

## 2016 Spring Holiday Course: Fun, New Friendships and New Skills

We had an awesome holiday programme in October at St. Michael's school, attended by 60 students, roughly half of whom were complete beginners. Our strength lies in our amazing teaching team, and this course was no exception. Directed by Jane Young, guest teachers were Chris Van der Zee, Dr. Robert Legg and Kapa Haka duo extraordinaire Kimberly Skipper and Jeremy Davis. We were lucky to have college student helpers and Arohanui regular teachers as well, and fabulous morning teas from Kaibosh Food Rescue, making it a memorable week for all.



## ONCE AGAIN...SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH ORCHESTRA WELLINGTON



The end of November saw our third side-by-side concert with Orchestra Wellington at the Michael Fowler Center! Always a highlight, this time our strings played with full orchestra: Dvorak New World Symphony and Grieg Hall of the Mountain King. The drama in this music was exciting for our students, and Beethoven's beloved Ode to Joy finished our portion of a wonderful concert. Our partnership with Orchestra Wellington is one that still inspires awe and humble appreciation. The players and charismatic conductor Marc Taddei go out of their way to make our kids feel welcome, and for the parents it is a huge thrill to take part in this special event each year. We received many generous donations following this concert, from music-lovers in the audience and beyond.



An important part of every performance...getting ready backstage

### REACH FOR THE STARS!

We are continuing our fund-raising 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. Every dollar counts, and it all goes towards allowing these children to reach their potential. We are at a critical point in our development. This work is a top priority in order to challenge and keep our students growing as musicians. Stay tuned to our announcements for a possible fundraising event in 2016 for this cause! One generous donor has already committed to sponsoring three students! Can you help?

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our teachers are always seeking opportunities to learn and improve their abilities through professional development. Maintaining contact with the wider world of Sistema plays a crucial role in helping us maintain our joy and enthusiasm for this wonderful programme. Some of the things we've been up to over the past few years include:

- **4 Day Training** with **Big Noise Scotland** teachers, Auckland
- **Volunteer/observation** with **Upbeat**, Sistema Program in New York City
- **Mentoring** from David Visentin of **Sistema Toronto**
- **Presentation** by Ros Giffney, Joe Harrop of **Sistema Aotearoa**
- **Training** with Ros Giffney of **Sistema Aotearoa**
- **Volunteer/observation** with **Sistema Toronto**
- **Presentation/workshop** with Eric Booth, **US Sistema pioneer and author**
- **Volunteer/observation** with **YOLA Sistema Los Angeles**
- **Presentation/workshop** with **Sistema Whangarei** director Fiona Douglas
- **Training/organisational** workshop with **Sistema Aotearoa**

We are founding members of Sistema NZ, a new consortium of Sistema programmes around the country. Each programme is unique but all are founded on the same philosophy of social transformation, so this collaboration represents a powerful and invaluable sharing of ideas.

### SAVE THE DATES!

~ **Sun. 21 Feb. 3:00: Youth Concert** – Days Bay Opera company Youth Performance: Handel's Dixit Dominus– in aid of Arohanui Strings–Sistema Hutt Valley, Canna House, 24 Moana Rd. Days Bay Eastbourne

~ **Sat. 27 Feb. 12:00 (rain date Sun. 28 Feb.): Concert** with Hutt Valley Community Choir, Dowse Square, Lower Hutt

More information to follow– check our Facebook page for updates!



## BEGINNERS' DAY AT WALTER NASH STADIUM

In January, Arohanui Strings hosted the first of many Open Day classes at the new Walter Nash Community Center in Taita. We were able to reach a group of children who might not otherwise have found us, and many of Taita's library and sports patrons enjoyed our two lunchtime concerts. Many thanks to Timothy Mitchell, Alison Eldredge and the fabulous staff at the Walter Nash Community Center.



### Concerts, Concerts, Concerts...

Below are some of the concerts we performed at in June-Jan 2015:



**June**– Sarah Lilly Concert, Wellington  
Taita Polynesian Festival

**July** – Walter Nash Community Center Opening

**September**– Mexican– NZ Solidarity concert, Old St. Paul's Church, Wellington

**October**– Holiday Programme, St. Michael's School Taita  
Lunchtime Concert, St. Mark's Church Lower hutt

**November** – Orchestra Wellington Concert  
Music Futures concert, Wellington  
White Ribbon breakfast, Pomare

**December**– Xmas in da Hood, Pomare  
Cantate concert, Johnsonville  
Aroha Retirement Home concert, Taita  
Art and Music Fundraiser, Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt

### AROHANUI STRINGS - SISTEMA HUTT VALLEY MISSION AND GUIDELINES

**MISSION:** Arohanui Strings-Sistema Hutt Valley uses the pursuit of musical excellence and ensemble performance to bring about positive change in the lives of Hutt Valley children.

#### GUIDELINES

**Inclusion:** All classes are free of charge and open to children of all abilities. We believe that all children have enormous potential and have a right to high quality, long term music education. We actively seek to recruit those often excluded due to economic and social barriers.

**Joy:** We aim to preserve and nurture children's natural exuberance for music. Along the road to discipline and mastery, there is a need for joyful expression! With good modelling and perseverance, technique develops in service of the musical experience.

**Cooperation:** Students of Arohanui Strings learn to collaborate in a variety of roles: as learners, teammates, peer teachers and leaders, all of which foster the establishment of social relationships and the development of skills such as empathy and respect. From the beginning students participate in ensembles where the highest goal is the creation of beauty through cooperation and understanding.

**Aspiration:** The pursuit of musical excellence is made up of many small, success-oriented steps. We encourage our students to dream big and take small steps. As they gain confidence, they learn that problems can be solved and goals can be reached. This skill-building transfers into every aspect of their lives, making them better students and, eventually, engaged citizens.



**Areas where we need your on-going support: Fundraising, publicity, and legal/tax expertise, transportation, instrument library, food preparation, Mon. and/or Wed., 3:00-4:00**

We are looking for a drivers to pick up students from local schools and bring them to St. Michael's School in Taita, about 2:45 till 3:30, Mon., Wed. and Fri. Also for the occasional evening concert in Wellington when we are offered tickets (free admission for drivers!). If you are available any of those days, and especially if you have a large van, please contact us at [admin@arohanuistrings.org](mailto:admin@arohanuistrings.org) or phone 563 8877.

College students are needed to help out in our after-school programme. You don't have to play an instrument, please inquire if you like working with children and music!

## SECOND PAINTED VIOLINS ART AUCTION!



D. Frizzell, *Made-up*



Some of our students inspecting the artwork created especially for them!!



F. White, *William*



J. Colley, *Nocturne*

December brought our second annual art and music fundraising auction, held at the Dowse and again featuring NZ String Quartet musicians Helene Pohl and Rolf Gjelsten and their son Peter Gjelsten. Always inspiring, the music this time was Vivaldi, Mozart and Kodaly. We could not imagine the painters creating more amazing violins than last year, but Dick Frizzell, Euan McDougal, Jaqui Colley and Freeman White each did something so unique that we were blown away. In addition, longtime college volunteer Vida Quivooy contributed an enchanting "Blue Violin" as well as playing with our Arohanui students, Shanita Sungsuwan and Barbara Asara. Thanks to auctioneer Luke Jansen, host Kate Mead, star guests Marc Taddei, Fiona Douglas and Mayor Ray Wallace, it was a very successful evening...we raised \$14,700, all of which will go towards teachers' salaries and instrument purchases and maintenance. Special thanks to



E. McDougall, *Get Down*

Margaret Guldborg and family, Stephanie McLean and David Moonan for their tireless work behind the scenes.

### 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!