

RENOWNED CONDUCTOR RAFAEL PAYARE VISITS AROHANUI



RAFAEL PAYARE, renowned conductor who began his music studies in the El Sistema program of Venezuela, conducting Arohanui Strings students in Mozart's Eine Kleine Nacht Music.

Our students have been lucky enough to have some very distinguished visitors lately. In July, Maestro Rafael Payare came to conduct our after-school orchestra! Maestro Payare is a graduate of Venezuela's Sistema, and was principal horn of the Simon Bolivar Orchestra. He was in town conducting the NZSO, with his wife Alisa Weilerstein soloing on cello. He was very humble and easy-going, stepped in to conduct our orchestra and worked on dynamics in Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nacht Musik". He emphasized the fun of music making, adding finger snapping to our piece "Happy Blues". Afterwards the kids said that he was "awesome!"

GOOD NEWS FROM HUTT CITY!!

We have once again been awarded a Hutt City Community Arts and Culture Fund Grant! Hutt City has helped support us for three years running, and along with our other donors has been instrumental in helping us cover our operating costs. Applying for grants such as these is

a good example of all the ongoing hard work being done behind the scenes to make what we do possible. Official recognition by Hutt City of the value of our program and the positive effect it has for our community is testimony of the excellent work being done by everyone involved with our organisation, so hats off to our team for a job well done!

SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesday September 17, 12:15

Concert St. Mark's Church, Woburn Rd, Lower Hutt

Our wonderful talented teachers play chamber music and the children's orchestra performs!
Not to be missed!!

Wednesday October 29, 6:30 - 8:30

Special evening with Helena Pohl of the NZ String Quartet and guest auctioneer Hon. Chris Finlayson: Drinks, music, canapés and art auction featuring exclusive artwork by the fabulous NZ artists M. Tuffery and K. Maughan. Please contact Margaret Meyers at margaretm@orchestrawellington.co.nz for tickets. All proceeds go to supporting Arohanui Strings Sistema Hutt Valley.

Saturday November 15, 7:30

Concert with Orchestra Wellington, Michael Fowler Center Wellington

Come hear our students at their first performance in the Michael Fowler Center in Wellington!!



INSPIRING AFTERNOON WITH THE FABULOUS NZ STRING QUARTET!



AROHANUI STRINGS STUDENTS at Pomare School can barely contain their excitement as they listen to their fellow students playing along with the NZ String Quartet.

In August the NZ String Quartet came to Taita! They played two wonderful concerts; the first at Pomare School, and the second at St. Michael's School. The quartet played with such infectious joy, and connected with the children in the most playful, down-to-earth way. Our young beginners at Pomare School played for them, and our advanced musicians played Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nacht Musik* side-by-side with the quartet. At St. Michael's the whole orchestra joined in and we played joyfully together. Cellist Rolf GjeIsten even did a little dance! It was truly exhilarating to witness the artistry of these musicians, and the fun that they have playing together. They are international recording and touring stars, living in our city and connecting with our community. We are inspired by their example, to strive for beauty and excellence for our students, while having fun together.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

In June, we hosted a Sistema Presentation given by Ros Giffney and Joe Harrop of Sistema Aotearoa, and Alison Eldredge of Arohanui Strings-Sistema Hutt Valley at The Ministry of Culture and Heritage. We were happy to share the vision of Sistema with a crowded room of education enthusiasts. Many interesting topics were covered, and many interesting questions asked! Much thanks to the speakers, Joe Harrop, Ros Giffney and Alison Eldredge, and to Lewis Holden of the Ministry who did the introductions, and special thanks to volunteer chefs Stephanie McLean and Anna Lezikova for providing a stunning afternoon tea!



FUN NIGHT OUT WITH MAYOR CELIA WADE BROWN

The Mayor of Wellington, Celia Wade Brown, has provided tickets to NZSO concerts for our students on several occasions, and in June, 10 of our young musicians got to hear Beethoven's Symphonies 6,7,8 and 9 thanks to her generosity! The 9th was especially meaningful because our students play the Ode to Joy on their instruments! Tafale Langa sat next to the Mayor, and enjoyed a fine conversation. And last week, Tafale, Samantha and Shanita were chosen to go to the City Council to play for the Wellington-Gold.Awards at the invitation of the Mayor. A good time was had by all, and the guests particularly enjoyed Pachelbel's famous Canon as they mingled.



