



Folio #1 Issue #5: June 2021

Affiliates' Journal

[CCMC: Charity: CC27957 Concerto Trust: Charity: CC44931.]



*The Ministry of Culture is viewing
The strength of our Media by brewing
The various parts,
Such as music and arts,
Anew to make 'better?' construing.*

© 2021 Robert Tait

One time under Hon Kris Faafoi
2021 Hon Carmel Sepuloni

A Tale of Two Pities

Example of CCMC Advocacy

One might think that the following story could be akin to the 1859 novel by Charles Dickens, “A Tale of Two Cities” [London & Paris]. Today’s ‘Pitiful Tale’ might be seen as a modern day imitation.

Dickens focused on transformation and resurrection not only of individuals but also entire societies. So one might think this 21st century unfolding scenario in relation to RNZ Concert might emulate the same concept with the Labour Government, and heads of broadcasting at the helm.

The first pity was expressed by the Hon Kris Faafoi, with his hat on then in charge of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage as well as Minister of Broadcasting (from thoughts of Dr Jim Mather, Chairman of the Board for Radio NZ, and Paul Thompson CEO et al?). They had taken pity on the 18 to 35 year-olds whom they said were not being catered for by RNZ Concert Programme and planned to give them the Concert frequency for “youth orientated music”.

The second pity and the follow-on consequence of this plan was to continue serving existing Concert Programme audiences by dumbing-down the present RNZ Concert from FM with presenters to an AM auto-play. Therefore, no need anymore for the marvelous presenting staff. A new radio AM frequency would cater for the soon to be deprived Concert regulars. But at least RNZ Board saw themselves as taking pity on Concert followers by throwing them the AM crumbs.



Uproar ensued throughout our nation and indeed world-wide. This brought NZ's 'guardian angel', Rt Hon PM Jacinda Ardern to the rescue [10 Feb 2020] rapidly putting a halt (meantime?) to the "debacle".

Time-line: At 1.55pm on Wednesday 5 February 2020, Hayden Donnell of Mediawatch reported that Radio New Zealand (RNZ) was "... planning to cut back its FM classical music station 'RNZ Concert' and replace it ... with music for a younger audience ..."

This meant at the time, according to Paul Thompson CEO RNZ, that Concert would be 'relegated' back to AM as an automated non-stop music station whilst the new multimedia "music brand" aimed at a younger, more diverse audience, would take over the FM band-width of Concert.

Concert would be off air by 29 May 2020 to make way for the full launch of the new station by 28 August 2020. It would mean around 17 presenters and related staff would be redundant by late March 2020. Thirteen new jobs would arise to serve the new youth platform with only 4 members from the 'old team' to remain and run the AM version of Concert.

Listen to a recorded interview (5 Feb 2020) between Mediawatch and Paul Thompson RNZ CEO and associates by clicking the link (or highlight, copy and paste into your browser search bar).

https://www.rnz.co.nz/audio/player?audio_id=2018732872

Avalanche of protests

Immediately 10's of thousands NZers nation-wide and Concert admirers from all over the globe voiced their opposition to the move. Facebook, Twitter etc., carried, on-goingly, expressions of concern about the future of Concert.

CCMC Affiliates' Journal Editor was one of the first off the block with preliminary letters of concern to Dr Jim Mather, Chairman of RNZ (since 8 May 2018), the then Hon Minister of Culture and Broadcasting, Kris Faafoi, and the Rt Hon Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern.

President of CCMC, Margaret Austin (former minister of Arts and Culture), followed these with an official letter from her on behalf of Affiliates to the Prime Minister (copied to relevant officials) encapsulating the concerns of the avalanche of protesters. The decision about this matter is subject to the Radio Communications Act 1989 regulations 174 & 175 especially. It means that the RNZ Board has to go through Parliament to make changes of the kind in this story. It is not clear that they did in relation to dumb-downing at the time.

