

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz

*Acoustic Routes AGM, The Office Newtown, Sunday 14 August, 3 pm
You are welcome to stay on for the Newtown Acoustic Sound Open Mic, 5:15 - 8pm*

*Acoustic Routes Membership subs are now due for the year starting July 1
Subs can be paid at the July concert - see item 7 below for details and payment options*

Sorry Folks, no Riverslea this year

July 2022: In this issue

1. AR monthly concert featuring Charlotte Yates with Liz and Tim and the Godwits, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 28 July, 7:30 pm
2. Open Mic at The Office, Newtown, Sundays 10 & 31 July, 5:15 – 8pm
3. Open Mic at Plimmerton Boating Club, Thursday 14 July, 7 pm
4. Review, Whimzik concert with Steampunk Minstrels and Pick & Mixolydian, 23 June
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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 monthly concert featuring Charlotte Yates with Liz and Tim and the Godwits, Roseneath School Hall, 28 July, 7:30 pm



Photo credit:
Emma Robinson
EJR Productions Ltd

Charlotte Yates is a professional independent New Zealand singer-songwriter with a growing catalogue of 22 solo and collaborative releases.

She runs **Songwriting School**, an online songwriting tuition subscription and a songwriting coaching service, **Songdoctor**. Charlotte also works with international clients as author/mentor for US/UK music educational websites **Soundfly, Musician on a Mission and Bandzoogle**.

No stranger to the format of pairing famous words with music, Charlotte has devoted albums to James K Baxter, Hone Tuwhare, Witi Ihimaera and Katherine Mansfield.

Her latest solo release, *Chime*, is a track from Marc Chesterman's Woodhead Reimagined album and currently rotation @ bFM. She's looking forward to performing on 28 July solo and unplugged, which is exactly how she started.

Liz and Tim are somewhat reclusive treasures in the Wellington folk and acoustic music scene. They specialise in playing Maqam - the music system used since the time of the Babylonians – on violin and oud. But then they might play guitar, ukelele, clarinet or even banjo. And the music might be medieval, swing or early jazz, Tinpan Alley, Celtic tunes, New Zealand songs, rock, blues, or original tunes and songs. Whatever they choose, this will be a musical delight from two fabulous musicians.



The Godwits



Vic has been writing songs and playing in bands, most of his life and has performed at festivals throughout Australia and in the U.S. Lis was given a guitar by her son a few years back and started writing songs and playing with friends. Lis met Vic when she heard him performing his originals at Thorndon market, Wellington. Vic and Lis started

playing music together as The Godwits, with Gael joining them on bass. Other musicians join the flock from time to time. The Godwits play laid-back sad songs, mostly originals, while also having fun. They will soon be releasing their new EP.

Entry: \$20/\$15 for members. Cash only (no eftpos facilities).

Please note: The Acoustic Routes Committee has agreed on the following approach under Orange Covid Level.

- Some audience members may not be fully vaccinated and/or may choose not to wear a mask, since these are no longer mandatory requirements.
- The Committee encourages audience members to be fully vaccinated and wear a mask for their own protection.
- Workers and volunteers at gatherings must wear face masks unless they are exempt.

2. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, Sundays 10 & 31 July, 5:15-8pm.



Newtown Acoustic Sound's "Open Mic" is back, upstairs at THE OFFICE Bar in Riddiford Street, Newtown, on Sundays 12 and 26 June, 5.15-8pm. Hope to see familiar faces and hear wonderful music from you all.

Usual Covid common sense:

- Follow any restrictions as per The Office requirements
- Vaccine passes are no longer required, but we do ask you to be masked unless seated and let's try to keep 1m distance.
- Please don't come if you have ANY symptoms – go and get tested instead.

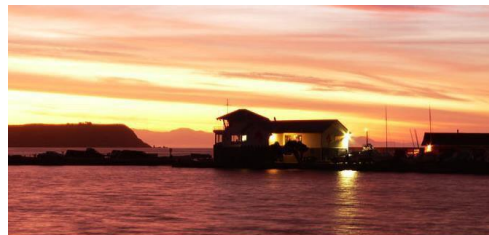
Contact: kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz, or newtownacousticsound@gmail.com

3. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road Plimmerton, Thursday 14 July, 7pm

Open Mic at Plimmerton Boating Club is up and running again on the second Thursday in the month.

Spread the word.

Same Ole MC.
Roy McGuinness 021433878



4. The 2022 Joan Prior Young Performers Award



A heads up for young singers and musicians aged 18 to 25 years on September 30 and from the Greater Wellington Region (the area covered by Wellington Regional Council and Kapiti and Horowhenua Districts). Acoustic Routes will be running its Joan Prior Award again this year, with added benefits.

The format is the same as last year, so up to seven applicants will be offered full weekend passes to Wellington Folk Festival at

Labour Weekend in October, where they will feature in a Young Performers concert. As well, discussions are underway for some extra performance opportunities that we will be offering after WellyFest.

The award is open to singers and instrumentalists, and to performers of traditional as well as contemporary and original material. Applicants can be a solo performer, or a duo or trio. Check next month's Balladeer and the Acoustic Routes website for more details.

5. Review, Whimzik concert with Steampunk Minstrels and Pick & Mixolydian, 23 June

If ever you wanted proof of the diversity of the local folk and acoustic music scene, Acoustic Routes' June concert in the lovely wee Roseneath school hall fits the bill. In the space of a couple of hours we were taken on a musical and theatrical world trip that included Scotland and Ireland, Scandinavia, the United States, South Africa, and of course New Zealand. Along the way we got to sample traditional and contemporary songs and tunes, some highly individual original compositions and a stage show.

