



**Report on the
2019 New Zealand Singing School:
Te Wānanga Toi Waiata**

**4th to 14th January 2019
Eastern Institute of Technology, Napier**

Report on the 2019 New Zealand Singing School

This 29th School, held on the beautiful campus of the Eastern Institute of Technology was a successful and smooth-running School. The international faculty delivered a high level of tutoring and accompanying for the 74 students. This School was ably led by three Principals of Faculty & Curriculum: Rachel Fuller and Catrin Johnsson ARAM, from the University of Auckland, and Otago University's William Evans Associate Professor in Voice, Judy Bellingham (MNZM). The 2019 School was Judy's final Singing School in a leadership role. We are indebted to Judy for her many years of dedication to this role.

Highlights

We realise that many of our invited guests are unable to come and see much of what we do during the School, so we wanted to share this overview with you to give you some insight in to how our financial support is utilised during the School.

We welcomed 74 students to the 2019 School. This consisted of 28 All Classical students, 25 Musical Theatre students and 21 Crossover students. This year 16% of the students came from Australia. The students were taught by a faculty of 34 – 21 tutors and directors and 13 accompanists. We also welcomed a large contingent of trainees this year – four trainee accompanists, one trainee voice teacher and two trainee conductors.

The curriculum was delivered through technical classes, masterclasses, lectures, ensemble singing and full-school singing practices.



Opera Director Conal Coad directs an ensemble rehearsal

There were 20 advanced classical singers, taught under the leadership of **David Harper** (United Kingdom) with **Andrew Dalton** (Australia) **Dr Morag Atchison** (Auckland), **Frances Wilson** (Auckland), and Catrin Johnsson.

The Opera ensembles were superbly directed by **Christine Douglas** (Australia), **Conal Coad** (Australia) and **Sara Brodie** (New Zealand). The level of attainment the students have is amazing in the short time they have to learn and achieve this level of performance.

The Mainstream students were coached by Judy Bellingham, Frances Wilson, **Robert Tucker** (Blenheim) and **Martin Snell** (Switzerland) with input from Dr Morag Atchison and Andrew Dalton. **Marina Posa** (Australia) and Martin Snell also coached students in Italian and German respectively.

The Music Theatre Stream was led by **Mark Dorrell** (Wellington) and he was well-assisted by **Jennifer Ward-Lealand Te Atamira CNZM** (Auckland), Sara Brodie, **Dr Irene Bartlett** (Australia), **Laine Loxlea-Danaan** (Australia), **Jane Keller** (Wellington), **Pat Wilson** (Australia) and **Nick Hollamby** (Christchurch).

The Trainee Programme remains a very valuable ongoing part of the School. Our Trainee Tutor **Shaan Kloet** (Auckland) was mentored by Irene Bartlett. The Trainee Accompanists **Bradley Kunda** (Australia), **Olivia Pike**, **Moira Pascoe**, **Sofia Onishko** (all New Zealand) were mentored by Rachel Fuller. In 2019 there were also two Trainee Conductors – ably tutored by **Dr Karen Grylls** (Auckland). These two trainees were **Arthur Adams Close** (Auckland) and **Caelan Thomas** (Rolleston). Unfortunately, one Trainee Tutor and one Trainee Conductor were unable to make it at the very last minute for personal reasons.

Our accompanists were **Julie Coulson**, **Catherine Norton**, **Fiona McCabe**, **Hugh McMillan** (all Wellington); **Cathy Bennett**, **Kay Shacklock**, **Grant Winterburn**, **Penny Dodd** (all Auckland); **Matthew Everingham** (Christchurch); **Susan Melville**, **Paul Carnegie Jones** (both Havelock North), **Simon Walter** (Australia) and **Tim Evans** (United Kingdom).



Mark Dorrell and Jennifer Ward-Lealand Te Atamira with a student.

In Residence



Amici Forever founder Geoff Sewell was our Artist in Residence for the 2019 School.

Geoff, who was raised in Hawkes Bay, is a multi-platinum selling recording artist who achieved international commercial success through popera group Amici Forever.

Trained at The Boston Conservatory of Music in America, Geoff went on to perform on the West End in London and created entertainment company, Incognito Artists, of which he is now Global CEO. After performing at the FA Cup Final at the Millennium Stadium in Wales, Geoff and Simone created the world's first multi-platinum selling, pop-opera group Amici Forever, which sold over 3.5 million albums worldwide and had two No.1 albums.

The students were delighted to have the opportunity to learn from Geoff tips on developing a successful singing career.

Public Performances

The New Zealand Singing School's public performances are always of a very high calibre. These performance opportunities alongside students' study at the school give a rich learning experience that is vital for their ongoing development. The concert series included Oratorio solos and massed choruses at the St John's Cathedral's Eucharist with Hymns service; two "Showcase at the Tabard" musical theatre performances; and two classical concerts - "Classics at the MTG", (presented by the **Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation**) and "Classics in the Village", Havelock North. There were also four in-house concerts where all students had a chance to perform a solo. All students performed at the Gala Performance and Prizegiving, held at the Napier Municipal Theatre – a grand showcase of the students' work over the previous 11 days. The Gala Performance was again superbly compered by Jennifer Ward-Lealand Te Atamira.



"Classics at the MTG" performers



David Harper takes an Advanced Classical masterclass

Awards

Each student receives a certificate of achievement at the completion of the School. In addition, there are awards provided to outstanding students. Congratulations to the following students who won awards.

The Opera Australia Opportunity Award:

Conal Coad selects a student to attend the final week of rehearsal of one of his performances with Opera Australia. This award also includes an opportunity to audition for Opera Australia. The award was given jointly to Rebecca Hart and Sarah Ampil.

Advanced Classical

- Beatrice Webster Mozart Award: Carla Camilleri
- Beatrice Webster Pursuit of Excellence (Female): Jessica Taylor
- Beatrice Webster Pursuit of Excellence (Male): Nathan Bryon
- Auckland Opera Studio - Potential Career Prospects: Chelsea Dolman

Mainstream Classical

- Mainstream Classical Award: Lillian Gibbs

NEWZATS Award

- For a student of a NEWZATS teacher: Ella Ewen

Oratorio

Clevedon Valley Music Foundation Trust: Libby Montgomery

Musical Theatre

Sewell Family Award: Lucy Sutcliffe

Musical Theatre Faculty Award: Tara Canton

Harvest Rain/Brisbane Academy of Musical Theatre Half Scholarship: Eleanor Grieve

Sponsors

The New Zealand Singing School Trust is extremely grateful to the people and organisations who enable the Trust to continue its work and provide an exceptional school every two years.

Our thanks go to the Eastern Institute of Technology, NZSS Foundation Members and Friends of the School. Additionally, the 2019 New Zealand Singing School was funded with the generous support of Creative New Zealand, Pub Charity, NZ Opera Society, Lion Foundation, Napier City Council, First Light Foundation, Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation, Sargood Bequest, North South Trust, Eastern & Central Community Trust, Joan Fernie Charitable Trust, Pam Torbett Charitable Trust, Gwen Malden Charitable Trust, NZSS Foundation Members, Friends of the School, past and current Trustees as well as the Scholarship and Award Donors.

Thanks also to those organisations that provided in kind support: Napier Operatic Society, Iona College, Taradale High School, Lindisfarne College, Karamu High School, Taradale Intermediate, Conroys Removals, Bay Ford, Notman Motor Group Honda, Appletons for Pianos.

Gala Concert performances



Prisoners' Chorus



The Rhythm of Life



Tytania & the Fairy Chorus



Geoff Sewell & students, Mark Dorrell accompanying