

Recorders and Early Music Union

Newsletter

April 2023

remu.org.nz@gmail.com



Editorial Note

This newsletter now has a national orientation. It will continue as the Newsletter for REMU and will also provide news about recorders and early music for our supporters wherever they live in New Zealand.

Strathean

Friday 6th October 2023 to Sunday afternoon 8th October

This year Strathean, REMU's 3-day residential workshop held near Otaki, will be oriented to pieces participants want to play. They will be encouraged to come with music they may have had in mind for some time but not had an opportunity to play. They may not have had the right number of players, instruments needed or for any reason; or maybe to play it better than before. The music can be any style: recorder or consort repertoire, folk music, arrangements, jazz, popular, brass band music, premier performances/readings of composed pieces or anything that can be played on recorders (and perhaps some early instruments).

Kamala Bain will be the tutor, assisting small groups playing *wished-for pieces*, leading other small group sessions and conducting some plenary sessions.

See our [webpage](http://remu.org.nz/events/) (<http://remu.org.nz/events/>) as well.

REMU's 2023 Programme

AGM

REMU's AGM was held at the beginning of March and was attended by 12 members (and 11 apologies from members who could not attend were accepted).

The meeting approved reports from the President and Treasurer. In 2022 REMU had 32 members and 4 life members. In that year the Society had six meetings: the AGM with a Big Blow after the formal business, three other Big Blows and two soirees. The three-day residential weekend - **Strathean** - was tutored by Jill Ferris of the Victorian Recorder Guild (Australia) and Bernard Wells. 24 players attended.

The Treasurer's report showed a loss for the year which primarily resulted from subsidising the airfare to bring Jill to Strathean (and keeping Strathean participants' fees low). That loss

was met from reserves. The reserves are largely in deposits and which remain adequate for REMU.

The REMU AGM noted that the **Society of Recorder Players of New Zealand (SRPNZ)** has been inactive in recent years and that at its 2022 AGM SRPNZ considered the possibility of winding-up.

SRPNZ no longer has a website and REMU has put the SRPNZ's Barbara McEwan Library catalogue on its website so that players can access it and borrow from the library. The REMU Committee has agreed to make our web site a temporary point of contact SRPNZ.

Email contact for the SRPNZ and the Barabara McEwen library is currently % remu.org.nz@gmail.com.

April 20223 Big Blow

Jonathan Berkahn led the afternoon's playing, conducting a works by Pepusch (Concerto for two recorders and two flutes - the latter played on tenor recorders - and basso continuo), Rossi (renaissance dances) and Schwertberger (*Sueño Carenbeño*, with a bossa nova rhythm).



Still to come in 2023

The **first soiree** will be on Saturday 3 pm, 20th May 2023 and like other soirees it will be an afternoon of music where consorts and soloists play to a sympathetic audience. The **audience** can be expected to be sympathetic because the majority will play that afternoon!

Saturday **24th June**: Big Blow 2 conducted by **Kamala Bain**

Saturday **29th July**: the second Soiree of the year

Saturday **2nd September**: Big Blow 3 conducted by **Katrin Eickhorst**, most likely including some of Monteverdi's music

All 2023 meetings are held at **Johnsonville Uniting Church, Dr Taylor Terrace, Johnsonville, Wellington**

Consorts' news

Dulcis Tibia

will present its 2023 programme in the **Colours of Futuna** series **Sunday 14 May at 2:00 pm**, (at the Futuna Chapel, Friend Street Karori, Wellington), and in the **Thank God it's Friday** lunchtime concerts **Friday 26 May at 12:15 pm** at Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, Molesworth Street. And the quartet will repeat the programme later in the year in Lower Hutt and on the Kapiti Coast.



The programme will include three Renaissance canzoni, two Bach organ works, a Vivaldi concerto grosso, two pieces by early twentieth century composers and some popular music.



In the Futuna concert the music will be presented along with photographs by **Brian Ellis**.

