

*Recorders and Early Music Union*

# NEWSLETTER

July 2024

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



This REMU Newsletter is intended for recorder and early music players (especially *hobbyists*) and supporters throughout New Zealand.

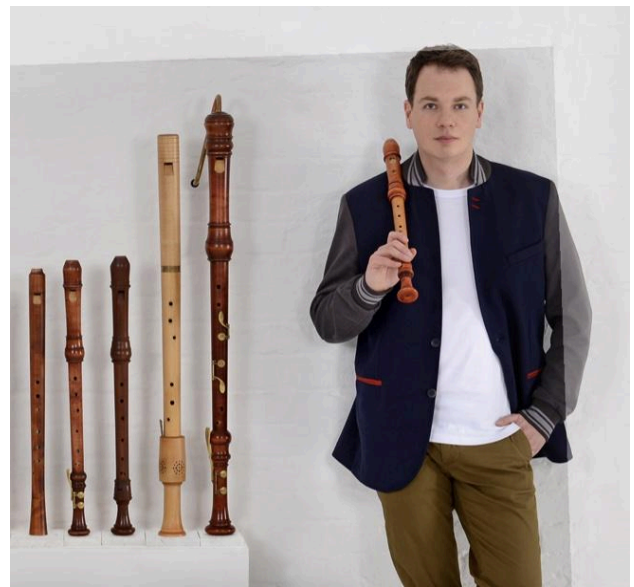
## **REMU**

### **Strathean Workshop**

REMU's Strathean workshop will be held from **Friday 10 October to Sunday 13 October** this year. However, participants can arrive early and stay on Thursday night.

This year our principal tutor will be **Simon Borutzki**, conductor of the Berliner Blockflöten Orchester (<https://www.berliner-blockfloeten-orchester.de/bbo-home.html>). He studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts Frankfurt, the University of the Arts in Berlin and the University of Music in Berlin. Simon has recorded CDs with the Vocal consort Berlin, the Athesinus Consort, the Lautten Compagny and the Schola Stralsundensis, among others. His solo CD Bach All'Italiano (arranged for recorder and continuo ensemble) was awarded the Editors' Choice of *Gramophone Magazine* in 2016. His recordings include a seven CD set of the complete works of Jacob van Eyck and another CD of Telemann's twelve fantasias.

Simon established the Berliner Blockflöten Orchester in 2012. It is a traditional but ambitious amateur ensemble. The BBO includes all the common recorders and sub-great and sub-contrabasses. They perform regularly in Berlin and have attracted national and international attention as a prize winner of the German Orchestra Competition 2016. The Orchestra has recorded a number of CDs.



The Workshop will be held at the Strathean Retreat Centre, between Otaki and Te Horo on the Kapiti Coast. It is live-in but that's not a requirement and day-attendance can be all three days, two or just one.

The programme this year will include homes groups, meeting once a day, elective sessions and massed playing. Some music will be made available to registrants nearer the time. Strathean weekends are kind of busy with lots of playing, lots of fun, but still time to relax in beautiful surroundings.

### **REMU's 2024 meetings**

#### **16th March 2024: Annual General Meeting**

The AGM completed the usual and required agenda items including receiving reports and electing the committee. However, it was largely concerned with approving a new constitution as reported in the last newsletter. REMU is now registered under the Incorporated Societies Act (2022).

#### **20th April 2024: Big Blow 1**

Kamala Bain conducted this meeting with the familiar enthusiasm she brings to recorder playing in large groups. The pieces were *Celtic Suite* (for recorder orchestra) by Marg Hall, *Cantate Domino* from Gabrieli's *Sacrae Symphoniae* (1597) and David Thompson's *Latin American Suite* (1989).

#### **25th May 2024: Our first Soiree of the year**

We had a very full programme so there was no time for everyone to play together! The performers included Mistral, SuBreMo with Bernard Wells playing keyboard, Dulcis Tibia, Lizzie Varley-Sandle, Michael Gee, Three Blind Mice, and Ron McNulty who demonstrated a tenor recorder he recently made.