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
- Maria Newman
- Ben Whiskin
- Anne Malcom
- Helen Tung
- Jane Young
- Vida Quivooy
- Zavana Davies
- Margaret Guldborg

ONGOING 2014 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?

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.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Two of our teachers had the opportunity to do some professional development in July.

Stephanie McLean and Anna Lezikova flew to Auckland for the day, to a conference with Eric Booth, American Sistema pioneer, author and passionate advocate for social change through music.

The conference was organized by Sistema Aotearoa, our colleagues in Otago, and they provided a scholarship so that one of our teachers could go.

Stephanie had Eric Booth sign her beloved book, *The Music Teaching Artist's Bible*, and both Anna and Stephanie returned from this experience with more devotion than ever to our Arohanui Strings children! Many thanks to Sistema Aotearoa for helping to make this possible.

While back in the US Director Alison Eldredge was able to observe at Upbeat, a Sistema programme in the Bronx NYC.

This programme won the Simon Bolivar award last year, and is strongly rooted in Abreu's vision.

The violin rehearsal was led by fabulous Suzuki teacher Andrea Rodriguez, focusing on beautiful tone and resonant intonation.

The preparatory class for the youngest students, led by co-director Richard Miller, was a real inspiration. The 5-6 year-olds spend a year on singing, dancing, clapping rhythms, solfege with Kodaly hand signals, recognizing melody and rhythm on a whiteboard. These kids are so well prepared to begin their violin study. Our beginners are already receiving the benefits of this observation!

BIG THANKS TO ORCHESTRA WELLINGTON!!

We are very grateful for the support we receive from Orchestra Wellington. Since early 2013 OW has partnered with us for our bi-annual Holiday Course. Each Holiday Course is a crucial part of our long term development, as some children from each course continue in our year round after-school orchestra.

These courses bring together a team of guest teachers and college assistants who inspire and deepen our efforts as teachers, giving the students exposure to a wider range of experience. The intensive nature of the course, every day for a 4 or 5 day period, allows time for friendships to grow among the children, and these friendships along with the wonderful music-making keep them coming back!

Also thanks to OW's support we've been able to initiate the in-school beginners programme at Pomare and Taita Central Schools. Since its inception at the beginning of 2014, a total of 55 children at Pomare and Taita Central schools have received these in-

troductory violin classes, taught by a team of three teachers. Many of these children have signed up for our upcoming Holiday Course, and some are already participating in the on-going after school programme. This in-school programme, like the Holiday Courses, is crucial to our development efforts.

O.W. staff have also been instrumental in providing administrative and on-hand support, bringing food from Kaibosh food rescue, demonstrating and tuning instruments, sharpening pencils, and sharing their enthusiasm with our kids, and OW has also helped generously with tickets to concerts for our students and their parents.

Finally, Orchestra Wellington welcomed our children onstage in a subs concert last year, where our students played "side-by-side" with the orchestra. It would be impossible to overestimate the impact this kind of performance opportunity can have motivationally for our students, and we are very grateful



Above & below: New students at Pomare School demonstrating their new skills!!



OW has agreed to continue that collaboration into the future. We are currently preparing for the next concert in November, and our students are excited to be playing in Wellington at the MFC for the first time!

Overall, the moral and financial support we receive from Orchestra Wellington forms a significant part of our mission of providing music education in a positive, safe environment for the children of Taita/Pomare, so a big thank-you goes out to OW!!





Smiling faces such as these at Pomare School tell us that we're doing something right!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUSTAINING DONORS

*Lewis Holden
Chief Executive,
Ministry for Culture and Heritage*

*Vicki Jones
Barbara Thomas*

*Catherine Yates
Monica Devine*

FRIENDS OF AROHANUI STRINGS

We are forever grateful for 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
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 Pobl, NZ String Quartet*

*Helen McGann
Lyn Insley
Robin Parnham
Jane MacDonald
Colin Calcinaï
Jane Kirkaldi
Alison Eldredge
Nicola Wills
Lynn Scott, Chilton St. James College
Steve Taylor, NZSO
Helen Sullivan and David Stephenson
Anna Kinney
Margery Renfrew
Linda Simmons
David Thompson
Vidhya Balakrishnan
Anna Lezikovna*

*Peter Reimann
Valerie Rhodes
Diana Manning
Pat Sviatko
Lynley Culliford*

ORGANIZATIONS:

*Nikau Foundation
Creative New Zealand
Barnardos
Sarah Lily Fund
Orchestra Wellington
Hutt City
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!