



TAURANGA MUSICA
2010
concert series

Poinsett Piano Trio

Saturday 22nd May, Baycourt, 7.30pm

Niels Bijl & Diedre Irons

Sunday 11th July, Mills Reef, 7.30pm

Cook Strait Trio

Sunday 15th August, Mills Reef, 7.30pm

Jenny Wollerman & Richard Mapp*

Sunday 12th September, Mills Reef, 7.30pm

*Richard replaces Bruce Greenfield

Aroha String Quartet

Sunday 3rd October, Tauranga Park Auditorium,
383 Pyes Pa Rd, 2.00pm

Programme



TAURANGA MUSICA
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concert series



presents

V8 Vocal Ensemble



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WHERE: ST MARY'S CHURCH
WHEN: SATURDAY 17TH APRIL
AT 7.30PM
TICKETS: ADULTS \$30
YOUTHS \$10

IN ASSOCIATION WITH:



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V8 Vocal Ensemble

The V8 Vocal Ensemble was formed eleven years ago and performs a wide variety of music from Renaissance madrigals to pop hits. The repertoire has included music from such diverse composers as Mendelssohn, Bardos, Lennon & McCartney, Gershwin, Carole King, Lotti, Rutter, U2, as well as music from the spiritual, jazz and folk song realms. Recently there has been a focus on music written especially for smaller vocal groups, such as that sung by the King's Singers and the Swingle Singers.

In terms of local music, the group has premiered three compositions written especially for it: *'Sing With Me, Friends'* by Jillian Bray, *'Christmas Come In'* by David Hamilton, and *'Miserere Mei'* by Grace Park. The group has also performed works by several other NZ composers, including Tecwyn Evans, Philip Norman, Douglas Mews and Jenny McLeod.

The singers in V8 are all current or former members of the TOWER New Zealand Youth Choir and/or TOWER Voices New Zealand. All have represented New Zealand overseas at festivals and competitions with these choirs. The group has sung at weddings and corporate functions, as well as hosting themed concerts on a regular basis, including the popular *'A Cappella in Takapuna'*, *'But Wait - There's More!'*, *'Afternoon Delight'*, *'Sunday Drive with V8'* and *'A Lot of Hot Air'*. The group has also participated in a workshop with Bob Chilcott, former member of the King's Singers and renowned English choral composer.

In 2002 V8 received a Distinction Award at the inaugural NZCF Classic Sing Festival, gaining a mark of 95%, and was then invited to Rotorua the following year for the Finalé of this event. At the Classic Sing Grand Prix Contest in 2003, V8 won the only Gold Medal for the Vocal Ensemble / Chamber Choir section. The adjudicators described the group as "experienced singers [who] delivered an excellent example of sensitive ensemble singing, wonderful diction and superb musicianship."

In 2003 the group performed with the Oriana Singers at a sold-out Easter concert in Tauranga, and also a fundraising concert at Iona Presbyterian Church in Blockhouse Bay. In 2004 V8 returned to Tauranga to give another sold-out, critically-acclaimed performance as part of the Tauranga Musica concert series.

Events in 2005 included concerts in Wellington in April, a TV recording for Praise Be in May (with several ensuing broadcasts), as well as a guest appearance at the 2005 Taranaki Arts Festival in August. In 2006 the group appeared at the Institute of Registered Music Teachers national conference, and completed a successful tour of Tauranga, Hamilton and Auckland with the *'Spring Into Summer'* themed concert.

In early 2007 the group was the opera chorus for the 10th annual Opera in the Pa in Rotorua, 2008 marked the 10th anniversary of the V8 Vocal Ensemble. Several special events highlighted this occasion, including a student composition contest. V8 also recorded for Praise Be again, and returned to Tauranga as part of the Tauranga Musica concert series. In the second half of the year there were concerts in Orewa and Howick, and the 10th anniversary celebration concert took place in the Concert Chamber at the Auckland Town Hall in December, to the largest Auckland audience the group has sung to so far.

2009 saw another CD recording (this time a Christmas album), a mid-winter concert at Ascension Vineyard in Matakana, and a performance as feature guest choir at the Sing Aotearoa Festival in Rotorua. A concert in Howick in November was followed by a Christmas concert at the Auckland Concert Chamber entitled *'Baubles & Jingles'*.

Current V8 Members

SOPRANO

Virginia Le Cren

Virginia grew up in Havelock North singing duets with her sister. It is hardly surprising that, coming from a family of teachers, she ended up doing the same thing. Virginia has sung with dozens of groups and is a founding member of Voices New Zealand. She spends most of her free time renovating the house, while also looking after her two gorgeous wee boys, Henri and Hugo.

Celia Aspey-Gordon

Celia was born in the Deep South and moved to Wellington in her teens. She then rejoined the northern drift and left the capital for Auckland's sunny climes. She was a founding member of Voices New Zealand but now spends her holidays instead with her two wonderful boys, Lachlan and Benjamin, and her gorgeous girl, Olivia. Having a hyphenated name since her marriage to Tony has greatly increased her artistic potential. Celia studied business rather than music at University and is now a Marine Underwriting & Risk Executive in the insurance field.

ALTO

Carolyn Medland

Secondary school English and Music teacher, vocal coach, school and community choir director and mother of three boys, Cal has been singing in choirs since she was considerably smaller than she is now. A past member of the NZ Youth Choir, Auckland University Singers, Viva Voce, Voices NZ, as well as being a Queen City Big Band vocalist (going a long way back into the history books there!), she is one of the four remaining original members of V8.

Judy Dale

Judy has a degree in Theatre & Film and Japanese from her beloved home town of Wellington, and is a feature film production coordinator in Auckland on big-budget films such as Narnia's 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and 'Prince Caspian'. She is a past member of the 'Choir of the World' winning Tower NZ Youth Choir, and she and her husband Corey are the delighted parents of V8's latest little addition, Sylvie Valerie.

TENOR

Albert Mataafa

Married to Belinda, proud father of two, Albie is V8's Sanitarium-sponsored nutrition advisor. He sings with Voices New Zealand and is a freelance soloist. Albie is the music consultant and member of the Day 7 male choir at his local church, and is our resident Andrea Bocelli/Pavarotti impersonator.

Andrew Milner-White

Andy is our resident corporate high-flier, currently taming the telecommunications sector in his role at Telecom Wholesale. He is also the proud father of Charlotte (age 2) with partner Sarah. In between other singing gigs with Voices New Zealand and the University of Auckland Chamber Choir, Andrew loves spending time outdoors with his young family. Apart from a three year stint overseas, Andrew has been singing with V8 since 1999.

BASS

Rowan Johnston

Rowan originally hails from New Plymouth, and is HOD Music at Westlake Girls High School. He is a multi-talented flautist, pianist, guitarist and percussionist in his Taranaki-based Celtic band 'Shaskeen Reel'. He sings with Voices New Zealand and looks dashing in his attractive red cassock when singing with the Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir.

Stephen Rowe

Stephen's choral singing started as a six year old treble in the Christchurch Cathedral choir and has continued downwards to the murky depths of the B2's with the National Youth choir and Voices New Zealand. However, not one to be pigeon-holed, Stephen has sung and played in barbershop Quartets, Jazz ensembles, Musicals, Bush bands, Baroque, Church, Jazz and Community choirs. He is also a founding member of V8 and sang with the group for a number of years before heading overseas. Stephen is now a music facilitator for Auckland and Northland secondary music teachers. He is married to a talented music teacher and is a proud father of three.