

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 online, at the AGM, or the August concert
see item 8 below for details and payment options*

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2. Open Mic at Plimmerton Boating Club, Wednesday 10 August, 7 pm. Please note: the open mic will be the second Wednesday of the month from now on.
3. Acoustic Routes AGM, The Office, Newtown, Sunday 14 August, 3pm
4. Open Mic at The Office, Newtown, Sundays 14 & 28 August, 5:15 – 8pm
5. Update on the 2022 Joan Prior Awards
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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 Invitational Concert featuring Divine Creations, Alfred, Simple Gifts, Ktoo, Kaboodle, and Toil & Trouble, Tawa Community Lounge, Thursday 25 August, 7:30 pm

This month's invitational concert features a great selection of our local talent.



Divine Pitch is a new multi-media collaboration between Megan Wood and Stephen Riddell. They play a balance of original and traditional songs on a variety of instruments tuned to 'divine pitch' (A=432 Hz instead of the usual concert A=440Hz) and describe themselves as coming to folk music 'as refugees from classical music'. Check out their youtube channel.

<https://youtu.be/WQoiZMjfUH0>

Alfred is a longtime aficionado of American fingerstyle guitar who had a folk awakening of sorts about 18 years ago, after discovering and exploring the music of Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie and the subsequent folk revival of the early 1960's. He writes and performs original and traditional songs in a multitude of American genres, offering fresh interpretations of traditional or standard songs, while his original material often expresses autobiographical, confessional themes with a slight humorous or political edge.



Simple Gifts are Sue Rose and Philippa Boy - two friends who share a love of harmony singing and very eclectic musical tastes. Expect unusual arrangements of traditional and current songs, some acapella and some featuring instruments including an Inuit caribou drum, guitar and hurdy gurdy.

Ktoo are Kevin McLoughlin and Kevin Ikin, two Wellington-based folk veterans who hail from Dunedin. Their family links with the South Island's West Coast led them to record a collection of tall and true songs about the Coast. Ktoo's CD, "Land of the West", was released in 2017. But their musical partnership extends beyond the West and they have original songs about wider issues and events to share with you as well.



Kaboodle are Diana Bastion singing mainly old traditional songs with Julian Ward on open tuned guitar and shruti.



Toil and Trouble are Mary Hubble, Jude Douglas and Ron Craig who play and sing a range of music mostly from UK, USA, Canada and NZ. Mary brings wonderful flute/whistle and vocal harmonies, Jude adds fantastic fiddle, and Ron Craig combines a warm, expressive, voice with beautiful guitar. Always a treat, with a mix

of tunes and songs.

Entry: \$15/\$10 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. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road Plimmerton, Wednesday 10 August, 7pm

To help support the Plimmerton Boating Club, we have agreed to move the open mic to the second Wednesday of the month from now on.

Spread the word.

Same Ole MC.
Roy McGuinness 021433878



3. Acoustic Routes AGM, upstairs at The Office, Newtown, Sunday 14 August, 3pm

This is an opportunity to have your say about Acoustic Routes and its direction. Come along and share your views. We will be holding elections for next year's Committee, so it's your chance to get involved too and lend a hand. Remember, to vote you must be a paid-up member. Subs can be paid at the AGM.

Contact: Ruth Birnie president@acousticroutes.org.nz

4. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, Sundays 14 & 28 August, 5:15-8pm.



Newtown Acoustic Sound's "Open Mic" is back, upstairs at The Office Bar in Riddiford Street, Newtown, on Sundays 14 & 28 August, 5.15-8pm.

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

5. The 2022 Joan Prior Young Performers Awards



Applications for the 2022 Joan Prior Awards for young performers open this month (August).

The awards will follow the same format as last year, when it was revised to make it less competitive and more encompassing as an encouragement to

young performers, aged from 18 to 25 years.

Up to seven applicants (depending on the number of performers in each act) will be offered full weekend passes to Wellington Folk Festival and feature in a Young Performers concert at the Festival.

