thank you to all the teachers who regularly support our events and show such a commitment to maintaining their professional development. Very best wishes to you all for a stimulating and successful teaching year

Janey Seed

Chairperson

Performance Ready

The AGM was followed by a short CPD presentation given by Gina Fowler who is a speech and drama, and singing teacher who has many years of experience in writing and directing musicals, and children's theatre, as well as preparing students for auditions, public speaking events, job interviews and other performance situations.



The workshop session gave teachers some tips and ideas on how they can assist in preparing their students to be mentally and physically prepared to perform in an exam or performance situation, through the use of simple relaxation and preparation techniques.

By using simple but effective relaxation and physical and mental preparation techniques students and teachers can become more focused on the task of their performance and enable themselves to be mentally and physically prepared.

IRMT Recital

Saturday 22nd June

The first IRMT Recital for the year was held in the Merivale Lane Theatre on Saturday 22 June and attracted a record turnout of sixty-six performers, many of whom were taking advantage of the opportunity to try out their examination or Competition pieces. In order to accommodate the large number of performers an extra 3pm session was held and, thanks to the calm and efficient direction of Convenor Cate van Leuven, the programme flowed very smoothly. It was lovely to have an accordion item in the Recital for the first time as well as a singer, a violinist, two flutes and many talented young pianists. Sincere thanks to Cate van Leuven for organising this popular event.

Rosemary Stott - Life Member Christchurch Branch



The Annual General Meeting of the Branch voted unanimously to make Rosemary Stott a Life Member of the Christchurch Branch of the IRMT. Rosemary's service to Branch has been outstanding, spanning a period of 40 years as a committee member. We are enormously grateful for the contribution Rosemary has made. She has been the inspiration behind many successful Branch events and has worked tirelessly to support Christchurch teachers and students in their quest to pursue music-making of the highest standard. Congratulations and thank you Rosemary!

Celia Ann Stewart MNZM



The Christchurch branch of the IRMT would like to warmly congratulate Celia Stewart on being awarded MNZM (Member of the NZ Order of Merit) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list this year for her outstanding services to music education for over 40 years.

Mrs Stewart assumed a paid position as Music Director of the Christchurch School of Music in 2012. Under her leadership, the School of Music has recovered from significant financial difficulties after the 2011 Christchurch earthquakes and now provides music lessons, ensembles and concerts to hundreds of people each year. She has also helped to maintain the Christchurch Big Band Festival and is particularly active in raising the necessary funding. She continues to serve on the Music Education Canterbury executive and is the co-music director of more than 1,200 students who compete in the Strum, Strike and Blow festival. She was Chair of the Music Education New Zealand Aotearoa board from 2013 to 2015. She is recognised for the resources that she has written for the Ministry of Education and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. She has often run workshops and has supported schools in their music programmes on a voluntary basis. Mrs Stewart is also involved in her community as a trustee of The Muse and Secretary of the Christchurch Jazz Foundation Trust.

Farewell to Lois and Ian Biddick

Friday 21st June

It was lovely to be able to mark our appreciation to Lois and Ian Biddick for all their hard work over the last 40 years running the music shop in Riccarton, Sedley Wells. We gathered at the home of Diane Angus with a glass of wine and some nibbles to celebrate with them and wish them all the best for their new life ahead and thank them for many years wonderful service to the musical community of Christchurch.



IRMT National Council News

Planning for the 2020 conference, 'Bridging Cultures: Beethoven 250 and Beyond' which is to be hosted by Auckland Branch, is well underway and hot off the press is the news that Stephen de Pledge will be one of the main presenters.

The IRMT website <https://www.learnmusicnz.org.nz> now has a conference page which will be regularly updated as details are confirmed. You will be able to access the conference programme when it is finalised as well as complete your conference registration through our own website.

Please check out our website which is continually expanding thanks to the very dedicated work of our registrar, and a reminder that you are now able to add your own profile, including a link to your teaching website.

Council is also working on adding recorded branch events eg.seminars and workshops, to the Members only area so that you will be able to gain CPD points by watching events from branches around the country. It could also mean that you will be able to catch up on anything you have missed in your own branch. Early days as yet while we work through the issues around recording, but we are hoping this will be a significant means of making Professional Development more available to all of our members.

Katherine Jones



ABRSM NEWS

The new Strings Syllabus for 2020- 2023 is now available online and in booklet form.