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa was reported as saying "... proposed changes showed a lack of respect and decency by RNZ executives." [8 Feb 2020] Past Prime Minister Helen Clarke [6 Feb 2020] said, "This equates to a dumbing-down of cultural life in NZ." A mid-February 2020 letter and petition signed by more than 26,000 was delivered to Radio NZ. Shortly after this, RNZ announced the dumb-down plans were on hold. *[Meantime, where is the 'youth station'? What is/are its regional radio frequency(ies)? RNZ Head Office responded on 24 Feb 2021 in answer to the Journal Editor's questions acknowledging that it had not yet been implemented and "no plans" could be announced as yet. Since then, silence.]*

[Listeners may detect a subtle change in the character of some Concert programmes, even though it mostly continues as always was. Some schedules have become *bitzas*: i.e. instead of a complete work, only a movement is broadcast (on two recent occasions even this was clipped).

Station identity is now, "This is RNZ Concert, NZ's home for classical music and beyond" or similar wordings. Ed]

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Media release Wednesday, 3 March 2021 [Edited]

COMPETITION GRAND FINAL

New Zealand's National Concerto Competition was postponed due to the then community outbreak of COVID-19 in Auckland and the subsequent increase to Alert Level 2 across the country.

The Grand Final, which was due to take place Saturday 6 March at Christchurch's James Hay Theatre, will now take place on Saturday 19 June 2021.

The three finalists and their concertos remain the same. They are: April Ju, Christchurch (violin) playing Sibelius; Hyein Kim, Auckland (cello) playing Prokofiev; Catherine Kwak, Auckland (cello) playing Dvorak.

Existing tickets will remain valid for the new date. For current ticket holders who are unable to attend the rescheduled date, refunds are also available.

Ticketholders wanting a refund should submit a request to Online@ticketek.co.nz by 31 March 2021.

For up-to-date information on the National Concerto Competition, please visit the web site [here](https://musiccanterbury.co.nz/2020-2021-national-concerto-competition/).
<https://musiccanterbury.co.nz/2020-2021-national-concerto-competition/>

Ends

For more information, images and interviews, please contact Siobhan Waterhouse, Publicist, on siobhan.waterhouse@rnzb.org.nz or 022 126 4149

54th NATIONAL CONCERTO COMPETITION 2021

Saturday, 19 June 2021 at 7.30pm James Hay Theatre, Christchurch Tickets through Ticketek [here](#)

<https://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=CONCERTO21>

[The 2020 Concerto cancellation was an echo of ten years ago when the competition had to be deferred owing to the earthquakes. The Steinway then at the Great Hall had its 'lid' destroyed by falling masonry. The rest of the piano was miraculously undamaged, apart from grit and dust, etc. Thankfully a new lid from the German factory and expertise of David Jenkins (Auckland) meant the priceless instrument is fully restored Ed.]

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NATIONAL CONCERTO COMPETITION TRUST®

P.O. Box 7633 Sydenham CHRISTCHURCH 8240

Telephone: (03) 339 8885 Email: secretary@musiccanterbury.co.nz

Website: www.musiccanterbury.co.nz

A Message from The National Concerto Competition Trustees

Dear friends,

At a recent meeting our trustees decided with great regret to postpone the competition for pianists until 2022-2023, acutely aware that this will affect young pianists working towards this year's preliminaries. We took into account the fact that this year's March final (for instruments other than piano) had been delayed by three months, putting more pressure on administrators to prepare for the next (piano) round. More importantly, we considered the intensive work trustees are currently undertaking. This involves increasing public interest in the contest, audience development, widening our sponsorship base and enabling greater participation of young musicians around the time of the preliminaries. The work takes time and involves consultation with sponsors, music organisations and professionals to ensure the best outcome for our 54-year-old competition.

We offer our sincere apologies to the young players already preparing for the December session, and hope that they will continue that preparation for the December 2022 preliminaries.

Sincerely,

Michael Lawrence

Chair, National Concerto Competition

Christchurch Civic Music Council National Concerto Competition Trust is registered as a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005 on 17 August 2010. Registration Number: CC44931

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Affiliate events and stories

The following Canterbury scenes describe a selection of events and stories that reflect CCMC member vitality. Stories follow [in random order] about matters of interest, events organised by Affiliates, with support and encouragement from CCMC, and the Council's own initiatives.

80th

In 1941, the Christchurch Festival Committee had completed its work in connection with NZ's 1940 100th year of colonial settlement celebration events.