As a new highlight this year, following the Festival, the JPA winners will appear in a special Young Performers Showcase at the Moon Bar in Newtown, on Sunday, November 6. It will be hosted by Don Mackay, who runs the popular Songwriter concerts there.

Who can enter?

The Joan Prior Awards are open to performers aged from 18 to 25 on September 30, 2022, resident in the Wellington region (the area covered by Wellington Regional Council and Kapiti and Horowhenua Districts).

The awards are 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. All genres of music are acceptable. As a general guide, this includes the wide variety of mainly acoustic music performed at folk festivals.

If there are more than seven applicants, there will need to be a selection process. That will be done by a panel set up by Acoustic Routes, using video/audio samples provided by applicants as a guide. (This is the same process used by Wellyfest to select its acts).

What's on offer?

- Full weekend passes to Wellington Folk Festival, where successful applicants will feature in a Young Performers concert.
- A special Young Performers showcase at the Moon Bar in Newtown.
- Applicants will receive free membership to Acoustic Routes for a year and will be offered the opportunity to perform at a further Young Performers concert hosted by Acoustic Routes sometime in the following year.
- Acoustic Routes will also be exploring opportunities for mentoring young performers.

How to apply

Applications will open in August. Details of the Joan Prior Award and the entry form will be on the Acoustic Routes Website at www.acousticroutes.org.nz

The deadline for entries will be mid-September (date to be confirmed).

To keep up to date, sign up to the mailing list on our 'Email Newsletters' page. ANY QUESTIONS? Email: secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

6. Review, Charlotte Yates in concert with Liz & Tim and the Godwits, 28 July

This concert proved a perfect antidote to the weeks of cold, rainy weather we've had to endure, with a night of uplifting music to warm us up.



The Godwits, Vic Manuel and Lis Whyte, got the fire lit with an opening set of their own songs. Regulars at Newtown Acoustic Sounds will be familiar with this duo. Vic, a veteran songwriter and performer, pens songs that are sometimes sad and reflective, like "Melancholy Man" and "Love is a Terrible Thing", but like a good Cohen song, can trigger a feel-better response. Lis's "Comfort Song" was also greatly appreciated on the night.

I hadn't heard **Liz Merton and Tim Barrie** perform for a while, so it was a real treat to see them here and in great form, with some sizzling tune sets and songs on fiddle and guitar. The tunes included a couple of Liz's own compositions. "Boot" kicked the opening set into action and later came a tribute to a great great grandma. There was a nostalgic feel too with Tim's songs, which included a 30-year-old trip down memory lane on a boat cruise to Italy.



Charlotte Yates makes a huge contribution to the music world with her songwriting, teaching and mentoring, and it was a privilege and a pleasure to hear her and her guitar with a choice selection of songs. Some are intensely personal and her songs are packed with images that light the imagination.



For example, this from one of her love songs: “The air was so clear I could put my hand through it”.

And a gut-wrenching image from a song describing the disruption to life that people in The Ukraine” are suffering right now: “My suitcase is packed with my new-born son”. Another highlight was “Kingfisher Come Home”, a song based on a Witi Ihimaera short story from one of Charlotte’s collaborative projects, setting the words of some of New Zealand’s greatest poets and authors to music.

Thank you all for an enchanting evening.

Kevin Ikin.

7. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) Songwriters Showcases at the Moon Bar, 167 Riddiford Street Newtown Sundays 7 & 21 August, 7 pm

- August 7, Showcase #51 - Yann Le Dorre, Rose Lubransky, Planet (including Vince Cabrera and Nigel Parry)
- August 21, Showcase #52 - Clara van Wel, Colette Rivers, Karen Munro

Doors open from 6pm, music from 7pm, door charge \$10

Contact: Don Mackay 6021songs@gmail.com

b) Auntie Social’s Thirsty Night at the Moon Bar, 167 Riddiford Street Newtown, Thursday 11 and 25 August, approximately 6:45 pm

- 11 August – Beans Maries
- 25 August – Mark Poletti

No door charge

Contact: Don Mackay 6021songs@gmail.com

c) Up Close & Personal Plimmerton presents ‘We Mavericks’, 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Wednesday 31 August, 7:30 pm

They pack punches but bring songs to heal the scars. Lindsay Martin’s masterful strings and vocals meet Victoria Vigenser’s magnificent voice, in driving rhythms and a connection you have to hear to believe. This captivating trans-Tasman duo brings music that strangely sounds like more than the sum of its parts.

