

Recorders and Early Music Union

NEWSLETTER



August 2023

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This REMU Newsletter is intended for recorder and early music players (especially *hobbyist*¹) and supporters throughout New Zealand, especially including members and past-members of the Society of Recorder Players NZ (SRPNZ). REMU news is *up front* and a variety of information, especially concerts, groups and other varied items follow.

REMU Soirée

The July soirée was so well subscribed that there was no time for the usual massed play at the end of the afternoon. **Mistral, Valley Players** and two unnamed trios performed along with solo performances that included baroque flute, a student of Kamala Bain (recorder) and a solo item by Katrin Eickhorst's from her concert described below.



¹ Terms such as *professional* musician, *amateur* and *community* could apply but are problematic and carry many - some questionable - values and implications. As editor, I am tempted but resisting writing about them. I discussed them in my Masters thesis.

REMU's next meeting

will be a Big Blow on **Saturday 2 September 2pm to 4pm Johnsonville Uniting Church, Dr Taylor Terrace**, Johnsonville, Wellington

Katrin Eickhorst will conduct and will include an arrangement of Monteverdi's *Beatus vir*.

Strathean

Friday morning 6th October 2022 to Sunday afternoon 8th October.

Strathean is REMU's annual, three day weekend, residential workshop held at the Strathean Retreat Centre between Otaki and Te Horo on the Kapiti Coast.

Kamala Bain will be our tutor to help play the music participants want and to lead plenary sessions (which might also include the music participants have requested, if a plenary session is the best format for it).

This year it will be an opportunity to play music from participants' bucket lists; to play music that they want to play - maybe that they have dreamt about playing - but may not have had the opportunity, or simply to play it again. It doesn't have to be from the recorder repertoire; it might be Irish or other folk music, or brass band music, popular, stage music or anything (but repertoire is still welcome of course). And we will have a harpsichord and probably other instruments so participants should consider that favourite Baroque sonatas can be included.

Participants can choose to lead a group, ask Kamala or someone else to lead playing their piece. And if they have the sheet music that will be great. Participants will tell us about it when they register. If they don't have the music we will try to find it.

And participants are very welcome to come and play, supporting others players' choices, without suggesting their own bucket list pieces. There will also be tutors' and committee members' choices.

The registration form will be on our website (link from <http://remu.org.nz/program.php> and an email will be sent out when registration opens. If anyone wants to check if you're on the contact list send an email to remu.or.nz@gmail.com).

Consorts' news²

Dulcis Tibia

The quartet will perform its 2023 programme in the Hutt City Lunchtime Concert series at **St Marks** (Woburn Road), Lower Hutt on **Wednesday 11 October at 12:15 pm**.

The programme includes two cannons and a ricercars by Frescobaldi and Gabrieli. Gabrieli's *La Spiritata* is a joy to play and recommended for any quartet interested in Renaissance contrapuntal pieces. The baroque bracket consists of a Bach fugue and short organ concerto, whose attribution to Bach is questionable, and a Vivaldi concerto Grosso. Playing pieces for strings brings out different qualities in them, for example decreasing the domination of the first violin part!

Similarly Eric Satie's *Gymnopédie No. 1* has a rather different timbre with the consort's sustained chords rather than the natural diminuendo of each one that is an essential characteristic of the piano. Poulenc wrote orchestral and piano versions of his *Pastourelle* so our arrangement and performance is quite justified. Like much of his music this piece is great fun.

Bye Bye Blackbird, *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*, *There's a Kind of Hush*, and a combination of *When You're Smiling* with one of Beethoven's best known melodies are the pieces the last bracket of 20th century songs.

Mistral

This eleven member recorder consort continues to meet every Friday morning for laughs and playing, members stating that it is the "highlight of their week".

From February the group has been learning three of the *Lachrimae* by John Dowland and they are providing some challenges. A Holborne Suite of six pieces has also been completed along with some fun jazz pieces including *Bye Bye Blackbird* and *Red Rose Rag*, and a few other Renaissance pieces.



