

AROHANUI STRINGS BEGINS CLASSES IN TWO MORE SCHOOLS!!!



New students from Pomare School are proud of their new bow-holding skills.

The big news is that we have been able to start beginner violin programmes in the two local schools closest to our base at St. Michael's: Pomare School, and Taita Central.

Two paid teachers, Anna Lezikovna and Alison Eldredge, and one volunteer, Stephanie McLean, are giving classes twice a week to each school. In each school they teach an entire class of 6-7 year olds. The children are so eager to learn and are learning very fast, thanks to the strength of our 3 person teaching team! Since we already own the little violins, generously donated

over the past three and a half years by countless kind souls, this programme is relatively low cost and already bringing gifts of energy and enthusiasm for music. Special thanks to Orchestra Wellington for supporting this initiative!



Boys and girls eagerly lining up to play for their their teacher. and show what they've learned.





Arohanui Strings rehearses with Marc Taddei and Orchestra Wellington at the Opera House in Wellington before their performance in OW's 2013 season subscription concert.

Our collaboration with Orchestra Welling for their last subscription concert of the year in November 2013 was a rousing success! It was a long day of traveling, rehearsing, lunch in the city and then waiting for the concert, but it was an extremely rewarding experience for the 45 students who participated!

The Classical Music Review publication Middle C reviewed the concert:

“After the interval there was a brief interlude of music presented by the Hutt Valley’s Arohanui Strings. This is an inclusive, free neighbourhood programme, currently serving 65 children from seven schools. Run by high quality teachers and a team of student and community volunteers, it offers invaluable ensemble and orchestral experience to young string students. This very creditable initiative is opening up new horizons to children who would otherwise have no chance to take up music.”

Orchestra Wellington has invited us back for a concert this year, and preparations have already begun!

We have had a very lively start to the 2014 year, performing at the Dowse with the Circus Arts Trust, a show called The Fire Within. It was great fun to collaborate with these circus artists, and with youth from the Secret Level in Lower Hutt.

Only two weeks later we performed with NZ Opera company in their NZ Arts Festival production of Noye's Fludde at the Te Rauparaha Arena in Porirua! We joined forces with the Wellington Youth Sinfonietta. It was a great experience for the kids, sitting on stage with other young musicians and hearing everything come alive after rehearsing our parts on our own. Our kids passed the time during break by playing some of their favorite songs backstage, and several of their new friends of the Sinfonietta decided to join in and played along! That’s what our program is all about!

2014 FALL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Orchestra Wellington is again partnering with us for our upcoming Holiday Programme, the second week of autumn school holidays, Tuesday April 29 to Friday May 2. It will run from 9:00 to 2:00 daily. We will again have the amazing teaching team of Loata Mahe from Tironui Trust in Auckland, Chris Clark, Assistant Conductor of Orchestra Wellington, Jane Young of Orchestra Wellington, and Alison Eldredge director of Arohanui Strings. Volunteers from the NZSO and Orchestra Wellington are welcome to come for a visit, and Victoria University and local college music students will also be volunteering. Be sure to sign up early and secure your child’s place!



CREATIVE FUNDRAISING IDEAS!

The sky is the limit when it comes to some creative fundraising ideas our supporters have devised. One friend held a gathering with friends and neighbors, informing them of our program and then passing the hat. She raised close to \$1000! Another big-hearted child was inspired to forgo birthday presents and instead requested those she invited to her birthday party to make a donation to Arohanui Strings, raising over \$300! We feel humbled by such generous acts of support.

Our long term goal this year is to secure funding that will allow us to continue to serve the children of Taita/Pomare, Lower Hutt. We have received generous support from many private donors, from the Hutt City Council, Nikau Foundation, and Orchestra Wellington.

However, without a guaranteed regular income into the future, it will be impossible to hire the teachers we need, expand the orchestras to include new players, add wind brass and percussion to complete the youth orchestra, and provide the hours of practice that a true Sistema programme requires. Our after-school programme currently serves 45 students from 7 area schools, 4 hours a week. Sistema programmes world-wide are in rehearsal an average of 9-12 hours a week. In order to take the next steps, we need funding to pay teachers, a part time administration person, and add another day to the programme.

Our current funding will cover us through July, and we have plans for another concert with Orchestra Wellington in November, but guaranteed resources are needed to continue our work. Can you connect us with the people or organizations who could provide a stable base for Arohanui Strings- Sistema Hutt Valley to flourish?

UN-SUNG HEROES: SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUSTAINING DONORS

~ *Lewis Holden* ~

~ *Vicki Jones* ~

~ *Barbara Thomas* ~

~ *Catherine Yates* ~

These patrons of the arts allow us to continue to offer first class music experiences to the children of Taita/Pomare by contributing regularly through a regular payment method such as automatic bank transfer or payroll giving. Without a steady income, we cannot plan ahead or guarantee our students the 10-year commitment needed to establish a permanent Sistema Youth Orchestra in the Wellington region. Please consider joining this loyal and determined group of sustaining contributors, our unsung heroes!!



**UPCOMING EVENTS!!
SAVE THE DATES!!**

2014 FALL Holiday
Programme
Tuesday April 29 -
Friday May 2
9:00 to 2:00
St. Michael's School



Circus class in the 2013 Spring Holiday Program

THANK YOU!! Many thanks to our regular volunteers who contribute with a gift of their time!!! Arohanui Strings runs thanks to their generosity:

Rebecca Bourne
Alison Eldredge
Stephanie McLean
David Moonan

Rose Peoples
David Thompson
Jane Young
Vida Quivooy

FRIENDS OF AROHANUI STRINGS

We are forever grateful to all the support we have received from Friends of Arohanui Strings. Thanks to you we have been able to bring music to the children of Taita/Pomare!

INDIVIDUALS:

Hon. Christopher Finlayson, MIN
Lewis Holden, Chief Executive, Ministry for Culture and Heritage
Catherine Yates
Marion & Hugh Townend
Stephanie McLean
Lynley Culliford
Lee Anne Duncan
Linda Birch, Principal, St. Michael's School
Campbell McLachlan, Faculty of Law, Victoria University
David Chickering, Principle Cellist, NZSO

Dale Gyton, Teacher, St. Michael's School
Helene Pohl, NZ String Quartet
Helen McGann
Lyn Insley
Robin Parnbam
Jane MacDonald
Colin Calcinaï
Jane Kirkaldi
Victoria Jones
Alison Eldredge
Nicola Wills
Lynn Scott, Chilton St. James College
Steve Taylor, NZSO
Helen Sullivan and David Stephenson
Anna Kinney
Margery Renfrew

Linda Simmons
Vidhya Balakrishnan
Anna Lezikovna
Peter Reimann

ORGANIZATIONS:

Nikau Foundation
Creative New Zealand
Barnardos
Sarah Lily Fund
Orchestra Wellington
Hutt City Council
The Presentation Sisters
Catholic School Board
Music Futures

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!