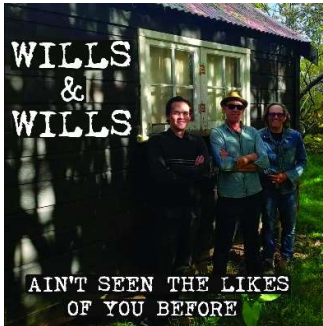
They have already made a bold mark in folk circles worldwide, recently showcasing at Folk Alliance International, being nominated “Best Folk Artist” in the 2022 Aotearoa (NZ) Music

Awards, nominated Australian Folk Music Awards "Artists of the Year, Best Duo/Group/Ensemble" 2021 and receiving the 2020 Troubadour Foundation Award. Now touring the duo's debut "Grief's a Gardener", they bring connected and grounding original songs in the sort of show that can melt even the hardest of hearts.



BYO Drinks and small plate to share for supper.
Please contact Annie on 0274599376 to book your seat.
\$20.00 a ticket

d) Zephyr Wills' first album 'Ain't Seen The Likes Of You Before'



Folk and classical New Zealand musician Zephyr Wills, one of our 2021 Joan Prior Award winners, has just released his first folk/rock album 'Ain't Seen The Likes Of You Before' with his professional Blues musician father Shayn Wills, and Raglan drummer Freddy Limbert. The instrumentation includes vocals, acoustic and electric guitar, harmonica, bass, drums, and viola.

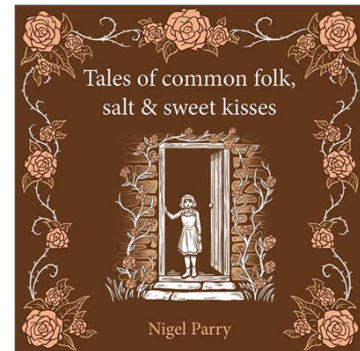
Zephyr and Shayn are largely influenced by music from the 1960s and 1970s, and Freddy termed the genre 'Modern Vintage' to describe their unique modern, yet old-style sound. Among their many themes, the songs deal with politics, loss, hope, change, and philosophy. Expect multi-layered ballads with lyrical depth and instrumental virtuosity.

The album is available digitally from Zephyr's Bandcamp page:

<https://zephyrwills.bandcamp.com/album/aint-seen-the-likes-of-you-before>

CDs can be ordered on Bandcamp, and/or by contacting Zephyr at: zephyrwills@hotmail.co.nz

Congratulations also to Zephyr for obtaining a scholarship to study for a two-year Masters of Music at Penn State University, Pennsylvania where he will be heading in August.



e) Nigel Parry's new CD 'Tales of Common Folk, Salt & Sweet Kisses'

Nigel takes the listener is taken on a reflective journey from the decline of Kiwi rural towns, through stories of Marlborough Sounds whalers, love and loss in olden times, even a Viking raid. The album features many familiar names from Acoustic Routes and the wider NZ folk scene including Tony Hillyard, Helen Dorothy, Pat Higgins, Chris Penman, Murray Kilpatrick, Emily Griffiths, Jude Madill, Karen Jones, Tony Burt, Don Mackay and Gerard Hudson.

www.nigelparrymusic.com/tales-of-common-folk

f) 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

8. 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: _____

9. 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.



10. 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.

11. Acoustic Routes contacts

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

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 – 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