



IT JUST WOULDN'T BE CHRISTMAS WITHOUT...

...Handel's Messiah!

The Sinfonia accompanies the Palmerston North Choral Society in its performance of **Handel's Messiah 7:30pm Saturday 5 December** at the Regent on Broadway under the baton of Alison Stewart.



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After hearing one chorus of the Messiah, a well-fed member of the audience was heard to say he preferred beef...

A double bass player arrived a few minutes late for the first rehearsal of the local choral society's annual performance of Handel's Messiah.

He picked up his instrument and bow and turned his attention to the conductor. The conductor asked, "would you like a moment to tune?" The bass player replied with some surprise, "Why? Isn't it the same as last year?"

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A cellist was dreaming he was playing Handel's Messiah. He woke up and found that he was!

[see below— Ed]



Palmerston North Choral Society
1919 - 2009
Celebrating 90 years by presenting the greatest Oratorio of all time

Handel's
Messiah

Alison Stewart
musical director

Manawatu Sinfonia
orchestra

Huntley School Chapel Choir
special guest choristers

Pepe Becker
soprano

Ellen Barrett
alto

John Beaglehole
tenor

Roger Wilson
bass

Roy Tankersley
harpsichord

7.30 pm Saturday 5 December 2009, Regent on Broadway, Palmerston North
Tickets from Ticketdirect outlets including Regent, or phone 3579740 or 0800-484253, or www.ticketdirect.co.nz
Adult \$22/\$27. Concession \$17/\$22. Student with ID & Child \$12. A service fee will apply.

80 down, 80 to go...

Hi. My name is Helen and I am one of the viola players in Manawatu Sinfonia. This year I was recognized by Manawatu Youth Orchestra for my participation in 80 concerts during my time in the Youth Orchestra and Sinfonia.

What a time it's been! Mrs Schwabe

suggested to me when I was in the third form [Year 9] that I should have a go at the viola because orchestras were always looking for violists. Of course I said yes (why not?), I liked playing in an orchestra (having been a clarinetist at Intermediate Normal) so the prospect of playing the viola seemed a good one to me. I just had one **question for Mrs Schwabe; what's a viola?**

I remember in one early Youth Orchestra rehearsal, as I was watching a particularly long line of semiquavers pass me by, knowing full well I should be playing at least the odd one or two, the leader of the viola section at the time turned around, smiled and said **"That part is quite hard, isn't it?" That part!!** Just that part?! The whole page looked a bit scary to me at the time! I appreciated his **kindness though. He seemed very 'grown up' and it was clear to me that he knew what he was doing.** His name was Matthew Ross [now concertmaster, Vector Wellington Orchestra].

There are a number of people I have enjoyed meeting and working with in the orchestra; amateur and professional, players and conductors. For me, the opportunity to work with such a variety of people is what makes playing in Sinfonia interesting and valuable. How else would I get the chance to play under the baton of Peter van Drimmelin or turn up to play with NZSO **players? That's the 'fun stuff'. What** impresses me, though, is the people who are consistently there and work to contribute to the development of the whole orchestra. So

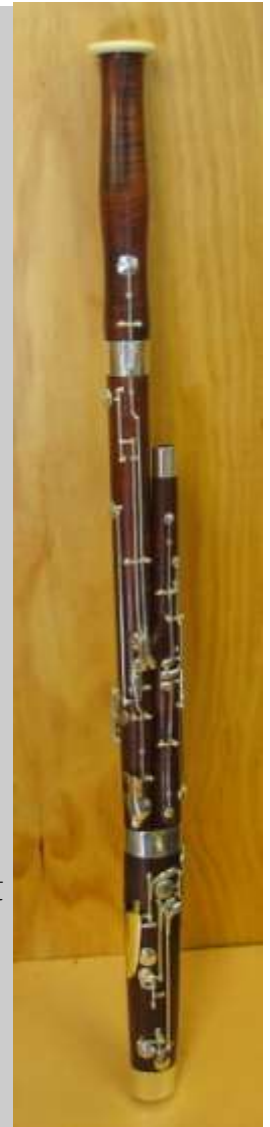
thanks from me to Mrs Schwabe, who told me what a viola was and got me in to the orchestra, to Mr Schwabe who conducted the orchestra for those years that I was sitting in the viola section, and to Marise McNeill who has encouraged and supported me in my playing.