#### **Saturday 22nd June 2024: Big Blow 2**

Roger Palmer conducted his composition titled *Mistral* and written for the group with that name. It is a programmatic piece loosely reflecting on Wellington and its winds. The other pieces were: Praetorius' *Omnus mundis jocundetur*, and Daser's *Et dixit mihi Dominus*.

### **Still to come in 2024**

#### **Saturday 27th July: second Soiree of the year**

#### **Saturday 7th September: Big Blow 3**

All REMU meetings are held at the Johnsonville Uniting Church, Dr Taylor Terrace, Johnsonville and visitors are welcome.

## Consorts' news

### Dulcis Tibia

The consort has three performances this year

**St Andrew's on the Terrace, 31 July, 12:15pm;**

**St Paul's Thank God It's Friday concert series, 4 Oct, 12.45pm; and**

**St Marks, Hutt City concert series Lower Hutt, 20 October, 12:15pm.**



Dulcis' programme this year includes two renaissance pieces: *Passacalio* by Biagio Marini (1594 – 1663), *Ciaccona Zefiro* by Claudio Monteverdi (1567–1643). The latter is dance-like, and happy about spring, love and joy. The Bach pieces this year are an adagio from an organ toccata and *Wohl euch, ihr auserwählten Seelen* (blessed are you, chosen souls), an alto aria from the cantata *O ewiges Feuer, o*

*Ursprung der Liebe*, (BWV 34). The more contemporary music includes an arrangement of Vaughan Williams' organ prelude on a Welsh hymn: *Rhosymedre*, Andrew Charlton's *Bourquest of Fancies* a 20th century arrangement of four 16th century British tunes, and some *Beatles* for yet more fun.

Keep an eye on the Dulcis Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/dulcistibia>) page for updates and additional performances.

### Mistral

Mistral is still working well and hard on Dowland's *Lachrimae* no 4 and no 7. The group is enjoying exploring two pieces written by Lorrie Mundy from Auckland, *Rambling Valley* and *Air*. Monika Wells has been leading Mistral in *Cantate Domino* by Gabrieli and *Gaude et Laetare* by Sweelinck. Both are quite complex works and the group is enjoying their challenges.

There have been two members away, John Durnford is in England, due back late August and Terry Marks had a very unfortunate accident but is keen to return late July or early August when he expects to be sufficiently recovered.

Since early April Mistral has been joined by Caitlin Lester from Dunedin who is studying for a year at Victoria University. She has been a welcome and vibrant member of the group.

Mistral played brilliantly at the REMU Soiree in May and they look forward to performing at the next one in July

### **SuBreMos**

This trio tries to meet once a week (doesn't always happen) to browse various recorder trios just for the fun of it, but also to work on improving their technique and to play the recorders they may be less familiar with (e.g. Monika is trying to get better on the tenor and bass). They are currently working on a lovely Dornel sonata which gives them many chances to practise those difficult high notes and to come to grips with playing *inegale*. They are also playing some pretty dancey imitations of *Le Veglie di Siena* by Renaissance composer Orazio Vecchi, which have some tricky changes in rhythm and tempo. They may present some of this music once they feel confident enough.

### **Rare Byrds**



On Saturday 29 June, this Dunedin consort played for a large gathering of organ enthusiasts. No, not a medical conference, but the annual New Zealand Organ Festival, involving about 60 musicians from around the country . They played a selection of French renaissance dances before and during the Festival dinner in the Hogwart's ambience of the historic Knox College dining hall, then performed a short set of early Scottish music in the beautiful college

chapel. Instruments included recorders, bass viol, nyckelharpa, spinet and a hand-built portative organ, which attracted a lot of attention.

The Byrds continue to meet most weeks for rehearsal, in both the mixed consort and a four-person recorder consort.

## Society of Recorder Players (NZ)

### Frank Carpay Scholarship

The SRP made two grants from the Frank Carpay fund earlier this year. A grant for NZbAROK supported their Winter Workshop.



A second grant made it possible for a promising young player to have lessons with Dr Imogen Morris.

These are the last grants from Frank Carpay's generous support of early music in Auckland.

