

BUSKING ON BACH'S BIRTHDAY AT WATERLOO STATION!



Impressive line up of some of our new cellos & cellists busking at Waterloo Station.

Arohanui Strings -Sistema Hutt Valley students joined thousands of musicians around the world, filling subway stations and public places with the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, in celebration of the composer's 331st birthday on Monday.

The events, taking place March 19-21, are all part of Bach in the Subways, a movement that has spread like wildfire over the past six years.

It all started in 2010, when a cellist named Dale Henderson went on a mission to spread the music of Bach. He started by performing solo Bach Suites in various New York City subway stations. The following year, Henderson invited other musicians to join him on Bach's birthday, March 21, 2011, and that was the beginning of an annual tradition, Bach in the Subways.

Using the Internet to help organize as well as old-fashioned word-of-mouth, the movement grew exponentially. By 2015, thousands of musicians in 150 cities in 40 countries were performing Bach's music in subway stations, in train stations, on moving trains, on street corners, in cafés, malls, restaurants, and zoos for a three-day event around the composer's birthday.

NOT JUST ABOUT MUSIC

Arohanui Strings-Sistema Hutt Valley is not just about music, it is along with Sistema initiatives world-wide **an early intervention programme for vulnerable children**. We are inspired by the potential of this work, to help all children have access to high quality free music education, in order to realize their potential. Testimonies gathered recently from principals of Stokes Valley and Taita schools where we run in-school classes confirm the skills the children learn through music are

transferrable. "Our students love violin lessons- they make sure they are always at school on those days!"

- *Jessica Meates, Tui Glen School*

"We have seen a marked improvement with a number of Arohanui students, with focus, concentration and listening skills. This has spilled over into their classroom learning where ability to stay on task and self-manage are evident."

- *Linda birch, St.Michael's School.*

"The huge spiritual world that music produces in itself ends up overcoming material poverty. From the minute a child is taught to play an instrument, she is no longer poor."

J.A. Abreu, founder Sistema Venezuela



UP, UP AND AWAY... TO AUCKLAND!

In July, 20 lucky students traveled to Auckland for the Sistema NZ workshop/concert at Auckland Town Hall, joining with 20 from each of our 4 member organizations. This special event was a very memorable experience for the students attending, for some it was their first time on a plane! The students revelled in the opportunity to travel to a new city, meet and make new friends and play music together with inspiring teachers from all over NZ. We were so pleased to be able to offer this enriching experience to our students, thanks to all of our supporters for making it possible. We are part of a national and global Sistema family!



Pre-takeoff excitement - shout out to AirNZ for including us in their pre-flight announcements!



Left & above.: Arohanui Strings-Sistema Hutt Valley students performing at Auckland Town Hall!!

PROGRESS REPORT

We have had a wonderful first and second terms, including our 2016 Fall Holiday Programme, thanks to support from Orchestra Wellington. Our numbers are now at 65 in the after-school orchestra programme, and combined with our in-school and Holiday programmes this year we reached over 200 students from 12 schools! This immersive work sees all students receiving five and a half hours a week of instrumental music, singing and theory. Many students

now receive weekly private lessons Our team is stable and strong, with seven paid teaching artists and four regular volunteers. We were able to make several overdue instrument purchases, acquiring 3 double basses, 2 cellos and 8 violins, Recognizing the importance of attending live music concerts in the student's musical growth, we continue to arrange trips to concerts throughout the Wellington region for interested students and their parents. We have taken over 100 students in small groups to hear the NZSO, Orchestra Wellington, Wellington Youth Orchestra, NZ National Youth Orchestra, Chamber Music NZ concerts, and Chamber Music Hutt Valley concerts. Transportation, food and tickets were all provided free of charge, thanks to the generosity of our supporters and volunteers.



SPECIAL GUEST FROM LONDON

Visit from international star Leonard Elschenbroich who spent the afternoon with us on his one day off while performing in NZ with the NZSO! He and partner Nicola Benedetti made a generous donation to Arohanui, thanks to their involvement with Sistema Scotland and their passion for accessible music education for all.



Leonard Elschenbroich came all the way from the UK to share his expertise with Arohanui Strings - Sistema Hutt Valley in Taita.

OUT & ABOUT

Continuing our tradition of seeking out performance opportunities all over the Wellington region: we had a concert at the end of the April holiday course at the new Walter Nash Center in Taita.

Our small advanced group, the Fantail Ensemble, has played for many events including a Common Unity fundraiser, an Arts Community Voice launch, and Koha Cafe lunch at Great Start. We got the whole gang together and performed outside at Tumeke Taita, and performed at Polyfest with Maori stick games and Pokarekareana on our new electric violin!



Arohanui Strings - Sistema Hutt Valley students performing on the sunny stage of Tumeke Taita, above, to the colourful lights & sounds of Polyfest 2016, left, and at the Dowse with Hutt Valley Community Choir, next page.





Proving their mettle, and never ones to back down in the face of a challenge, the ever intrepid Arohanui Strings brave the wind bringing music to the steps of the Dowse.

END OF AN ERA

We are sad to see the beloved Principal of St Michael's School moving on to another school. Since our beginning 6 years ago she has been a strong supporter of our programme. Recently Linda offered her words of encouragement in a letter of support clearly showing her pride in everything her students have accomplished:

"We have a number of children who have been part of Arohanui Strings since the conception. Their skill level is now amazing and they truly are "accomplished musicians." Our children who have joined more recently have been inspired by the older students and are flourishing under the tuition of Alison and her team. We have seen a marked improvement with a number of students, particularly with their focus, concentration and listening skills. This has spilled over into their classroom learning where increased engagement and ability to self-manage and stay on task are evident.

Arohanui Strings is a taonga in our community, providing a rich and stimulating music and social programme that most of our families would not otherwise have access to." Thank you Linda for everything you helped make possible!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUSTAINING DONORS :

Vicki Jones
Barbara Thomas
Catherine Yates
Gillian Ansell
Lee-Anne Duncan
Ozer Karagedikili

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.

MANY THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We could not do our work without the generous support of many individual donors, music-lovers and believers in the infinite potential of every child. Donations and fundraising are an important part of how we are able to continue our work, so many, many thanks to all of you for your contributions! We are grateful for the support of the organisations shown below, without whom we could not deliver high quality music education to the children of the Hutt Valley, free of charge. Once again, thank you everyone for your support!