Here's to the next 80 concerts...!

Helen Thomson

What is it? The Editor shows bias and introduces the bassoon in this edition. The bassoon is a charming though idiosyncratic woodwind instrument, often but unfairly caricatured as the clown of the orchestra or remembered as **Grandfather in 'Peter and the Wolf'. Rather, it is a versatile** instrument, playing both bass and tenor parts, in music from the baroque to the present, in symphonic and chamber music. Instruments are not cheap, so the Youth Orchestra has five instruments that it hires out to students to encourage students.

Despite looking like an oil refinery bolted onto a log, the fingering is not so very different from recorders, flutes and oboes. But unlike those instruments, bassoons have keys for both thumbs to play the very low notes and to make higher and some chromatic notes easier to play. Perhaps. Like the oboe, the bassoon uses a double reed made out of a plant similar to toi-toi to create the sound. While professionals spend \$45,000 for their instruments, they are still at the mercy of a \$4 piece of cane for their concert performances. While simple to make, players generally agree that it takes a laundry basket of attempts before becoming proficient at making consistently good reeds. Now you know!



Trinity Guildhall: September &
October/November Sessions:

Grade 8

William McNeill - violin (with Distinction)

Angela Yang - viola

Alexandra McNeill - oboe

Grade 7

Erika Olson - violin (with Distinction)

Maize Cao - violin (with Distinction)

Kelly Su - violin (with Merit)

Gianni Camilleri - violin (with Merit)

Emily Dekker - flute (with Merit)

Emma Lee - flute

Grade 6

Luke Cheng - violin (with Distinction)

Harry Lilley - bassoon (with Merit)

Daniel Sullivan - bassoon (with Merit)

Nadia Duxfield - flute (with Merit)

Stephanie Huang - violin (with Merit)

YiGe Cao - violin

Intermediate Certificate

Andreas Vieregg - clarinet (with Distinction)

Grade 5

Jessica Wong - violin

Grade 4

Peter Kim - violin (with Merit)

Owen Pritchard - trumpet (with Merit)

Steven Bellringer - trumpet

William Lawn Stewart - trumpet

Grade 3

Peggy Huang - viola (with Merit)

Cameron Smith - viola

We congratulate these Youth Orchestra
members for their achievements.



Manawatu Youth Orchestra

Angela Yang (viola) was awarded the Len Schwabe Memorial Award. She was selected as a competent and promising young musician who has shown dedication and commitment to the Youth Orchestra.

SINFONIA AND MANAWATU YOUTH ORCHESTRA CONCERTS 2009

5 December - **Handel's Messiah**

MANAWATU YOUTH ORCHESTRA

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DVDs of the Last Night of the Proms are available at \$10.00 each. Contact the Secretary to obtain copies.



IN 2011—WE TURN 50! - KEEP WATCHING!

Remember to check the website for latest news, concert dates and rehearsal schedules.

www.manawatuorchestra.org.nz

The Sinfonia welcomes new players!
Contact the Secretary for information

MYO and Sinfonia acknowledge financial assistance this year from:

PNCC \$6,500 for Proms concert
Pub Charity \$1,500 for Proms concert
Page Trust \$700 for instrument repairs
M & B Francis Trust \$1,000 for instrument repairs
Milverton Trust \$500 for Website
Eastern and Central Community Trust \$3,000 for Jubilee Book
PNCC/CCNZ \$3,000 for Square Edge rehearsal room rental
NZPOST 300 pre-paid envelopes



Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Editor

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The MYO administers the E & E Laing Trust. It provides grants up to a maximum of \$100 per annum to players from the Manawatu Sinfonia or Manawatu Youth Orchestra to attend music courses outside Palmerston

North or to assist with advanced tuition which is unavailable locally.

See:

www.manawatuorchestra.org.nz/members.htm
or contact the Secretary.