## Instruments for Sale

### SRPNZ Instruments for sale or ...

SRP is seeking new homes (schools, studios or anywhere they may be used) for the following:

- Mollenhauer Canta Knick Great Bass, dark stained. It is used and has some scratches and chips. It has its original case, fingering chart and cleaner. It is missing its spike that is needed to play standing up. It has a good, clear sound and, like most recorders, requires some adjustment of fingering for some notes. The asking price is \$2,500 or near offer.
- There are two basses (bassets in F). A direct-blow Moeck, in a case but not the original. And a Dolmetsch bass with an old case.



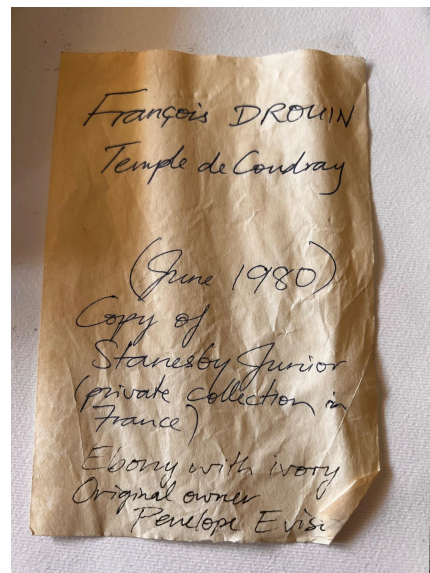
- Three tenors: Roessler, Schreiber and Dolmetsch. All of them are wooden and in good, used condition.
- Moeck Rottenburg descant with its original case.
- Moeck Tuju desant, alto and tenor with their original cases and documents.
- A set of four Dolmetsch recorders, soprano to tenor, with white beaks and possibly made of rosewood. The case is also possibly original.
- There are also 12 Hopf recorders. The brand is inscribed on the head joint. They were made in the Kobliczek factory in the 1970s. They belonged to Alec Loretto and appear to be an experiment in making recorders in many different keys. There are some similar instruments in Germany. The SRP ones all have cases.



If you are interested in any of these instruments then send an email to [remu.org.nz@gmail.com](mailto:remu.org.nz@gmail.com) to make an offer or to ask about particular instruments. We can send photos and some more details.

### **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)).



## Concerts etc.

### *Blast from the Past with Jacks and Pipes*

**Friday, 12th July 2024, Wellington Cathedral of St Paul,**  
in the *Thank God it's Friday Series*

Katrin Eickhorst, recorders and Michael Stewart organ and harpsichord presented a programme featuring Renaissance music with 20th century "echos," and baroque music including an original gem by C. P. E. Bach, the sonata in g minor for flute or violin and obligato harpsichord. Both performers managed the resonant acoustic of the Cathedral well and clearly enjoyed playing this lovely and interesting programme. Their versatility and ensemble were excellent. It was also great to hear three different recorders by New Zealand maker, Paul Whinray.

### *Palliser Viols*

Palliser Viols 'Music & Memory' concert in February last year was recorded and filmed by Bruce Foster. The music is now the sound-track of a documentary *Spontaneous Combustion, Songs for Barry*

*Brickell*, about the work of potter, artist and railway builder, Barry Brickell, which had its premiere on July 1 in Christchurch. It was also shown in Wellington and Auckland on July 6th as part of the DocEdge Festival.

The music combines fantasies for viols with taonga puoro, and includes pieces written for *Palliser Viols* by Dame Gillian Whitehead, and Ross Harris, together with music by William Byrd, Orlando Gibbons and Antony Holborne.



### *NZbAROK Mid-winter Christmas by Candlelight*

**St Lukes Church Remuera, 6 July**

This concert presented some Christmas favourites alongside some works that were most probably less familiar to the audience. It was an effective presentation especially as it was during our season that is most like the European Christmas environment. NZbAROK accompanied soprano Rowena Simpson and tenor Jack Timings and were supplemented by Jessica Shaw (recorders). The programme included: Corelli, Concerto

Grosso Op 6 nr. 8 (The Christmas Concerto), Highlights from Handel's Messiah, and Baroque Christmas Carols by Charpentier, Buxtehude and Bach.

