

The Balladeer

Monthly newsletter of Acoustic Routes, Wellington's folk music club

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz



19-22 October, Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre, 562 Moores Valley,
Wainuiomata, Tickets on-line until October 12
<http://wellingtonfolkfest.simpletix.com/Event-List/>
or at the gate from 3pm Friday

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This newsletter can be printed out from a pdf located on the website <http://acousticroutes.org.nz/news/the-balladeer/>

1. AR house concert - Richard Grainger at the Kilpatricks' home, 9 Donlin Road, Pukerua Bay, Tuesday 2 October, 8 pm

We don't usually run a concert in October, because Wellyfest is on later in the month, but here's a special one at the beginning of October.



Richard Grainger is a prolific and widely respected songwriter and musician who has been performing on the British Folk Scene since the 1980s. He has fourteen albums and several musical plays to his name and many of his songs have become well known on the British folk circuit. As a contemporary songwriter, Richard still has a strong feel for traditional song, his songs reflecting the lives and times of the people from North-East England.

Richard has written and produced several musical plays. The arrival of the Australian built 'Endeavour' replica in Whitby 1997 was the inspiration for his folk-opera 'Eye of the Wind' telling the tale of the renowned explorer Captain James Cook. When the Endeavour returned from Australia in 2003, 'Eye of the Wind' was recorded by the BBC with narration by Sir David Attenborough and broadcast the day the vessel sailed up the River Tees to Middlesbrough, close to Cook's birthplace.

Entry \$10

Contact: Murray and Julie Kilpatrick, phone (04) 239 9951.

2. Wellington Folk Festival 2018

Don't miss this – 2018 has a wonderful line up. This year we are fortunate to have four overseas acts and a good number of local guests as well.



Máire Ní Chathasaigh and Chris Newman last toured New Zealand a couple of years ago, to sell out audiences all over the country.

Máire is one of Ireland's most important and influential traditional musicians. Recently, RTE – the Irish national radio and television broadcaster – announced that it would be celebrating 20 years of RTE Lyric FM by commissioning a concerto for harp and the RTE National Symphony Orchestra. The work will be selected through an open competition and Máire is to play the harp for the concerto.

Chris began to play guitar at the age of four and at fourteen played his first paid gig in a folk club. A prolific composer, arranger and record producer, he's played with luminaries of many musical worlds. Together their performances are a

breath-taking blend of traditional Irish music, hot jazz, bluegrass and baroque, coupled with striking new compositions and Chris's "delightfully subversive" wit.

The String Contingent has also toured New Zealand regularly and appeared at the Festival in 2011. Their sound walks the line between folk, jazz and classical and all of their material is original. Stalwarts of the Australian acoustic music scene, TSC are equally comfortable rocking a festival stage or playing for an intimate crowd. In performance, their camaraderie and cheeky banter shines through, as does their passionate musicianship and instrumental skills; a joyful combination of precision, refinement and beauty, balanced with visceral energy and drive.



Terence Blacker is a songwriter, singer and author who has sung and read at festivals, clubs and theatres in the UK, Europe and America. His songs have been compared to the work of Jake Thackray, Tom Lehrer, Noel Coward and



Jacques Brel, but his style is very much contemporary and his own.

Terence was already an established author when he started writing and performing his songs in 2009. His musical storytelling - offbeat, funny songs capturing the lives of modern-day misfits and outsiders - quickly found a following at folk clubs and festivals. One of his early songs - [Sad Old Bastards With Guitars](#) - will resonate with many folkies, especially those who've played in bands.

Hold onto your hats as **Ungus Ungus Ungus**, Australia's premier peddlers of vaudevillian psychedelia, strap you in for a rollercoaster ride of dance and mayhem. This is carnivalesque party music for the creatively inclined, traversing territory from global dance beats to swing, jazz and hip-hop. Featuring mind-tickling on-stage antics and a bold visual presence, their cosmic circus is on a mission to make you boogie, gawp and expand your perceptual horizons.



Local artists performing at the Festival

Donna Dean – the documentary about her life – "The Sound of Her Guitar" - showed at the Festival several years ago. Now we have the opportunity to hear her honest lyrics and soulful songs in person.

OriginZ – a 16-piece band from Auckland, fusing New Zealand and Celtic sounds, that wowed Auckland Festival earlier this year.

Muggeridge and Murphy – Wellington’s bluesman Dave Murphy with Taranaki icon Janet Muggeridge.

