

**Wellington Male
Voice Choir**
present

Songs of Travel

**United Kingdom and
Aotearoa New Zealand**

**Sunday 8th September, 2pm
Queen Margaret College
53 Hobson St, Thorndon**

Wellington
V
Male Voice Choir
PATRON - MAYOR OF WELLINGTON

‘Songs of Travel’

from the United Kingdom and Aotearoa New Zealand

Our concert today continues this year’s theme of ‘Songs of Travel’.

From the sombre magnificence of ‘Morte Christie’ to a wonderful arrangement of ‘Swing Low Sweet Chariot’, the Choir has once more been challenged by our Musical Director, Mark Stamper, to push the boundaries.



Several songs are refreshed from previous concerts including ‘Homeland’ and New Zealand’s own sea shanty ‘The Wellerman’.

The Choir has learnt a new regular song ‘How can I keep from Singing’ which will open our concerts going forward. ‘The Awakening’ will also continue in our concert repertoire.

Reflecting our cultural heritage we will perform ‘Hine Hine’, a soft melodic lullaby dating back to 1907, sung in Te Reo. ‘Loch Lomond’ is a very well known love song but this time arranged beautifully in four part harmony.

The cultural journey continues with ‘Viva la Compagnie’ or ‘long live friendship’. The ‘Vagabond’ tells of the mystery of a ‘wandering soul’.

We hope you enjoy the variety in today’s songs and of course thank you for supporting the Wellington Male Voice Choir.





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Family Heart are delighted to sponsor Wellington Male Voice Choir, a Community Choir, whose prime purpose is to sing for the Community and promote young and old men in the ways of four-part harmony singing.

Mark L Stamper (*Music Director*)

From South Carolina, Mark began his piano study at the age of three and eventually expanded his musical interests to include choral music.

He received a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Winthrop University in 1986 where he studied with Dr Eugene Barban.

In 1989 Mark was awarded a Master of Music degree with a concentration in Choral conducting from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he was assistant conductor of the Oratorio Chorus.



Mark made his operatic conducting debut when he was granted the honour of being the first Conductor Apprentice to conduct an opera, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, with orchestra. He worked under the direction of Maestro William Weibel, a former conductor of the Metropolitan Opera in New York. He also conducted *Così fan tutte* with the South Florida Opera Company and the *Gondoliers* with Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts.

In 2006 – 2007, he was the Principal Accompanist for *La Bohème* and *Madame Butterfly* with the Fort Worth Opera. Then in 2008, Mark was the Chorus Master for *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Of Mice and Men*, where his chorus received great reviews from the critics.

He moved to Wellington New Zealand in 2015 and is now a resident in New Zealand. He is the artistic director/ founder of the professional choir *Inspirare*, directs Queen Margaret College Chorale's and four additional ensembles: *SYLO*, Wellington Young Voices, Wellington Male Voice Choir and the Wellington Youth Choir. He began conducting the Wellington Male Voice Choir in July 2019.

Mark's depth includes ballet, choral, opera, orchestral and musicals. His choirs have consistently received accolades from critics and judges at festivals and concerts.

Songs:

How Can I Keep from Singing

Quaker Hymn; arr. by Gwyneth Walker

The Vagabond

arr. by Gary Lewis; Lyrics by R. L. Stevenson;

Music by R. Vaughan Williams

Morte Christie

Music by Emrys Jones; English words by Isaac Watts;

a Choral meditation for male voices by Emrys Jones

Hine, e Hine

arr. by Tom Humphries; adapted by Mark Stamper;

Fannie Rose Howie (Princess Te Rangi Pai)

Homeland

Tune by Gustav Holst; arr. by Z. Randall Stroepe;

Text by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice and Z. R. S.

Loch Lomond

Scottish Folk Song; arr. by Earlene Rentz www

Swingin' with the Saints

Traditional; arr. by Mark Hayes

The Wellerman

arr. by Jacob Narverud; Traditional NZ Folk Song

Viva la Compagnie

arr. by John Leavitt; Traditional College Song

The Awakening

Music and words by Joseph M. Martin;

Commissioned by the Texas Choral

Directors Association

Deep Peace

Victor C. Johnson; Traditional Gaelic Blessing;

Commissioned by Wellington Male Voice Choir;

Mark Stamper Conductor

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**Proud sponsors of the
Wellington Male Voice Choir**

WMVC Short History

The Choir was formed in 1961 as the Onslow Male Voice Choir and became the Wellington Male Voice Choir in 1992. We are in our 63rd year. We rehearse in Tawa on Monday evenings from February to November and aim to provide entertainment for others, to enjoy the pleasures and fellowship of male voice singing and to continually improve our standard as a choir. We sing at retirement villages and functions in the greater Wellington area including the Hutt Valley and Kapiti Coast.

WMVC have also participated in five New Zealand festivals of Male Voice Choirs held around New Zealand. In October 2003, the Choir made its first tour of Australia performing in Melbourne, Orange, and Narrogin WA. The choir has been to Nelson twice (2006 and 2008) to sing with the Nelson Male Voice Choir and the Sydney Male Choir.

In November 2010, we travelled to Sydney to take part in a festival in the Sydney Town Hall along with fifteen other Australian Male Voice Choirs. We also sang concerts in Orange, Inverell and Buderim.

In 2011 we celebrated our 50th anniversary with two joint concerts held with members of the Orange Male Voice Choir from NSW, and the Nelson Male Voice Choir. In November 2014 the choir again travelled to Australia to participate in the Australian “Let All Men Sing” 2014 Festival of Male Voices at AIS Arena, Canberra.

We have on several occasions held a joint concert in Feilding with “The Old Crotchets” and in June 2017 we sang in two concerts with the Whanganui Male Choir. In October 2017 some of our members travelled to Australia to participate in the MCAA Massed Male Choir Festival held in Wollongong. In November 2022 we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Nelson Male Voice Choir with a joint concert in Nelson.

Gloria

VIVALDI

and selections from
"Messiah"

Wellington Male Voice Choir with Wairarapa Singers

Saturday 16 November, 4:00pm

St Matthew's Anglican Church, 37 Church St, Masterton

Saturday 23 November, 4:00pm

St James' Anglican Church, 71 Woburn Rd, Lower Hutt

Barbara Patterson (Soprano)

Maaike Christie-Beekman (Alto)

Mark Stamper (Music Director)

Tickets at wellingtonmvcnz.org, Door sales available

So you can *Sing?* Join us!



- Perfect your vocal talent under the tuition of vocal maestro Mark Stamper
- Perform in concerts in Wellington and around New Zealand
- Share in the camaraderie of one of Wellington's most established choirs

Wellington Male Voice Choir

Practice sessions every Monday 7-9pm
Tawa Union Church, 6 Elena Place, Tawa

Music Director: Mark Stamper

President: Les Williams

lesliewills47@gmail.com, Mob 022 106 1574

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