

*Recorders and Early Music Union*

# NEWSLETTER



November 2023

[remu.org.nz@gmail.com](mailto:remu.org.nz@gmail.com)

## Soiree

The last REMU event for 2023 will be a soiree and Pot Luck dinner on **Saturday November 25th starting at 4pm** until about 7pm at **Johnsonville Uniting Church, Dr Taylor Terrace** in Johnsonville. All players and audience are very welcome. Come and enjoy great music and bring some yummys to share for the Pot Luck meal.

If you have an item, please email Helen at [helenpollockmusic@gmail.com](mailto:helenpollockmusic@gmail.com) by November 20th to let her know what you are playing.

## Strathean

REMU's 2023 three-day residential workshop at Strathean Retreat Centre was enjoyed by 18 players with the help and tuition of Kamala Bain. This year participants were invited to play music from their bucket lists; music that they wanted to play even if it might have been too difficult or inaccessible in some other way. Some of the pieces we played were Diego Ortiz's Recercardas, JS Bach's Brandenburg concerto No 2, Soren Sieg's African Suite, a Chaconne by Fischer, Purcell's Chacony, Qui Tollis and Credo from Bach's b minor mass, Elgar's Nimrod from the Planets, a Geminiani concerto grosso, and Handel's water Music.



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Sessions were either small groups, usually three groups at a time, and just one or two players per part, or plenary sessions, conducted by Kamala. Kamala spent some time with two of the small groups each session. Recorders ranged from contrabasses to sopraninos, and there were two harpsichords, one at A415 and the other a Roland electronic keyboard that could play at both 440Hz and low pitches. Bob Cross also played baroque bassoon and curtal.



The highlights for Carole were: Kamala's excellent tutoring - particularly her giving time to our group so that we really got to grips with the Soren Seig piece; really enjoying the chamber music slots with Bob and Jenny Cross and others which gave variety doing some smaller group work, and the music quiz - always fun!

Rachel says, "this year Strathean was particularly enjoyable and educative. As ever, we learnt heaps from Kamala, and somehow got to sound quite good after she'd wrangled us for an hour or so. The format of the small group sessions was also really successful, as we were able to choose to play from a good range of pieces that aligned with our different interests and playing levels."

Susanne wrote, "this year at Strathean I especially enjoyed playing some music by Schickhardt and Fischer, brought by Bob and Jenny. Especially Fischer who is not so well known although he wrote lots of nice Baroque music. I also enjoyed playing low recorders (415). And leading by Kamala was very good again so we played her pieces with delight."

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## Strathean 2024

REMU is very please to announce that next year **Simon Borutzki** will be our Strathearn tutor. Simon is the conductor of the Berlin Blockfluten (ie recorder) Orchester and recording artist, recently producing a 7 CD set of the works of Jacob van Eyck. Have a look at the Orchestra's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@BBOrchester>.

The dates for next year are: **Friday 11 to Sunday 13 October**. Simon will present a lunchtime recital on Friday 18 October in Wellington.

## NZSRP

The Society of Recorder Players NZ will hold its **Annual General Meeting** online (Zoom) at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday 3 December 2023**.

We encourage all members of SRPNZ to participate in the meeting and to email REMU ([remu.or.nz@gmail.com](mailto:remu.or.nz@gmail.com)) to get the Zoom link, reports and papers. And if you're not a member but interested in some way then you're welcome to participate (but NB only financial members may vote and membership can be arranged through REMU, [remu.or.nz@gmail.com](mailto:remu.or.nz@gmail.com)).

The agenda will include the usual reports (financial and the committee's work in 2023), election of committee, a proposal to transfer the Barbara McEwen Library to the Christchurch School of Music, future of the Frank Carpay Scholarship fund, and what to do with SRPNZ's instruments.

These three items are steps towards winding up SRPNZ. The Society's membership has declined and it has not had any meetings since before Covid. We have not found any members who can join the committee and turn this around, many current members having served on the committee and put in all the work needed to run the Society in the past. The committee now consists of seven members from Whangarei to Wellington.

A reason for this is the decimation of music education in New Zealand (like other *Western* countries), diminishing recorder teaching and the common view of the recorder is "not a proper instrument". Readers are welcome to write their views of this topic for future editions of this newsletter. (NB matters of opinion like this are those of the editor and not necessarily official SRPNZ or REMU views).

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## Consorts' news

### *Dulcis Tibia*

The quartet presented its 2023 programme a fourth time at St Andrews on The Terrace. They were happy to fill a gap in the well established and subscribed lunchtime concert series.



Next year Dulcis Tibia will be playing a new programme: in the Futuna concert series, at St Andrews on the Terrace at the end of July, in the Thank God it's Friday lunchtime series at the Wellington Cathedral and possibly at other venues as well.

### *Mistral*

Mistral have been continuing work on Lachrimae, Holborne, Farnaby, some fun jazz pieces and have just begun the annual Xmas Carol practice. They have five Christmas carol performances lined up from December 1st to December 15th.



In the next month Mistral will present a Wellington Railway Station Christmas Carols performance and rest home performances where they are likely to meet at least one recorder player who is no longer able to play.