Mistral

The 10 member strong **Mistral** began 2023 with great enthusiasm, meeting weekly on Fridays. The group is currently working on the Lachrimae by John Dowland, and plans to learn all seven during the year.

Mistral has also prepared a Holborne suite of six pieces and will perform it at a REMU Soiree. Susanne, a group member, has successfully led the playing of a delightful Gavotte by Telemann and an arrangement of the Christmas Pastorale by Corelli. The group has found Bye Bye Blackbird tricky, its rhythms have been challenging but the bass players have mastered their wonderful line.

All members are becoming much more confident and proficient at sight-reading and playing some very complex parts.

Mistral will perform at Dame Malvina Major Village, Old St Pauls and at a Cashmere rest home later in the year.

Valley Players

The Valley Players is a quartet but has often played as a trio and sometimes as a quintet! Due to members' travel and the challenges of arranging suitable rooms in members' homes for the group, Valley Players has not met as often as they would like this year. They are working towards contributing to REMU's next soiree with a four part piece. After a short break they expect to reform and meet more regularly for the rest of the year (Covid and other winter ills permitting) and with John Lister, who remains in high demand, continuing to contribute from time to time.

Levin Mediaeval Fair

A group of four or five REMU members play at the Levin Mediaeval Fair in February each year. They play a programme that is approximately an hour's duration with a mixture of mediaeval and Renaissance music, largely on recorders but often incorporating other instruments such as percussion, crumhorns, curtail and a hurdy-gurdy.

Rare Byrds

This Dunedin-based group have started the year with a couple of highly enjoyable gigs. In early March, they performed a programme of renaissance dance music for their spinet player's Golden Wedding Anniversary party, with two recorders, nyckelharpa and bass viol.



Later that month, a couple of them performed at Otago Museum for its inaugural Mediaeval Day. This time, it was just recorder and nyckelharpa, playing a bracket of mediaeval songs which were very bravely performed by heart. They also had the chance to show off some of their collection of banners, which hung in the Museum atrium.

It's been a fairly quiet and/or disrupted few years, but the group has continued to meet and play whenever possible right through Covid. They're looking forward to a better year in 2023!

Recorderesque

Recorderesque is an Auckland recorder ensemble coached by Kevin Kim that has been around for over 30 years and remarkably there are still a number of founding members in the group.

Above all it is for enjoyment, and with coaching the group and the members thrive on making informed decisions. Also the group is known to perform occasionally, although there haven't been many opportunities recently largely due to the pandemic. The group covers a wide range of repertoire from Renaissance to Modern.

Editor's note: there are more recorder groups meeting in various parts of New Zealand and future newsletters may include reports from some of them.

Competition prize winner

Clara Kennedy (Wellington, age 15) recently won first prize in the 18 and under class of the Australasian Recorder Competition. The competition was held in Armidale, Australia, prior to the Australasian Recorder Festival in January 2023 and Clara was the only entrant from New Zealand. The whole experience was extremely positive for Clara as the atmosphere was a celebration of learning, she connected with like-minded teenagers who also love playing the recorder, and she received top notch coaching from European and Australian tutors. Congratulations Clara!

The Australasian Recorder Festival 2024

January 7 – 12, Armidale NSW Australia

The festival is six days of full immersion for players of all ages. It will be made up of technique classes, ensembles both large and small, special interest topics and concerts. Each group will be a balanced and fully functional small ensemble that caters to each individual's needs, and each group will work with a variety of tutors throughout the week. There will be a separate Youth Section for players under 18. Full board is available on campus.

Simon Borutzki (conductor of the Berlin Blockfluten Orchestra), Robyn Mellor and Rodney Waterman will be three of the tutors.

Christchurch School of Music

For the first time in 67 years the Christchurch School of Music has been given the opportunity to build its own home. The City Council has offered CSM a block of land in the Performing Arts Precinct where it can build a place that will meet the needs of the School's 1200 students and serve as a community music hub. They have a lot of money to raise to make this dream a reality and they are very grateful for the support of the recorder and early music communities.