Energy and commitment of organisers had built up such a head of steam that to disband was unthinkable. A key feature of the year-long series of events had been the musical contributions and enjoyment given by the great Christchurch choirs, orchestras, and the like of the time. This led to the birth of the Christchurch Civic Music Council to help keep going this momentum. And now 80 years on, it is time to celebrate again with today's CCMC Affiliates and their numerous and vitally energised music ensembles.

Plans are afoot which will be revealed in due course.

Meantime, diary **Sunday 7 November 2021**
for a visit to the Arts Centre Worcester Street
Christchurch for participation in the centre-piece
celebratory event.

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Canterbury Singers



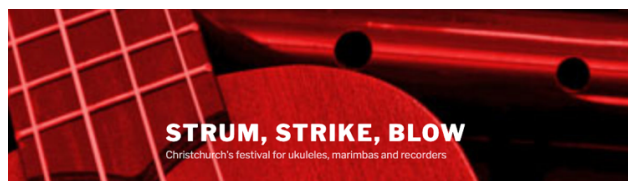
Canterbury Singers is a community SATB Choir meeting weekly (Tuesday Evenings) in the Chapel Street Centre, Harewood, Christchurch. The choir, numbering over 80 performing members, has been in the Christchurch music scene for over 50 years with a remarkable surge in growth in recent years. From year 2,000 Sandra Norquay has conducted and Jean White accompanies. The choir has grown over the last few years with now some 85 performing members.

They present a wide variety of music from classical to show tunes, jazz and pop (e.g. The Beach Boys and ABBA covers).



There are two major concerts a year at The Piano in Armagh Street with the next being Sunday 20 June 2021, starting 2.15pm. Additional concerts occur as opportunities arise. On Sunday 27 June they will be a guest choir at the Canterbury RSCM celebration of the world-wide Music Sunday event. The choir is renowned for the way it promotes local talent by way of guest spots within their concerts.

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Diary **16 June 2021** to enjoy the confluence of over a 1000 school age performers from some 44 Canterbury schools. They will be beating drums, striking marimbas and blowing recorders celebrating the 8th year of this highlight event run by Music Education Canterbury and CCMC at the Christchurch Arena (alongside the Addington Raceway - Jack Hinton Drive). Subject to Perth (Australia)/NZ bubble being open the Kaboom Percussion duo could be the Guest Artist.

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Apollo



Musicum

This is the 68th year since Apollo Musicum was founded for a concert at Otago University to celebrate the 60th year of women getting the vote in NZ (the first in the world to do so).

With encouragement from the University's late Don McKenzie & lecturer Mary Martin, it widened its vision (still in practice today) to encourage advancing student instrumentalists and choristers by having them perform alongside professionals and teachers. In 1963 it won the first ever Chamber Music Contest.

Recent 2021 events, included presenting in the Catholic Pro-Cathedral [St Mary's] Manchester Street, a CBS Wednesday Lunch-time Concert titled "Royal Favourites". The title was obvious because 21 April is Queen Elizabeth II's actual birthday. An additional reason was an indication for the occasion of favourite items from her list. We performed, with the Canterbury Singers conducted by Sandra Norquay, and Jean White, Piano, Bach's Jesu Joy and Praise my soul, [Text, based on Psalm 103, Henry Lyte/Music-John Goss]. It was filmed for sharing with Her Majesty.

During May, each year, Christchurch Libraries celebrate the Music Month of May. Apollo members gave hour-long recitals at various libraries. An artist, Charlotte Corkery, was visiting the Central Library on our final session 30 May 2021. She enjoyed the programme to the extent she kindly gave us a sketch of us playing.



Apollo members are often guest performers in associated musical entities such as CBS, various Christchurch orchestras, and serve in Cathedrals and church choirs as well as conducting Master Instrumental Classes for schools in various cities and towns. This month, 2.00pm 27 June, at St Peter's recently restored church, Upper Riccarton, Apollo performs with organist, Denis Gyan, J C Bach's delightful Orgel Rondo, and accompanies Canterbury Singers along with Jean White, Piano, as guest artists for the local version of the Royal School of Church Music's world-wide Music Sunday celebrating the place of music in our lives. St Peter's Choir under Emily McCulloch present "You raise me up". Medbury scholars Oscar Stove and Paddy Newton with Music Mistress Chrissie Badger at the piano perform a duet and Magna Vocé from Medbury sing the lovely Aotearoa Blessing (April Chapman accompanying).