### ***Daughters of Invention***

**Wednesday 24 July 12:15 pm**  
**St Marks Wesley Uniting, Lower Hutt**

**Saturday 27 July 7pm**  
**St Paul's Lutheran Church, Wellington,**  
**New Zealand**

Jonathan Berkahn, Ingrid Schoenfeld, Em Griffiths, Tom Stonehouse, and Bernard Wells present the *Daughters of Invention*: jigs, reels, polkas, polskas, waltzes based upon Bach's two-part Inventions, along with the Inventions themselves, a 45-minute selection. You can even buy a digital recording of the set to (virtually) take away with you. Pretty tunes! Fiddly counterpoint! Piano! Accordions! Fiddle! Bodhran! Guitar! Flute! It's all here...



### ***Restoration***

Restoration is a baroque string ensemble presenting two concerts this year. The first took place 14 July and the second one is:

***Bach Restor'd***  
**Saturday 21 September 2024, 7:30 pm and Sunday 22 September 2024, 2:30pm**  
Venue to be confirmed. <https://www.restorationensemble.co.nz>

### **Other news and information**

#### ***Kamala on Radio New Zealand Concert***

For a week in May Radio New Zealand *Concert* featured recorders on the *Three to Seven* programme. In one of the programmess, Barry Crump interviewed Kamala Bain and she played a variety of recorders from sopranino to bass. The interview included: some history of recorders, description of parts of the instruments, it's similarity to some organ pipes, breath control, humidity's effects, recorders' woods and plastic, van Eyck,





Kamala's music education, history of recorders' use, recorders in music education, Telemann, Dolmetsch, *Meditation* by Hiroso, playing two recorders at once, Kamala's performance with *Stroma*, extended techniques and more!

[https://www.rnz.co.nz/audio/player?audio\\_id=2018939706](https://www.rnz.co.nz/audio/player?audio_id=2018939706)

### **Noeline McQueen**

Sadly Noeline, a member of REMU for many years, died in May this year.



**Grey Warblers:** left to right: Jenny Greensalde, Gwen Stacey, Noeline McQueen, and Elaine Holden.

In 1979 Noeline came across a descant recorder that one of her children had used. For a few months she learnt the fingering for it but didn't like the high pitch so bought a treble. Having met at WEA recorder class Noeline began practising with Elaine Holden. Not long after that Margot Hutcherson joined them with her tenor.

All three became members of the Early Music Union. In 1986 Gwen Stacey and joined Bernard Wells joined the group. He usually played accompaniments with an electronic keyboard. At this time Noeline was also going to a Monday night recorder class with Margot at the Teachers Training College in Karori.

In 1992 Elaine and Noeline went to their first Strathean weekend, and several more in the following years. They also went to music schools at Auckland University, Marsden College in Wellington and at Nelson Boys' College.

In the 1990's Margot moved to Queenstown and Elaine had to give up playing so Grey Warblers became a trio. Jenny, Gwen and Noeline carried on playing together until Jenny had to stop and Grey Warblers finished. Later, Noeline joined Ron Ward's Valley

Players, playing quartets, and sometimes quintets, and performing at REMU soirées. Noeline stopped playing in the 2010s because her fingers could no longer cover the holes properly.

Ps. Noeline's story is some highlights from her *recorder biography*. REMU's Secretary, Helen Pollock, is encouraging players to write their own.

### **Going to Melbourne?**

The **Victorian Recorder Guild** and the **Courtly Arts Performers** (*authentic* early music and dance) have been described in past newsletters, and are worth looking up. Here are some more people and groups that may be of interest.

**La Compania Renaissance Band** includes cornetti, curtals, sackbuts, viols, recorders, and percussion, in various combinations. The Band has several concerts every year in the Melbourne Recital Center or Elisabeth Murdoch Hall.

**Jo Saunders** is a recorder maker, trained by Fred Morgan, who has a workshop in the Abbotsford Convent complex. <https://www.joannesauanders.com.au/>

**Latitude 37** is a baroque trio whose members are Julia Fredersdorff (violin), Laura Vaughan (viola da gamba) and Donald Nicolson (harpsichord). Donald studied with Douglas Mews at Victoria University, Wellington.