### ***Light Winds***

This small group formed largely after the splitting up of the long running group Jongleurs. They have only been meeting a few months, but have already played at a couple of soirées. They are working on a Matheson concerto for three treble, music by CP.E. Bach and a Wilbye madrigal. Their long term plans include recruiting a fourth player.

### ***Valley Players***

Ron reports: “the Valley Players has recently shrunk to three players and has confined its repertoire to mainly SAT recorder arrangements with the occasional use of Bass, Great Bass, and even Contrabass. Diana Barnes, Ron Ward and John Lister meet in Khandallah. When Diana, from time to time, departs for foreign parts, we do not meet at all and I have (interim) joined Mistral’s much larger group, at least to year’s end, where it is possible to play my Kung Great Bass.

The Great Bass recorder is reputed to have the same fingering as the descant, but the Kung GB design differs, in that it uses a ring key to facilitate the lower and upper F#. Its range extends further up than other models which is useful for allowing it to play bass parts normally too high

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for a GB, though some care is needed to utilise the higher notes. Transposing some bass parts might still be required.”

## Concerts

### *Robert Oliver presents his “Swan Song”*

**2:00pm Futuna Chapel, Friend Street, Karori, Sunday 19th November**



Music for solo bass viol by Marin Marais , Colin Decio (NZ contemporary), William Corkine (so obscure that there are no pictures), Tobias Hume (also no pictures but lots of music). plus mediaeval music played on rebec, by Anon (not pictured) and Guillaume de Machaut.

Robert says, “Marais and Hume have been my principal guides, with their wonderful ability to bring the instrument's character to life with their music. William Corkine - yes, the obscure amongst the obscure - wrote for the lyra viol - the retuned bass viol - a fascinating, if short-lived fashion which produced some very beautiful music, challenging but rewarding. And my lovely kauri rebec, so I can share with you the vitality and colour of the age of Chaucer.”

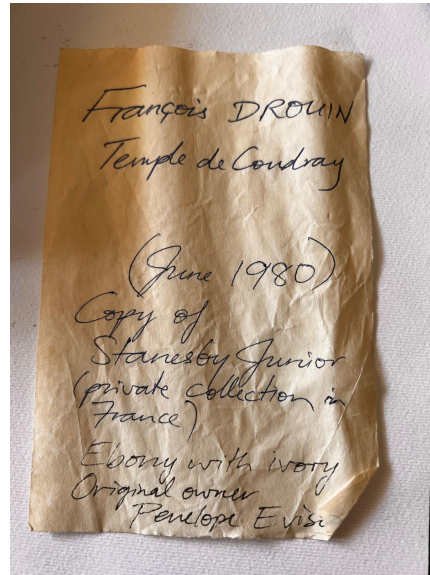
Robert is a Life Member of REMU and is a leader of early music in Wellington. Many details of his impressive career are described in:

<https://oliviawebartist.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/biog-for-website.pdf>

## Instruments for Sale

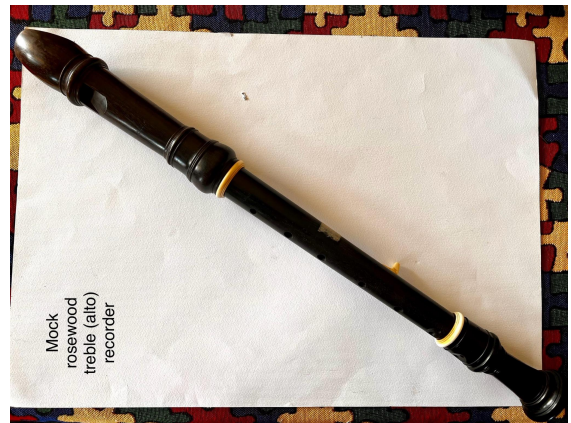
### *Baroque flute 415Hz (low pitch)*

First owner - Penelope Evison, professional baroque flautist. It was sold to an amateur musician and well cared for. It is almost certainly (from notes with the flute) a 1980 copy of Stanesby Jnr by an obscure French maker (François Drouin). Ebony with ivory. The instrument will need to be carefully blown in again, as it has not been used for 20-30 years. Contact Rachel ([rachelpnz@gmail.com](mailto:rachelpnz@gmail.com)).



## Alto recorder

Moeck rosewood alto recorder with added thumb rest. Bushing has been added to the thumbhole. It has been well used but in good condition. The instrument will need to be carefully blown in again, as it has not been used for 20-30 years. Contact Rachel (rachelpnz@gmail.com).



## Courtly Arts Performers (Melbourne)

If you go to Melbourne you may like to attend a Courtly Arts performance (<https://www.courtlyarts.com>). This group evolved from Helga and Mark Hill's *Early Art Guild*, when Helga retired in 2018. They present dances and music from mediaeval, Renaissance and baroque Europe as *authentically* as they can. Along with the music and dance, the costumes and the presenters' and singers' gestures are sourced from historic information. Jill Ferris, who tutored at Strathean in 2022, is a member of the consort - with recorders, viols, lute, other renaissance woodwinds and percussion - that provides all the music for the dancers.



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