We often perform the works of local composers. In October this year we present the quintet version of Christchurch composer Barbara Maguire's Swings and Roundabouts plus Georgina Rees-Stevenson joins us for Mozart's Clarinet Quintet at Marion Maguire's P.G. Gallery on Bealey Ave.

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Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament (CBS) is the engine for many local and world-wide musical presentations.

As well as serving the Catholic Church in Christchurch with choral and orchestral resources for the ministry of music in connection with masses, it initiates Wednesday lunch – time performances in the CBS Music Centre or next door in the Catholic Pro-Cathedral [St Mary's 373 Manchester Street]. Don Whelan, Director of Music, provides opportunities for musicians to perform at these recitals. He also mounts an annual Choral Festival with leading ensembles invited to share their musical wares during an hour-long programme. Periodically CBS arranges overseas tours to the world's top Cathedrals and venues to perform in them with the sometimes over 100 performers and supporters and often combines with the resident choirs. These are experiences of a life-time.

Places performed have included Notre Dame, Paris, St Peters, Rome, Russia, Spain, South America, Japan, UK and Australia. From time to time CBS combines with other Cathedrals and church choirs throughout NZ. It also used to host (in the now deconstructed Barbadoes Street Basilica) world renowned conductors (the late Sir David Willcocks, Peter Godfrey et al) to perform the great choral works from the repertoire (e.g. Bach's B Minor Mass, The Messiah, St John's Passion etc.). Such works are still presented but now usually in the Catholic Pro-Cathedral [St Mary's] 373 Manchester Street Christchurch.

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Voices in the Community Concert



Saturday 19th June at 3pm at The Piano

Three times Barbershop quartet champions, The Vocal Network Quartet invite you to "Voices in the Community V", an afternoon celebrating Christchurch's local vocal talent. Keep up to date by viewing our [Facebook Event](#).

This year's concert is made extra special with the quartet's 10 year anniversary, along with giving all profits to The Champion Centre.

The Champion Centre provides early intervention programmes for families, and their children with disabilities and developmental challenges. Their vision statement is 'Realising every child's potential', and the quartet and performing groups are honoured to have the proceeds of this show go to such a worthy cause.

Our guest line up includes: Voices Co, The Vocal Collective, The Plainsmen, Samantha Dempsey, Promenade, Josie Klausen, Cantrices from Christchurch Girls High School, TVN-X, Quantum Acoustics, The Vocal Network:
Early-bird tickets on sale until June 6th [Get Tickets](#)

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Aaron, Andrew, David, and Ed The Vocal Network

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The NZCT Chamber Music Contest began life with the first open final in Wellington's Town Hall in 1963. The first winner was Apollo Musicum's Lindsay Quartet. Since then the annual competition focuses on encouraging secondary school ensembles to enter. There are two categories, Performance and Composition.

Performer District Rounds for 2021 start 8 June followed by Regional Finals in Auckland, Wellington & Christchurch Sat 26 June. National Semi-Finals this year are to be held in Christchurch on 6 August and the National Finals 7 August.

For more details visit: <https://chambermusic.co.nz/contest#top>

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Jonathan Cohen



Ashley Brown, Amalia Hall, Somi Kim

In association with Chamber Music NZ, CCMC Affiliate, NZ Trio is joined by Jonathan Cohen, Clarinetist, to present a “Quartet for the end of time”.

"If ever there was a piece of chamber music that could be described as a masterpiece in its composer's lifetime, this is it."

- GRAMOPHONE MAGAZINE

Art triumphs over adversity in the dark night of the soul. Clarinettist **Jonathan Cohen** joins the celebrated **NZTrio** for a meditative journey through one of Messiaen's earliest masterworks

Composed and premiered whilst Messiaen was interned at a prisoner of war camp during WWII, this evocative work transcends time and space, and is filled with the jubilant song of birds flying free from captivity. [Read more.](#)

DUNEDIN, Glenroy Auditorium, Fri 18 Jun at 7.30pm | [TICKETS](#)

INVERCARGILL, Civic Theatre, Sat 19 Jun at 7.30pm | [TICKETS](#)

CHRISTCHURCH, The Piano, Mon 21 Jun at 7.30pm | [TICKETS](#)

