

2015 Fall Holiday Course: Great Fun and Inspiring New Friendships!

We have just completed our 2015 Fall Holiday Course and with over 60 participants, including 22 new students, it was a great experience for all involved. This time around, as well as including rhythm, percussion, musicianship and singing classes, we included a Kapa Haka class taught by members of Lower Hutt's nationally recognised Taihohi Morehu rangatahi leadership project! Many thanks to Orchestra Wellington for sponsoring our Holiday Courses, and to our teachers and volunteers who made it such a great success!! Below is a photo collage of our 2015 Fall Holiday Course:



GOOD NEWS FROM CREATIVE NZ AND THE INFINITY FOUNDATION!!

Arohanui Strings – Sistema Hutt Valley was recently awarded funding from Creative New Zealand's new pilot fund for Sistema programs in NZ as well as a grant from the Infinity Foundation. The Creative NZ funding will be allocated over the next three years, and together with the Infinity Foundation grant and the support we receive from Hutt City, Orchestra Wellington and our sustaining donors we are making great headway toward our goal of sustainable funding, so necessary for long-term planning for the future. Official recognition of the value of our program by Hutt City, Orchestra Wellington, and now by the Infinity Foundation and Creative NZ is testimony of the excellent work being done by everyone involved with our organisation and the positive effect it is having in our community, so once again hats off to our team for a job well done!



SAVE THE DATES!

Taita Polynesian Festival,

Thurs. June 25, 6 pm, Walter Nash Stadium, Taita

Youth Orchestra Festival

September 26, Porirua, time & venue TBA

Spring Holiday Programme

October 5-9, time & venue TBA

Hutt Valley Chamber Music Concert

October 21, 12.15pm, St Mark's Church, Woburn Rd., Lower Hutt

Orchestra Wellington Concert

November 7th at 7pm Our grand finale for 2015 will be a performance alongside Orchestra Wellington in the Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington.

HIGHLIGHT OF 2014: IN CONCERT WITH ORCHESTRA WELLINGTON

Once again Arohanui Strings - Sistema Hutt Valley performed side by side with Orchestra Wellington in their last subscription concert of 2014, this year in the Michael Fowler Center. For many of our students this was the first time performing there, which added to the excitement as many had attended concerts but never been on stage as performers. For some of the newer students it was their first time seeing an orchestra live, and for them it was a real thrill to be able to join in. As always, Orchestra Wellington personnel were very warm and welcoming, assuring that our students had an excellent, positive experience. Our heartfelt thanks to Orchestra Wellington.



The excitement is building backstage before MFC concert with Orchestra Wellington!



The highlight of our year in 2014: onstage at the MFC in concert with Orchestra Wellington!

REACH FOR THE STARS!

We are now beginning to fund-raise for the longest participating students to receive individual or small group lessons every week. \$500.00 pays for one student to have regular small group lessons for a year. \$1000.00 pays for weekly individual lessons, or for two students to have small group lessons. Every dollar counts, and it all goes towards allowing these children to reach their potential. We are at a critical point in our development. The top students will drift away if we are unable to challenge them and keep them growing as musicians. Can you help?



Even the littlest beginners had their moment onstage with Orchestra Wellington.



2015 IN SCHOOL PROGRAMME

We are busy incorporating a big group of enthusiastic new beginners with our in-school violin introduction classes, and they are going wonderfully! Tui Glenn at the entrance of Stokes Valley joins our in-school programme this year, along with Pomare and St. Michael's Schools. This is our second year doing this programme, in partnership with Orchestra Wellington. Its strength is team teaching, and this year Megan Ward, recent graduate from Victoria U. music faculty, joins director Alison Eldredge and Anna Lezikova to deliver these classes. We teach an entire class, 20-25 children, twice a week for half an hour each time. With three teachers in the room, everyone gets a little help with the challenging first steps of becoming a musician! The children are so eager to learn, and enjoy the music we play for them at every class.

