

Music Centre of Christchurch

Annual Report 2009



Chairman's Report

It is my pleasure as Chairman to report the status of the Music Centre of Christchurch for the year ending December 31, 2009. The Executive Committee met regularly over the past year to establish our plans for the future and the day-to-day management of the Music Centre. Additionally, members of this group participated in several sub-committee sessions to streamline the main areas of operation, which are in the areas of finance, property and music. Some notable accomplishments since last year's report are:

- A successful and significant application to the Lotteries Commission for funding to heat the Concert Hall.
- Council funding from the LTCCCP (Long-Term Council Community Plan) over a 7-year period to maintain and upgrade the facility.
- The re-naming of the Chapel to the "Maurice Till Concert Hall".
- The successful outcomes to the majority of our funding applications despite the current state of the economy.
- The repainting and upgrading of the Don Whelan Room to enable it to be suitable for more of a variety of users.
- We facilitated a successful room change for our long term tenant The Christchurch Civic Music Council to a larger and quieter space
- The purchase and installation of new benches, tables, chairs and couches both indoors and outdoors.
- New curtains and lighting in the Maurice Till Concert Hall that have added a visual and aural benefit to our premier performance area.
- We promoted more concerts and attracted more visitors to the centre.

We farewelled Concert Administrator Jenny Jamieson who accepted a full-time position with the City Choir and welcomed in her place Trish Rainey. Trish has taken over the role and is also assisting in the day-to-day management of the centre on a part-time basis. We also said goodbye to Joan Parr, our minute secretary for as many years as anyone could remember, and acknowledge her long and faithful service to the Music Centre. Board member Michael Bell had a big year. He outgrew his rental space and moved into larger premises in central Christchurch therefore resigning his position as tenant's representative.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve this past year as Chairman, and in closing this report I would like to especially note the work of the current officers: John Dryden, Marlene Le Cren, Brian McCrorie, Alan Jolliffe, Steve Jones and Maurice Till. Each has many times this past year taken on tasks that were over and above their normal duties. We owe them a round of applause and a debt of gratitude for their efforts.

In closing I would like to thank the tireless Bronwyn Bijl and Trish Rainey for their loyalty, passion and dedication to the Music Centre. I also recognize the work of the many volunteers who help us with our endeavours yet ask for nothing in return. We look forward to a great 2010 and continuing to provide Christchurch with a wonderful musical performance and learning venue.

Murray Wood
Chairman

Manager's Report

The Year in Review

I look back on 2009 with a sense of achievement, made possible by the excellent leadership from the Board of Trustees led by Murray Wood. Many of the achievements are the culmination of the fifteen years the Music Centre has been open. We now have the finest piano in a public venue in Christchurch of which we are very proud. With the leadership and guidance from Maurice Till we are supporting young emerging artists and exploring the introduction of a Recital Series for professional artists. John Dryden has led the building committee wisely resulting in the Christchurch City Council working with us to upgrade the stonework over the next seven years. We are looking for partnership funding from other organisations/benefactors to enable us to realise our long-term goals for this very special historic building. Our aim to have the facility affordable for both tenants and casual users is a high priority for the Board. This will be foremost in the Board's mind in 2010 after the significant cut from the Strengthening Communities Fund from the Christchurch City Council.

Some highlights of the achievements of the Music Centre in 2009 were:

- Purchase of the Steinway piano in the Concert Hall was completed
- The Chapel was renamed as the Maurice Till Concert Hall
- Lunchtime concert audiences increased in number
- Five talented young artists were sponsored through a mid winter concert series
- 50 people had recitals (one recital per week in addition to Music Centre concerts)
- 65 emerging artists performed in the lunchtime concerts
- 25 different instruments were offered for tuition
- 120 days of international examinations were held on site
- 10 light classical concerts for over 60's were held
- 11 delightful and educational concerts for under fives were held
- 17 days of international competitions were held
- 1500 music lessons were taught each week
- NZ Playhouse, IRMT and CSM were sponsored by the Music Centre
- Julie Wylie began teaching pre school music 2 days a week
- The lighting and acoustic curtains in the Concert Hall were vastly improved
- Sensor lighting was installed for safety both internally and externally
- Permanent rooms had 100% occupancy
- Funding received from Christchurch City Council for restoration of the convent stonework
- Funding received from Lotteries Commission for upgrading the heating in the Concert Hall
- The casual room occupancy increased by 10%
- The Don Whelan room woodwork was restored
- ^a The courtyard and grounds were landscaped and planted by volunteers
- ^a A new larger studio was created from two existing small studios

Finally I wish to thank Trish Rainey for her vibrant support in the office. I look forward to working with the Board and Trish in 2010 and beyond.

Bronwyn Bijl
Music Centre Manager

Concert Co-ordinator's Report

In May 2009 I was appointed as Concert Co-ordinator at the Music Centre of Christchurch. I took over the operation of the concert series including Café Concerto, Under 5's and the Merle Carter lunch hour concerts. These concerts all ran smoothly and were well received by appreciative audiences numbering in excess of 2000.

In addition to this I assist Bronwyn Bijl (Centre Manager) in the daily operation of the Centre Office at an administrative level.

In 2009 the Music Centre also presented a wonderful series of four concerts entitled 'Talented Young Christchurch Musicians'. These concerts were generally held on Sunday afternoons during the winter months and were designed to present a colourful variety of music performed by young emergent Christchurch musicians returning home on their European summer vacations. They were well received and we intend to repeat a similar series in 2010 to encourage young players.

One of the absolute highlights of our concert year were the two solo piano performances by Maurice Till. These concerts were understandably received with accolades of appreciation from full houses on each occasion.

All our concerts fulfil the Music Centre Mission Statement and help raise our profile in Christchurch, thus securing the Music Centre status as a marvellous arena for music making in Christchurch.

Many thanks to the Board for all their support and interest in the concerts and activities and their care of the buildings and facilities.

2009 has been a year of growth and development for the Music Centre and the community here are looking forward to an exciting year of music making in 2010.

Trish Rainey
Concert Co-ordinator