Players are becoming more focussed on improved phrasing and articulation now that notes, fingering and rhythm have been mastered over the last few years.

The group has played at the REMU Soiree in May and delighted the audience again at the July Soiree.

Valley Players

The Valley players attempt to meet weekly (Tuesday morning) though there are often only three members available. Recently they were fortunate to have Rosemary Lister join them for a rare gathering of five players. The irregular numbers reduces their ability to prepare for events like soirées, but they explore a wide repertoire which has its own challenges.

They play everything from Grainger's *Mock Morris* to an *Oxford Fantasia* of John Ward (no relation group member Ron Ward). Fortunately Valley Players all the recorder sizes are available (right down to Contra) and the consort has the skills needed for most arrangements to be attempted when numbers allow. They keep returning to some favourites like a Purcell *Fantasia* (no. 8) as it has great beauty and its timing variations stretch members skills. Another piece that has several time changes to master is Trabaci's *Canzona francesca chromatica* (1615). A strange version of this piece can be found on Youtube.



Unicus

is a small group of recorder players who met in about 2012, soon after Pat and I migrated to New Zealand. I came from the UK where there was a very active recorder scene and was looking for a group to play with.

There are currently six of us. We rarely perform, but are happy to hone our sight reading skills using my fairly extensive library of recorder music. Five of us live in the Auckland region with one coming from Hamilton. There are three of us who can play bass and we all can play SAT recorders at a level where we can sight read (almost) anything I put in front of them.

We meet once a month in our retirement Village, where Pat & I live, in Wattle Downs and entertain the bowlers with our music. As we are all busy people, giving concerts would involve a much bigger commitment so we are quite happy to just play for our (and the bowlers') entertainment.

If there is anyone who would like to get in touch, I am Simon James and can be contacted by email at sjam986@outlook.com.

Concerts

Blast from the Past with Pipes and Jacks **St James Anglican Church, Woburn Road, Lower Hutt**

Note that the date that was advertised for this concert has to be changed. REMU members will be sent an email with the new date as soon as possible. If you're not a REMU member and want to be informed of the new date please let us know by e-mailing remu.org.nz@gmail.com.

This concert was also performed on Friday 21 July in the series "Thanks God it's Friday" at Wellington Cathedral of St Paul.

Katrin Eickhorst (recorders) and Michael Stewart (keyboards and Director of Music at the Cathedral) present original repertoire



through the centuries combining recorders, harpsichord and organ. The programme includes Renaissance and Baroque sonatas as well as some rare music from the mid-20th century.

For example, Hans Ulrich Staeps' scoring of "Dialoge für Blockflöte und Cembalo" (Recorder and Harpsichord) challenges 21st century perception of both instruments specialising in "early music".

Girolamo Frescobaldi was an Italian composer, who lived from 1583 to 1643. The "Canzona detta la Bernardina" is for a soprano instrument and a keyboard. It fits well into the range of a soprano recorder and could be performed with harpsichord, lute, guitar, and also with organ, as they played it in this programme.

Concert in New Plymouth

Saturday 9 September, 2pm at Whitely Church, New Plymouth

This concert will include pieces by Vivaldi and Corelli, as well as Telemann's Concerto for flute and recorder, the latter played by Barbara Mitchell (SRPNZ Treasurer).

After retiring last year from 23 years as Musical Director of the Taranaki Symphony Orchestra, Adam Jasinski has formed a small string Baroque orchestra, comprising four violins, viola, two cellos, double bass and harpsichord. Depending on the repertoire chosen, they will have guest player/soloists joining them.

This concert is a tribute to Graham Cleland - a much loved and respected piano teacher, harpsichord player, double bass and cello player who sadly passed away recently. He bequeathed his harpsichord to the Taranaki Symphony Orchestra and it has now been restored and is ready to be used. Graham was a very competent musician who often hosted local house concerts as he had no less than two grand pianos and a harpsichord in his lounge!