RhodeWorks – young, super-talented bluegrass band.

Downunderdogs – music from the US of A, via three expats now resident in Wellington.

Vic Folk – the explosion of interest in traditional music at our University.

The Wooden Box Band – well-known local identities playing “urban folk music”.

Other features

In addition to guest concerts and workshops, this year the Festival features:

1. three masterclasses on Monday morning – Maire on harp; Chris Newman on guitar tricks to help all players (fingerpickers welcome); Holly Downes on double bass. Classes are limited to ensure personal tuition.
2. an extended youth programme – four workshops from RhodeWorks; two “Music is Fun” workshops from Max Scollar-Root of Ungus Ungus Ungus; the regular “By and For Our Youth” concert and a Schools Concert featuring young players from Aotea College.
3. the New Zealand premier of “The Groove is NOT Trivial” a film about Scottish fiddle player Alasdair Fraser
4. a second evening dance – after the Sunday night concert.

All as well as the regular events – dance workshops, Saturday night’s “big sing”, the main ceilidh dance, jam sessions and singarounds, the New Zealand Tradition Bearers’ session and Village Green – the craft stalls. Full information is available on the website – www.wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz.

3. President Murray’s Musings



Hi Everybody.

Spring is supposed to be here, although sometimes it is taking a lot of faith to believe that. As usual, there have been a lot of things going on in our music scene.

Thursday the 20th of September Acoustic Routes held its monthly concert a week earlier than usual at the Roseneath Hall. What a wonderful and fascinating evening, totally dedicated to the Life and Times of Robert Louis Stevenson and I learned a great deal.

My thanks to our Treasurer, Sue Ikin, for initiating and organising this lovely concert. It was also great to see a reasonably large turnout.

Kevin tells me that the Open Mic at the Office is going really well. Thanks so much Kevin for your unflinching devotion to keep this event flourishing. Roy’s Open Mic at Plimmerton once again saw a capacity crowd and lots of wonderful performances. Thanks very much Roy.

I have attended concerts at the Mainly Acoustic club in Upper Hutt and the Levin Folk club since our last Balladeer and enjoyed wonderful nights at both clubs. In particular, some of the floor singers at the Levin club are quite spectacular. Both are really good clubs, worth visiting and part of our Wellington Region Folky

community. On that note, I'm planning events where these clubs, along with the Office Open Mic regulars, will present our monthly concert for us, just like the Victoria University Club and Roy's open Mic have already done. As I have said previously, I want to form links between all of the clubs and other activities. We are, after all, one big community.

The Wellington Folk Festival will be upon us very soon. A very small and very hard-working committee, headed by a very able and brave Sue Harkness, are putting in a huge amount of effort to ensure that it is successful and enjoyable. I do know that they would love a hand between now and the festival doing a variety of things. If you feel like giving them a hand, please email Sue info@wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz You can be sure that your help will be very welcome.

Acoustic Routes, along with all the other Wellington-based clubs, will be presenting a concert on the Saturday night of the festival in the Maire Hall. The cut-off date for entry to the Joan Prior Award has been extended to 8 October, so there may still be an opportunity to encourage young performers to sign up and perform at Wellyfest. This Award was instituted by Acoustic Routes some years back and is integrated is now part of the Wellyfest programme.

Wellyfest guest performers, Maire Ni Chathasigh and Chris Newman will be presenting a special concert for us on Tuesday the 6th of November. That will be followed by our usual monthly concert on Thursday the 22nd of November.

I made a mistake regarding the date of our Club's Christmas Party. I posted Sunday the 10th of December, which doesn't exist in 2018. It will in fact be Sunday the 9th of December, hopefully at the Roses' Estate in Pauatahanui. You are welcome as are any of your likeminded folky friends to share this event.

I would love ideas from you about workshops that you would like to attend or offer to us. Also any ideas you have for novel events, particularly of a participatory nature.

I'm still on the lookout for alternative venues, preferably cheap and readily available, to hold some of our events in. If you have any ideas please contact me. musicianmurray@gmail.com I would love to hear from you.

To all those who are now fully paid up members, thank you very much. You are helping us keep the club going and to do something for you. Lastly, I would once again like to thank our very small, but very hardworking committee and all those outside our committee who ensure that Acoustic Routes functions successfully. I would love to have some more people on our committee. If you feel you would like to be involved, I'd love to hear from you.

Cheers Murray Kilpatrick.

4. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Road, Plimmerton, Thursday 11 October, 7 pm

A highly popular monthly event in a lovely venue. Low cost drinks and food, and a sound system. Contact: Roy on (021) 433-878.



5. Newtown Open Mic Upstairs at 'The Office', 530-8 pm



Sunday October 14 (hosted by Acoustic Routes with Newtown Acoustic Sound).

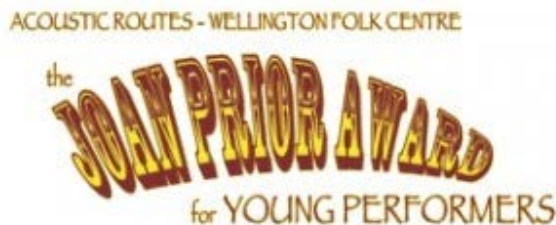
Contact: kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz

Sunday October 28 (hosted by Newtown Acoustic Sound)

Contact: newtownacousticsound@gmail.com

A warm, friendly place to perform. Singers, songwriters, musicians, poets all welcome. You can do two songs, or three if you open the evening or there's time at the end for more.

6. 2018 Joan Prior Young Performers Award - Deadline Extended



Calling all young musicians!

We've got a great opportunity for you – a chance to win the Joan Prior award for 2018.

We're really keen to hear from you so we've extended the deadline to 8 October 2018 – you've got an extra week to get your application in!

The Joan Prior Award is open to young singers and instrumentalists aged from 15 to 25 on October 8, 2018, resident in the Wellington region (the area covered by Wellington Regional Council and Kapiti and Horowhenua Districts), who perform traditional as well as contemporary and original material.

The award is a fully integrated part of the Wellington Folk Festival. Entrants will perform before a panel of 3 judges at a concert at the Festival on Saturday 20 October. The winner will receive a \$500 cheque.

To find out all the details and to enter, go to the Acoustic Routes website: www.acousticroutes.org.nz

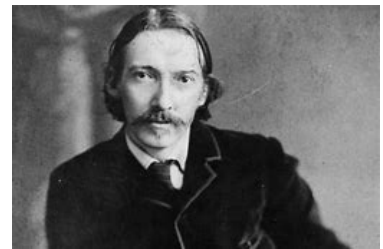
(Note: To take part in the concert, you'll need to attend the festival. See the [festival website](#) for options. Normal festival entry costs will apply. Either a full weekend or relevant day pass will need to be purchased by entrants and anyone else attending).

ANY QUESTIONS? Email: kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz

7. Review, Sing Me a Song - Robert Louis Stevenson at AR, 20 September

I went to this performance not quite knowing what to expect. For a start, I realized I didn't know a lot about Robert Louis Stevenson, apart from the fact that he had written "Treasure Island" and a few other novels, including "Kidnapped" and "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde". Now I know a whole lot more, thanks to the delightful show put together and presented by Judy Turner and Neil Adam.

They've drawn on letters and mainly autobiographical poetry to tease out the sadly brief life of this extraordinary writer and adventurer who was second only to Dickens in popularity. "Treasure Island" has never been out of print.



RLS, born into a Scottish family of engineers and lighthouse designers, had a loving childhood but was plagued by poor health and decided early on that the engineering life was not for him. He'd caught the writing bug as a young lad and his imagination carried him on from there.

Judy and Neil tell his story in a fascinating narrative drawn partly from



Stevenson's letters, with songs based on poems and illustrated with a slide show which features many of the writer's own photographs. The songs are beautifully crafted and performed with Neil's vocals and DADGAD guitar and Judy's sparkling fiddle.

The first songs we heard, "Come My Little Children" and "Escape at Bedtime" are both taken from "A Child's Garden of Verses", which would have been a favourite in many households.

RLS's adventurous spirit took him to France and Europe as a young man. There he met the love of his life, Fanny, who was to become his wife and heart-mate. He followed her to the US, and in the 1880s, they returned to Scotland where he found literary success and recognition. We followed the narrative and the music as RLS and family returned to the US, then spent three years sailing the Pacific on a schooner, The Casco, before settling in Samoa, where he died of a cerebral haemorrhage at the age of 44.

Stevenson's life in Samoa was a peaceful one and Neil and Judy's songs based on his poems from this period have a reflective feel to them - "Since Years Ago", "I Will Bring You Brooches" and "Bury Me Low".