NELSON, Nelson Centre of Musical Arts, Tue 22 Jun at 7.30pm | [TICKETS](#)

WELLINGTON, Public Trust Hall, Wed 23 Jun at 7.30pm | [TICKETS](#)

PALMERSTON NORTH, Globe Theatre, Thu 24 Jun at 7.30pm | [TICKETS](#)

NEW PLYMOUTH, 4th Wall Theatre, Sat 26 Jun at 7.30pm | [TICKETS](#)

HAMILTON, Gallagher Academy, Sun 27 Jun at 5.00pm | [TICKETS](#)

NAPIER, MTG Century Theatre, Tue 29 Jun at 7.30pm | [TICKETS](#)

AUCKLAND, Concert Chamber, Wed 30 Jun at 7.30pm | [TICKETS](#)

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Risingholme Orchestra was founded in 1992 and is Christchurch's only day-time orchestra. They gather on a Thursday morning in the Woolston Club

RISINGHOLME ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

VIVE LA FRANCE!

CELEBRATING FRENCH MUSIC AND CULTURE

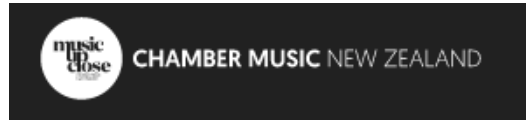
Conductor – Philip Norman

Guest Artists
Samantha Warhurst *soprano*
Sarah-Jane Rennie *soprano*
Kate Taylor *jazz vocalist*
Sophia Bidwell *accordion*

Composers include
Saint-Saëns Satie Gounod Delibes
Lully Bizet

SUNDAY 13 JUNE 2021 2.30PM
THE PIANO 156 ARMAGH ST
CHRISTCHURCH

Bookings:
www.trybooking.co.nz/HFW
www.risingholmeorchestra.co.nz
Adults \$18 Children \$6
Door sales available: EFTPOS or cash
Gold coin afternoon tea



New Chief Executive for CMNZ

24 May, 2021

The CMNZ Board announces with great pleasure that Gretchen La Roche has been appointed as the new Chief Executive for CMNZ. Board Chair, Kerrin Vautier, says that “Gretchen brings artistic and chief executive experience in the arts sector that will be of considerable value in charting CMNZ’s future strategies and representing the organization at national, regional and local levels”.

Gretchen is currently Chief Executive and Artistic Manager of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and has led its revitalisation over the past eight years during a period of unprecedented circumstances. Most of Gretchen’s career has been serving the music sector – as a professional musician, a University Lecturer in clarinet performance, in advisory roles with Creative New Zealand, in governance roles and as a leader in the arts sector.

“I feel extremely proud to take up the role of Chief Executive with CMNZ”, says Gretchen. “I have had a long association with the organisation, as a past competitor and adjudicator of the Chamber Music Contest and also as a touring artist. I am deeply committed to ensuring that chamber music continues to have a strong future in Aotearoa and look forward to working with the Board and staff to develop new programmes and initiatives for audiences throughout the motu.”



Gretchen will take up her new position on 23 August. Kerrin Vautier says that “we very much look forward to welcoming Gretchen to her new role with CMNZ and to working with her in furthering the reach of chamber music in New Zealand.” She added that “we are absolutely delighted that Gretchen will be applying her skills, experience, and considerable enthusiasm to this next phase of CMNZ’s development”.

A passionate advocate for new music, Gretchen, in her role as director of the Gisborne International Music Competition, was instrumental in developing the Holdsworth Prize. This substantial award is presented for the best performance of a New Zealand work and is aimed at encouraging competitors to seek out and perform music by New Zealand composers. She has previously held a teaching position in Performance Clarinet at the University of Canterbury.