Opening the concert were **Pick and Mixolydian**, Wellington duo Jo Shrigley and Bruce Omundsen. Jo sings and plays ukulele, with Bruce on whistles, Scottish small pipes and vocals. It's not your usual instrumental combination and it brought a freshness to those old Irish standards, "The Sally Gardens" and "Star of the Country Down" (that one enhanced with some additional Kiwi verses on the end). They also did a lovely version of "Six Ribbons" the theme from a TV series of the same name. And, because the concert was the day before our first ever Matariki public holiday, they introduced us to a special song to celebrate the seven stars, "He Waiata Matariki. As a treat for a young piper in the audience, Bruce finished with a couple of Scottish tunes on his Hamish Moore small pipes.

Steampunk Minstrels who rounded off the first half of the evening, play original music on a combination of 12 and 6-string guitars, mandolin and electric bass. Mairi-Anne and Marius were part of the folk scheme in South Africa before moving to New Zealand. They describe their music as a fusion of African and Celtic with a hint of rock and jazz. You can certainly hear all those influences but there are other elements as well, including the intricate and sometimes complex arrangements which give their songs and instrumentals a dynamic quality. For instance, their instrumental about a family journey that features Mairi-Ann's finger-picked mandolin. Or another instrumental inspired by a visit to Kaikoura where the bass voices the sounds of the whales and hidden in the melody is a subtle echo of the Wellerman song.

Topping off our magical journey **Whimzik** - Glenn Kastrinos and Kjelsty Hanson, from Hawkes Bay, out of America, who blended music and theatre in their unique and delightfully whimsical performance. Kjelsty has used her artistry as a sculptor to create masks of fantastical creatures and characters that she combines with long flowing robes to dance and prance about the stage and amongst the audience, accompanied by Glenn on wood flute, guitar and mandola. The big red bird danced to a Swedish tune and the giraffe paraded to an African theme, nudging off Glenn's cap in the process.



As well, Glenn sang songs from Dougie MacLean, Bill Staines ("The River") and two from John Prine, with Kjelsty appearing as an old woman to illustrate "Angel from Montgomery". When not in character, Kjelsty emerged as herself to accompany tunes on bodhran and other percussion.

It was truly a night of delight.

Kevin Ikin.

6. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) Interested in Participating in a Documentary about Acoustic Routes?

Stephen Riddell has decided to make a documentary about the history of Acoustic Routes and the Wellington Folk Scene so he is looking for people to help tell this story. In particular, he is looking for people who were around the club in the early days who would be keen to be interviewed about their experiences.

He is also looking for photos and video clips from the club's history, so if you have these rifling about then please let him know.

Contact: stephen@riddellproductions.com

7. Acoustic Routes membership, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Single	\$20.00
Other	\$10.00

(Students, life member partners, beneficiaries and superannuitants)

All subscriptions are individual, based on the age or status of the member.

What being a member gives you

An annual programme of concerts by top-class musicians
Regular performance opportunities at a range of other musical events
Regular communications about what's on
Discounted entry to club events and concerts
Discounted entry to participating folk clubs
Discounts on selected items at Alistair's Music, Cuba Street
Voting rights at the AGM or any subsequent SGM

Payment options

1. Complete this form and post it with a cheque made out to Wellington Folk Centre, P.O. Box 27-191 Marion Square WELLINGTON 6141
2. Pay by internet banking to 'Wellington Folk Centre Inc.': ANZ account 01 0505 0182241 00 (*ensure your name is included for reference*) and simultaneously forward your details (as below) to treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz .
3. Hand your form plus payment to a committee member at an Acoustic Routes event.

PLEASE COMPLETE: many thanks for your support

Amount paid: \$_____ Single \$20 or Other \$10

Donation: \$_____ (Wellington Folk Centre is a registered charity and donations of \$5.00 or more are tax-deductible. A receipt will be issued.)

Payment has been made by cheque/direct credit/other

NAME(S): _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME(S): _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

8. Want to perform?

The 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 at performers@acousticroutes.org.nz.



9. About AcousticRoutes

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.

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.

10. Acoustic Routes contacts

President: Ruth Birnie president@acousticroutes.org.nz
<mailto:ruthbirnie@gmail.com>

Correspondence: Kevin Ikin secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Treasurer/Membership: Karen Munro treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz
<karenguitarist@hotmail.com>

Balladeer: editor Philippa Boy, producer, Stephen Riddell
balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Acoustic Routes update email: Kevin Ikin secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Performance opportunities: performers@acousticroutes.org.nz
<mailto:ruthlbinie@gmail.com>

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

Website: www.acousticroutes.org.nz

11. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region – please check websites or email for updates

Trad Singing Session with Dave Barnes hosting

When: 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, from about 6.45pm

Where: The Welsh Dragon Bar, Wellington. 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

Ceol Alba Scottish Music Club

When: 4th Friday of the 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

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

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/>

Pukerua Bay Folk Club

When: 1st Thursday of the month, 8pm (no club night in January)

Where: 9 Donlin Rd, Pukerua Bay

Contact: Murray or Julie Kilpatrick, (04) 239 9951, musicianmurray@gmail.com

Wellington Bluegrass Society

When: 3rd Friday of the month, 8pm

Where: 54 Richmond Street, Petone

Contact: Andrew Bicknell, (04) 477 0069, bluegrass@xtra.co.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