But they finish on a lighter note, with their musical setting of what they described as Robert Louis Stevenson's most famous poem "The Land of Counterpane".

What an absorbing and rewarding evening we had!

Kevin Ikin

8. Balladeer music noticeboard

Where you can advertise your music-related items—lessons, instruments, gigs, band members wanted, etc.

a) Trad Singing Session, Upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, Thorndon, Monday 8 October, 6:30 pm

With Dave Barnes hosting, this session celebrates unaccompanied singing in traditional style. Fine beer and food to be had at the bar. Contact: Dave Barnes david.barnes@xtra.co.nz

b) Plimmerton Up Close and Personal presents Return of the Divas (Gilly Darbey and Vikki Clayton), 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Saturday 12 October, 7:30 pm



No need really to introduce these two gorgeous and talented women. You'll be in for an evening of fun and some exceptional musical talent. Tickets are \$10.00 per seat.

Please bring a small plate to share for supper and your own choice of drinks. Tea & coffee are provided. Feel free to arrive from 6:30pm to mix and mingle with the stars of the evening.

To book your place contacting Anne McGregor on 0274599376.

c) Klezmer Rebs unplugged in concert, Mana Little Theatre, Labour Day Monday 22 October, 2 - 4pm

Mana Little Theatre, 9 Sunset Parade, Plimmerton (behind the Plimmerton Pavillion). Plenty of parking, or just 4 minutes walk from Plimmerton Railway Station. Book on line at

<https://www.trybooking.com/nz/book/event?eid=178> Seats are \$22.50 waged, \$17.50 unwaged.



d) First NZ Irish Fest, 15-18 November



Go to www.nzirishfest.co.nz for more details and ticket information.

e) Ethno New Zealand 2019

Are you between the ages of 17 and 30? Does a summer traditional/world music experience on the west coast of Auckland sound like you? Ethno NZ 2019 is being held at the Hoani Waititi Marae near Oratia from 18-28 January and the camp ends with a concert at the Auckland Folk Festival.

Ethno NZ is a unique week of young musicians teaching other their traditional music, sharing their cultural experiences and taking part in workshops. For further information visit the website

<https://ethnonewzealand.wixsite.com/ethnonz/ethno-new-zealand-2018> or email ethnonewzealnd@gmail.com

f) Fig Tree Cottage Greytown, Weekender Specials for AR Members

Janette and Niels Gedge are offering special deals to paid-up Acoustic Routes members at the cottage on their lovely property, 75 North Street, Greytown. Thursday 1 November to Friday 30 November: \$80/night for one couple, and \$105/night for 2 couples.

Check it out at <https://web.facebook.com/FigTree-Cottage-Greytown-386476615201227/Fig-Tree-Cottage> For reservations, contact Janette or Niels janettekgw@gmail.com (021) 0236 1951, or (022) 188 9216

g) Want to review for the Balladeer?

We have a handful of willing writers who regularly get shoulder tapped to review AR concerts and we are very grateful to them. The AR committee offers a free concert ticket to anyone who reviews a concert for the Balladeer. It is great to hear a range of voices and opinions, so if you are interested please contact Philippa balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

9. Want to perform?



AR Committee would like to hear from you if you are interested in performing at our events, including support acts for our monthly concerts. Contact us performers@acousticroutes.org.nz

10. About Acoustic Routes

Acoustic Routes (Wellington Folk Centre Incorporated) is a club for people who enjoy playing and listening to folk and acoustic styles of music.

The fourth Thursday of the month generally features a concert, usually with a visiting artist and support acts from amongst our membership. Check the website or the Balladeer for updates about the venue.

Membership of Acoustic Routes costs \$25 a year for individuals, \$40 for couples or families, or \$15 for students and beneficiaries – and as we're now into the second half of the financial year, all membership rates are half price to join from now until June 2017. Membership entitles you to door-charge discounts at Acoustic Routes events, at events put on by most other folk clubs, and at Alistair's Music.

Members get priority access to performance opportunities and can have input into the club's activities. To join, email treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz.

Acoustic Routes publishes this newsletter (The Balladeer) at the start of every month, and also an acoustic gig guide for the Wellington region (Acoustic Routes update). You can [subscribe online](#), or contact publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz

11. Acoustic Routes contacts

President: Murray Kilpatrick musicianmurray@gmail.com

Correspondence: Kevin Ikin secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Treasurer/Membership: Sue Ikin

treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz **Balladeer:** Philippa Boy

balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Acoustic Routes update email: Murray Kilpatrick musicianmurray@gmail.com

Performance opportunities: performers@acousticroutes.org.nz

Postal address: PO Box 27-191 Marion Square, Wellington, New Zealand.