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Music Sunday

"Sing Joyfully"



27 June 2021 from 2.00-2.45pm
St Peter's Anglican Church
23 Yaldhurst Road
Upper Riccarton.





Celebrated world-wide at this season each year. ¶
RSCM Canterbury Branch will hold our local event: ¶
27 June 2021 from 2.00-2.45pm ¶
St Peter's Anglican Church ¶
23 Yaldhurst Road ¶
Upper Riccarton. ¶

An opportunity to join in community Hymn Singing, and be inspired by talents of those providing interludes. ¶
Free admission. If you wish, a donation for the work of the Church and RSCMNZ will be welcome as you uplift your Music Booklet upon entry. ¶



Story of the RSCM ¶

¶ It was founded in 1927 by Sydney Nicholson (later Sir Sydney) under the banner of School of English Church Music (SECM). By command of King George VI it became the Royal School of Church Music in 1945. This was in recognition of its broadening vision, influence, and world-wide out-reach. Queen Elizabeth II is our Patron. ¶

New Zealand joined in the early 1930's with almost a dead-heat between Auckland and Christchurch to affiliate following a visit by Sir Sydney. ¶

RSCM today ¶

NZ operates under a Collaboration Agreement (12 May 2019) with RSCM HQ and is managed by a NZ National Council supporting five locally managed branches, Auckland, Waikato, Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago & Southland. Other areas of the world include Australia, Canada, America, South Africa, etc., whilst the remainder of the planet is managed by RSCM HQ through Regional entities. RSCM HQ is housed at The Close of Sarum College alongside Salisbury Cathedral (completed 1258), Wiltshire, UK. [See photographs below.] ¶

¶ With its Voice For Life programme, RSCM offers education and achievement awards as well as Ministry of Music resources. These are available to the more than two billion church and community adherents. ¶
Seasonal Choir Schools (often residential) and week-end or day-time courses are features world-wide. ¶



Click the link below to see the feast of Affiliate events for the month of June 2021

<https://musiccanterbury.co.nz/events/>



The present “The Big Sing” (TBS) is a very successful national group-singing competition for secondary school students. Initially it was operating under the leadership of the late Peter Godfrey as the Westpac School’s Chamber Music Contest in the 1970’s. The Canterbury divisions held their sections in a school hall. Don Whelan persuaded the organisers to put on the event in the Christchurch Town Hall where it still takes place so successfully. Don recalls how the Burnside Chorale were the winners under his leadership at the time of the elevation of the contest to the Town Hall. He encouraged school-boy Anthony Ritchie to compose works for the Chorale. The Big Sing has grown into New Zealand’s largest choral event and is a major highlight of the secondary school music calendar. Each year, close to 10,000 young people from over 250 schools take part in regional festivals nationwide, and the number continues to grow. This makes TBS one of the largest competitive events in the country. Sectionals are already scheduled.

CANTERBURY – WEST COAST

Friday 11 June

Christchurch Town Hall

Day sessions: From 9:00am (\$5 half day and \$10 full day)

Gala Concert: 6:30pm (\$24 adults, \$15 students with ID, \$10 children under 13)

Tickets available through Ticketek. Door sales also available (\$28 per person)

<https://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=BIGSNG21>

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Risingholme Singers from 1947, and soon to celebrate their 75th anniversary, are an all-comers choir for those who enjoy singing and can do so in tune. They meet in the theatre of the Risingholme campus in Opawa on Monday nights and present several concerts throughout the year. They are ably led by Henry Nicholson with Wm (Bill) Grubb at the keyboard. Jill Willmott is President.

Sunday 30 May 2021 was their most recent concert titled “Greatest Hits Throughout the Ages”.



Next is a remarkable adventure when they perform “The Sacred Veil” by Eric Whitacre [a young American composer who in 2016 was appointed the first Los Angeles Master Chorale artist-in-residence at the Walt Disney Concert Hall].

It is a contemplative 12-movement work and the most recent collaboration between Eric Whitacre and poet/lyricist Charles Anthony Silvestri telling a story of life for which the choir is accompanied by piano and cello. This will be held at Heaton Normal Intermediate School in Heaton Street, Merivale Christchurch **Sunday 29 August 2021.**

Final concert for 2021 will be Sunday 22 November, the details for which are still secret.

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Down memory lane:

Readers of the Journal (issue #4) may recall the story about Rex Arbuckle, a CCMC stalwart of yesteryear (as long ago as 1983). The Journal pictured his back as he was walking into his beloved garden shortly before he passed away (March 2020). Thanks to Lyn of the Tuakiri (identity) Level 2 of Turanga (Christchurch Public Library) the Journal can now display a ‘portrait’ as we honour his remarkable contributions to the work of the Council.



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