NZbAROK TELEMANIA

Friday 13 October 7:30 pm, Saturday 14 October 2:00 pm and Saturday 14 October 7:30 pm. St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Road, Auckland

Telemania includes features music by Telemann and Bach with guest soloist Erin Helyard (Harpichord, Artistic Director and co-founder of Pinchgut Opera and the Orchestra of the Antipodes, Sydney) and **recorders played by Jessica Shaw and Kamala Bain.**

Other news and information

Orpheus Music

**Australasian Recorder Festival 2024,
January 7 – 12 Armidale NSW
Australia**



This Festival will be made up of technique classes, ensembles both large and small, special interest topics and concerts. Groups will be balanced and fully functional small ensembles that cater to each individual's needs, and each group will work with a variety of tutors throughout the week.

The Festival will be held at the Presbyterian Ladies' College where full board will be available on site as well as catering for those staying off site.

Tutors

Kamala Bain (New Zealand), Simon Borutzki (Germany), Alexandra Bailliet-Joly (NSW), Daniel Murphy (NSW), Anna Stegmann (Germany), Alana Blackburn (NSW), Robyn Mellor (ACT), Rodney Waterman (VIC)

Virtual Recorder Competition 2023

Participants are invited to submit a complete piece or two movements by an Australian composer that has been self-recorded with a video recording. Participants may enter both sections: Solo and Group. Participants can choose to submit a multitrack recording by one player, and submit in both sections. Videos may include added images, photos, animation and text. However, the judges will be forming their decisions on the musical aspects of the recording.

See Orpheus website for details: <https://orpheusmusic.com.au/733-orpheus-virtual-recorder-competition>

Evelyn Nallen

Did you come to *Recorder '93*? Evelyn Nallen was a guest tutor from England. She is now (among other roles) musical director of **The Weaver Ensemble** that recreates and presents works by the English dancer, scholar and choreographer John Weaver. This production, *The Talent Mr Weaver presents ...* was on stage in Shrewsbury, July 21. <https://www.weaverensemble.com>

RESTORATION

Restoration takes its name from that colourful era, the restoration of Charles II to the English throne in 1660 – the music of this time is central to the group's repertoire. The name also suggests the art-restorer's process of revealing the original colours and dramatic impact of a treasured artwork.

The group was founded in 1985 by Bronwen Pugh (violin) and Robert Petre (harpsichord) after their return from study and professional experience overseas. Since then they have toured throughout NZ giving concerts and workshops, working with numerous local baroque specialists including Graham McPhail, Alison Salmons, Emma Goodbehere and Eric Scholes³, as well as with visiting artists from the UK, Europe, USA, and Australia. In recent years they have worked extensively with leading Australian



³ Graham McPhail: co-artistic director NZ Barok; Auckland University lecturer (education); teacher NZ School of Music

Alison Salmons: viola; member NZ Barok

Emma Goodbehere: cello; member NZ Barok; teacher NZ School of Music

Eric Scholes: free-lance double bassist; Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra; member NZ Barok

violinist Lucinda Moon. Their CD recordings include *Pièces de clavecin en concerts* by Rameau (2011), and *Musick al'Italliana* with soprano Rosalind Salas, recorded in London for the Meridian label.