Website: www.acousticroutes.org.nz

12. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region

Ceol Alba Scottish Music Club

When: 4th Friday of month, 7.30 - 9.30pm. A club for playing and/or listening to (mostly) traditional Scottish music. Sheet music supplied or downloadable.

Where: Lower Hutt.

Cost: \$5 per night

Contact: Lynne Scott, 04 565 0164 lynne@scott.gen.nz

International Folkdancing

When: Every Wednesday from February to December, 7.30 to 9.15 pm **Where:** Tarrant Dance Studios, 125 Cuba St, Wellington

Contact: Cashy Yates (04) 569 1618 cashy@ihug.co.nz

Kapiti Live Music Club

When: 2nd Wednesday of the month, an acoustic social evening for listening and/or singing and playing, from 7:30.

Where: Paul and Kimbra's; 3 Jade Lane, Paraparaumu. Off the east end Mazengarb Road as it changes name and turns toward Kapiti Road.

Contact: enquiry@klmc.org.nz or <http://www.klmc.org.nz>

Kelburn Pub Live Music

When: Live music every Sunday 3-5pm.

Sunday Roots on the first Sunday of each Month, 4-7pm. Hosted by Pip Payne and featuring a different guest artist each month. Details: 'Sunday roots' on Facebook. Contact the Pub if you are interested in performing.

Levin Folk Music Club

When: 2nd Friday of month, 7.30 pm, blackboard concert plus guest artist. Entry: Members \$5, Non-Members \$10, Children \$3 (includes supper) Club Night: 4th Friday of month, 7.30 pm \$2 koha.

Where: Facebook: Levin Folk Music 2nd Friday of month, 7.30 pm, blackboard concert plus guest artist. Entry: Members \$5, Non-Members \$10, Children \$3 (includes supper) 4th Friday of month, 7.30 pm, acoustic night.

Where: Horowhenua Scottish Society Hall, cnr Bartholomew Rd and Middlesex St.

Bookings: Bookings: Dale Webb dalewebb143@gmail.com

Website: www.levin-folk-music-club.org.nz

Mainly Acoustic Music Club

When: (Mostly) every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm Where: Mayfair Cafe,
116 Main Street, Upper Hutt
Contact: Mary Khalil 021 02314505
mary.khalil@xtra.co.nz Club committee
email: info@mainlyacoustic.co.nz
Website: <http://mainlyacoustic.co.nz/coming-attractions/>

Morris dancing: Dave Barnes <http://www.morrisdancing.org.nz/>

Music and Poetry at the Metro

When: Second Sunday of the month, 3.00pm to 5pm
Where: Metropolitan Restaurant and Bar Lydney Place Porirua
Cost: free
Contact: Phil McConnell: musicandpoetryatthemetro@gmail.com
Phone (04) 237 9902 or 027 786 5542
www.facebook.com/music.metrobar

Paekakariki Open Mic

A pleasant user-friendly Open Mic night. Singers, songwriters, poets and musicians welcome. A good sound system and stage. Check in at the door if you'd like to perform, or if you don't need ten minutes of fame, just come and listen!

When: Last Friday of the Month, 730 pm. 30 November, not running in December. 2019 dates to be announced
Where: St Peter's Hall, Beach Rd, Paekakariki
Cost: Entry by Koha to cover hall and sound system costs.
Contact: tonyfuell@gmail.com or 021 0231 9547

Pukerua Bay Folk Club

When: 1st Thursday of month, 8 pm Where: 9 Donlin Rd, Pukerua Bay
Contact: Murray or Julie Kilpatrick, (04) 239 9951, julmur@paradise.net.nz

Wellington Bluegrass Society

When: 3rd Friday of month, 8.00 pm
Where: 54 Richmond Street, Petone
Contact: Andrew Bicknell, (04)477 0069,
bluegrass@paradise.net.nz <http://wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/>

Wellington Scottish Fiddle Club

When: Varies, but mostly monthly around the first Sunday
Where: Depends on who is hosting it this time! A club for learning tunes in the traditional "by ear" style, it welcomes fiddlers of all levels.
Cost: Mostly free
Contact: Iain Matcham 04 568 8635, email iain@jumbletree.com