After playing the tune from William Tell Overture by Rossini, we asked the students to guess which country the music came from, and hinted they should think of the farthest place they could. Some of the enthusiastic answers shouted out: "Rarotonga? Australia?" One more example of how learning about classical music opens a whole new world up to them, along with how to make a bow hold!



Pictures from the Arohanui Strings - Sistema Hutt Valley In School music programme at Tui Glenn, Pomare and St. Michael's Schools.

ONGOING 2015 FUNDRAISING GOALS

Our ongoing goal this year is to secure funding that will allow us to make a 10 year commitment to serve the children of Taita/Pomare, Lower Hutt. In order to take the next steps, we need funding to pay teachers, a part time administrator, and add another day to the programme. Can you connect us with the people or organizations who could provide a stable base for Arohanui Strings- Sistema Hutt Valley to flourish?



NEW FOCUS TO INCLUDE SINGING AND MUSICIANSHIP

This year our priority is to build well-rounded musicians, so we are adding singing and musicianship class alongside our orchestra class.

PAINTED VIOLINS ART AUCTION A BIG HIT!

In October 2014 Arohanui Strings – Sistema Hutt Vally hosted its first Art Auction and Concert gala evening. By all accounts it was a huge success!

This unique fundraising initiative was the brainchild of Alison Eldredge and volunteer Stephanie McLean, who also offered to host the event at her home in Kelburn. Planning began months in advance as the unfinished violins were ordered and sent to three leading NZ artists Michel Tuffery, Greg O'Brien and Karl Maughan who, inspired by the work we do, offered to donate their work to our program. Each artist then created his own stunning work of art, pictured on the left, which were mounted onto display stands to be offered at auction.

The special feature of the evening was a performance by NZ String Quartet first violinist Helene Pohl and her family: son Peter and husband/fellow NZ Quartet member cellist Rolf Gjelsten playing Bach's double concerto and Massenet's Meditation. The generous contribution of their family's beautiful music made for a very special and unforgettable evening for all. They made a further contribution by donating a house concert for auction.

Another noteworthy performance was the highly entertaining presentation by professional auctioneer Ian Paterson, who did a great job coaxing out the competitive spirit of the crowd and inspiring some impressive bidding.

By the end of the evening we had earned enough to buy a third double bass, replace some of our little violins, and to help with funding that makes quality instruction possible. Huge thanks to Stephanie and her family, and to the artists: Michel Tuffery, Greg O'Brien and Karl Maughan. Our friend and supporter the Hon. Chris Finlayson made one of his last appearances as Minister of Culture, and a good time was had by all!!



Michel Tuffery



Karl Maughan



Greg O'Brien

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Two of our long-term students, Tafale Laga and Lupe Sauila, won Ben Makisi scholarships for lessons on their instruments, cello and violin respectively.

They are working hard, enjoying their lessons and are invited to play in the Sarah Lilley Concert on June 7. Congratulations Lupe and Tafale, we are so proud of you!

Another four students received scholarships for lessons from Music Futures!

We are so proud of:

Samantha Laga, Saqusto Sakalia, Jorge Acosta, and Ruta Tema-Telea

Each of these students will have 4 individual lessons this term, to strengthen their skills and help them on their way to being great orchestra musicians! Big thanks to our longtime supporter Valerie Rhodes and the team at Music Futures.

HOW TO DONATE!!

Go to our website, click on our **Give-A-Little** icon, and you will be directed to their secure site. Give-A-Little charges nothing, so we receive 100% of your donation. You will also receive a tax receipt by email automatically.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUSTAINING DONORS :

Lewis Holden
Vicki Jones
Barbara Thomas
Catherine Yates
Gillian Ansell

MANY THANKS TO OUR PRIVATE DONORS:

THE FRIENDS OF AROHANUI STRINGS

We are forever grateful for all the support we receive from our private donors, the Friends of Arohanui Strings. Your contribution plays a vital role in helping us bring music to the children of Taita/Pomare!

Areas where we need your ongoing support:

Transportation to concerts, volunteers for the after-school program, donations, event photography, publicity, and legal/tax expertise. Please contact us if you have skills in these areas and can help out!