**The Recorder Co-operative** is a quartet of Alexandra Bailliet-Joly, Hannah Coleman, Ryan Williams and Ruth Wilkinson.

And there are many other players including Rod Waterman and Greg Dikmans.

### **Grand Opera in New Zealand**

Sky Arts Channel has a tradition of presenting complete, staged videos of operas each Sunday Morning. Over 100 have been presented over the last few years. Some have been repeated more than once and recently, they have appeared at other times and days as well. They are a mixed bag of productions that vary in quality to some extent, but some are outstanding.

Sky has presented a New Zealand 2021 production of **Handel's Semele**. Fully staged in Auckland's Holy Trinity Cathedral before a packed audience. The original English libretto was provided by William Congreve and an unnamed adaptor. There does seem to be references to this work as an oratorio, rather than opera.

Peter Walls conducted the orchestra, which included **Kamala Bains** and **Jessica Shaw** on recorders, and Kamala doubling on baroque oboe. Douglas Mews played Harpsichord. Playing behind the altar, the orchestra was somewhat obscured as it would be in a theatre.

Costuming was spectacular in a mix of modern and ceremonial dress. The chorus was a combination of the Freemason NZ Opera Chorus and the choir of the Holy Trinity Cathedral. The opening wedding scene showed how well the choirs blended.

The soloists were unfamiliar, but they all (including countertenors) did magnificent work. It is regrettable that performance in other centres was clearly out of the question.

Sound and visual aspects seemed above average for the recording. This is one recording I will keep for some time. Whether it will become available on DVDs or Youtube etc. I do not know but if you find it let me know as it is something I will treasure. Youtube does have several recordings of the opera by different companies.

**Ron Ward** A trailer is available on: <https://youtu.be/5TkdrvNAA8I?si=sQjSv5BU-m2ftlFA>.

## **Orpheus Music**

### **Australasian Recorder Festival 2025, January 12-17 Armidale NSW Australia**

A celebration of the recorder in all its splendour – playing, listening, exploring. A festival of full immersion for players of all ages. Six days of technique classes, ensembles and special interest topics and concerts. There will be a separate Youth Section with multiple groups for players under 30. Details are on: [Recorder Festival](#)

### **Australasian Recorder Competition 2025**

is open to recorder players and groups within Australia and New Zealand. The competition will be held in two stages: Preselection (Video Auditions close on 1st of October 2024) and Finals at the Australian Recorder Festival 2025 (above). Details are on: [Orpheus 2025 Competition](#)



PRIZE POOL  
**\$9000**

**Australasian Recorder Competition 2025**

Open to recorder players and groups within Australia and New Zealand.  
Entry open to anyone aged 5 years +  
Preselection: October 1 2024  
Finals: January 10 2025

**ENTER NOW**



[www.orpheusmusic.com.au](http://www.orpheusmusic.com.au)

The poster features a green background with illustrations of recorders and floral patterns. It includes a QR code and the website address.

### ***Play recorder in Auckland***

Following a couple of enquiries about groups in Auckland or the possibly of playing with others, here is a potential opportunity of some more music making. If you are an adult and would like to join a group, are looking for someone to play with, or have a group that would like more members, send us an email ([remu.org.nz@gmail.com](mailto:remu.org.nz@gmail.com)) with a brief sentence or two about what you are interested in and we will circulate it to anyone else who makes a compatible (in very general terms) request. That circulation could be by blind copy ('bcc') if you wish, relying on REMU to coordinate. And if you're not in Auckland and you have some possibility, or long-shot, then let us know about that too. It could be added to the next edition of this newsletter.

### ***Music available***

Jenny has a library of over 100 pieces of music for recorder trio, quartet and two or more recorders with keyboard. There are some interesting pieces along with others that are familiar to many recorder players. Jenny's mother is no longer able to play and would be pleased if the music could go to someone who will use it. Jenny is in Otago and can be contacted by email: [jenny.cleland14@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.cleland14@gmail.com).

### **Compiled and edited by**

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