Changes afoot in this new syllabus are:

- More choice than ever before, with the lists extended to ten pieces (30 pieces in total per grade)
- Duet option included for the first time – up to Grade 3
- Cello Exam Pieces (Grades 1–5) published for the first time
- New Initial Grade exam introduced – a pre-Grade 1 assessment following the same structure, content and assessment criteria as ABRSM's existing graded music exams.

I look forward to meeting many of you during the upcoming practical and theory exams.

Our first experience of running theory exams at Rangī Ruru Girls' School was successful and we will continue to use the excellent facilities there in the future.

Please contact me if you have any queries regarding our exams.

Best wishes.

Lois Dalton

Regional Rep ABRSM

loisdorothydalton@gmail.com

Ph: 03 348 1416



Concerts and notices

MENZA CONFERENCE MUSIC'19

MENZA's national music conference Music'19 REMiX conference early bird date for registering is **July 1st**. The conference runs October 7-9 and will be in Christchurch this year. Register at <https://menzaconference.co.nz/>

ANZARME CALL FOR PAPERS

ANZARME call for music research papers closes **July 26**. Details can be found at <https://menza.co.nz/event/anzarme-music-education-research-31-oct-3-nov/>

CHRISTCHURCH WIND FESTIVAL

Christchurch Wind Festival registrations date close **July 5th**. The festival runs over August 24th and 25th. Details are at <https://menza.co.nz/event/christchurch-wind-festival-2019/>

STRUM STRIKE AND BLOW

Strum Strike and Blow Festival is on Thursday **August 29th** at Horncastle Arena 1,500 students from 47 schools playing ukuleles, marimbas and recorders.



STEPHEN KOVACEVICH

Stephen Kovacevich will be performing at The Piano **July 9th**. He is donating his services to raise funds from the victims of the Mosque attacks and it is an opportunity not to be missed for teachers and students.

<https://thepiano.nz/events/stephen-kovacevich-recital/>

Help required

Christchurch Billeting Request: Saturday October 5, 2019

The NZSSC is seeking billets for one night during our South Island tour in October. The tour includes concerts in Dunedin and Timaru, with our final concert at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Christchurch. Billeting is a vital way to keep choir membership fees at an affordable level, so you will be offering invaluable support to all our talented young members and their families – this is greatly appreciated!

Hosts are asked to provide **bed and breakfast overnight on Saturday October 5**. Students will be collected from St Mary's Pro-Cathedral after our concert (about 9.30pm). On Sunday morning, students will need breakfast and a ride to the airport for flights home (early to mid-morning flights). We may be able to provide some airport transport.

We require members to be hosted in at least pairs - they can share a room but not a bed, and a sofa bed or air mattress is just fine.

In thanks, we offer complimentary concert tickets to our Saturday night concert: one ticket per two billets hosted.

Please see the schedule below and contact me (details below) if you are able to help, or with any further questions.

Saturday October 5

NZSSC concert at **St Mary's Pro-Cathedral**.

Collect billets (with luggage) from **St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, 373 Manchester Street**.

Students will have had an early light dinner, but some supper will probably be appreciated!

Sunday October 6

7.30pm

9.30pm

TBC Drop billets at **Christchurch airport** for flights home. You will be advised of the departure time.

Thank you very much.

Anna Bowron, Manager NZSSC anna@choirsnz.co.nz Ph: 021 113 4520



Branch Information

Janey Seed	Chairperson / Programme Convenor / Pastoral / Finance/Ruby Hay	351 7949
Marnie Barrell	Vice- Chairperson / Secretary/ Programme/Ruby Hay	981 9185
Gina Fowler	Treasurer / Finance / Comps / Programme.	03 313 8895
Anne Robinson	Newsletter Editor / Programme / CSM Liaison	0211 322 604
Christy Yau	Programme / Publicity/ Competitions / Jazz / Social	942 0883
Mijin Jeon	Publicity/Programme/Competitions	357 2185
Dinah Anderson	Programme/Social	355 8804
Margaret Maw	National Council President/ Pastoral convenor/ Finance/Branch History	327 6404
Katherine Jones	Finance / Programme / Pub / Jazz / MEC /CPIT / Council / RC Scholarship	323 8445
Diane Angus	Programme/Social/Pastoral	360 3739
Sophie Tong	Programme/Social/Publicity	020 4121 9038
Natasha Chernousova	Programme/Social/Publicity/Competitions	021 102 0667