www.restorationensemble.co.nz

Jottings and Reminiscences on the SRPNZ **from Liz Westbrooke**

- Yes, Julia and I went lots of places. A week-long Aussie Recorder Festival in Armidale was fabulous. Also, REMU's Wellington festivals.
- The 1990 week in Auckland where German, Dutch and Japanese recorder stars were financed to come here as it was 150 years since te Tiriti was signed. Alec Loretto⁴ added recorder making workshops in too.
- There were Waiheke weekend workshops at Palm Beach. Trips out the Bucktons'⁵ country home to play outdoors where it was my first time to hear a hurdy-gurdy.
- performing in the Museum, the Howick historical village and the MIT library. And as the recorder section in Benjamin Britten's *Noah's Floode* in the Town Hall in more recent years. Meeting up with Hamilton and Tauranga people. Playing 8-part two choir pieces.
- Then there was the Nelson recorder week with the Amsterdam Loeki Stardust Quartet. We performed with them in the Nelson Cathedral, a piece specially written for the occasion by Gareth Farr⁶.
- My husband and I lived in UK for three years, so I joined the North London, then the Bedfordshire societies and played with them. Even performed with a small orchestra in Hampstead. More friendships.
- Many happy times and unique opportunities. More than 20 years of trio meetups with Barbara G and Julia H. And going to concerts varying from university

⁴ Alec Loretto: internationally renown recorder maker and teacher of recorder making; died 2013

⁵ Carol and Roger Buckton: music educators who published books for teaching recorders to children

⁶ Gareth Farr: NZ composer with numerous commissions and Composer in Residence appointments

students'; exam performances to NZ Barok and even Piers Adams⁷ and his pirates!

From Julia Hall

- *Winds of Waitaha*⁸ - Christchurch 2002 - Baroque dancing in public! in the square! Was this also the occasion of playing the 40 part Tallis *Spem in alium* in the cathedral.
- Performing with electronic music for/with John Rimmer⁹ at Uni of Auckland
- Feb SRP field trips playing 'away' - Botanic Gardens Manurewa, and north to a members house at Warkworth near an old cement works
- Midwinter SRP potluck dinners and concert - lesson learnt: leave the mulled wine until after the performance
- Providing the music for church services at All Saints Church, Ponsonby with Ron Dellow¹⁰
- Waiheke Music Museum performance How could we forget the ill-fated provision of music for Alec Loretto's Purcell lecture at All Saints Church - it was freezing and so were we and the playing suffered - maybe we don't want to mention that.
- Playing weekend at Miranda seabird bird centre - I remember going to bed early with a splitting headache only to have Jessica¹¹ play some avant garde piece (*Whakaaro?*) as part of the evening performance that ended with an almighty striking of a gong right outside the bunk room that I was in.
- The 1998 weekend school at Dilworth where we got Lotto funding to bring Nardoo - Zana and Peter¹² over

⁷ Piers Adams: English recorder player and member of *Red Priest* baroque quartet

⁸ International festival (largely workshops and concerts)

⁹ John Rimmer: NZ composer and Emeritus Professor of the University of Auckland

¹⁰ Ron Dellow: (1924 - 2004) composer, music educator, administrator, and long term leader of SRPNZ

¹¹ Jessica Shaw: Musical Director SRPNZ

¹² Zana Clarke and Peter Biffin: proprietors of Orpheus Music, Australia - see above

- Many many Sunday afternoon playing sessions at the Teachers College under the watchful eye of Ron Dellow, Arthur Farr¹³, Alec Loretto,? And later the opportunity for our trio to actually lead a session. Followed by afternoon tea. That led to some long-lasting friendships.

Editor's comment: there are many stories about recorders and early music in New Zealand, and I would welcome more contributions for future newsletters; notes like the above, or details and memories of events or incidents, that would interest our readers. Along with any news that might interest this community.

FOR SALE - BAROQUE BASSOON

Baroque, 3-keyed bassoon after Johann Christoph Denner, A=415, maker Mathew Dart (London) - mathewdartbassoon.com.

The price is the maker's valuation: NZD\$7320 or GBP£3500 plus shipping. It is in excellent condition and recently serviced by the maker. It comes with a tailor-made hard case and several reeds.



And

REMU has some various recorders for sale (prices negotiable). We are particularly interested to help schools looking for instruments. Email remu.or.nz@gmail.com to enquire.

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¹³ Arthur Farr: Auckland music educator and arranger for recorder; librarian and past committee member of SRPNZ