The Christchurch School of Music is an iconic Christchurch organisation that has been offering high quality, affordable music tuition, ensemble experiences and performance opportunities to Canterbury



students, both young and young at heart for 60 years. CSM teaches a wide range of instruments and singing, including recorders.



The REMU May 2022 newsletter reported the death of Neville Forsythe who directed the Christchurch Youth Recorder Ensemble and organised the Winds of Waitaha festival in 2001. The CSM recently presented a concert featuring recorders, to commemorate Neville's life.

The Baroque Community and Educational Trust

This New Zealand trust is on a mission to build a collection of period instruments for students. **They are seeking to raise \$40,000** to achieve this goal. Excess funds raised will contribute to the ongoing maintenance of these instruments.

The Trust co-operated with the University of Canterbury for five years, educating, training and providing performance opportunities for young talented NZ musicians. They aim to deepen this educational experience by allowing the students to rehearse and perform on period instruments so that they can more authentically explore the roots of western music. Period instruments are a very important tool for learning and understanding structure and the sound architecture of music.



To sponsor an instrument, please contact the Trust at bmctnz@gmail.com to arrange bank transfer and receipt, or to take part in *Boosted* online fund-raising, please go to their website: www.barquemusic.co.nz/support or go to

<https://www.boosted.org.nz/projects/baroque-instruments-for-students/> before **4 May**.

NZ Barok

NZ Barok's next concert is **Hark, Sweet Music**. Music fit for Kings and Queens will include Handel's glorious Water Music and Purcell's sparkling Fairy-Queen. The soprano Jayne Tankersley will join NZ Barok as both singer and orator.

Comprising leading baroque specialists from all over New Zealand, NZ Barok performs using instruments and playing styles of the period, aiming to breath fresh life and vitality into baroque and classical masterpieces. Jessica Shaw, playing recorders, is a member of NZ Barok.

Hark, Sweet Music will be presented on the **12th and 13th of May** (three performances) at **St Luke's Church 130 Remuera Road**, Remuera, Auckland. Go to their website (<https://www.nzbarok.org.nz>) for tickets or go to [iticket.co.nz](https://www.iticket.co.nz).

Later in the year NZ Barok will present **Telemania** with Jessica and Kamala Bain both playing recorders.

Wolfgang Kraemer (recorders)

recently toured in Europe. The concerts were presented in South-West Germany at the triangle of France, Luxembourg, and Germany. The programme was inspired by the Francophone affinity of the region, and was called *Le Jardin Musical*. In addition to compositions by Corelli, Vivaldi, and Baron, they played French Renaissance songs and French chansons.

This year, Wolfgang started with a performance of the concerto in A Minor of the Neapolitan composer Domenico Natale Sarri, with Melbourne based musicians playing violin, viola and cello.

After last years' success, Wolfgang has more invitations for concerts in September and October. There will be a total of eight performances in Austria, Germany, France, and Luxembourg, with a Polish theorbo player and a guest French soprano. The focus of that programme will be music of Johann Sebastian Bach and songs from the Lorraine region.

Most of the program will be repeated at next year's Akaroa Music Festival early January 2024. As part of that festival, Wolfgang will give a workshop in Christchurch for recorder ensembles and individual lessons from 8 to 11 January 2024.

WANTED

Do you have any recorders by Paul Whinray that you could sell? Any size, model, pitch, temperament, or tuning. Please contact Nick Dinopoulos via email (n.dinopoulos@gmail.com).

Editor's note: Nick is an Australian professional musician and conductor of several Melbourne choirs and the Australian Boys' Choir.

Recorders available

A set of recorders (descant, alto, tenor bass) is available to a player or learner who can make good use of them. Terms are negotiable. Please email remu.org.nz@gmail.com for more information.

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