

PIANOFORTE

SUSAN SMITH ONZM ARCM FTCL LRSM



Susan was born and educated in Auckland. After gaining both LRSM and FTCL she completed her formal studies in London, UK, gaining her ARCM. She studied Piano with Phyllis Sellick, and Accompanying with Ivor Newton.

On her return to NZ in the 1970's she immersed herself in all aspects of teaching, including being Director of Music at Avondale College. Also, as a member of the NZ Institute of Registered Music Teachers, Susan has given Seminars and adjudicated many of their Scholarship Classes. She has also adjudicated at many of the NZ Performing Arts Competition Societies.

Susan has also enjoyed her role as an accompanist, accompanying many of the Country's leading singers. She resigned from her position as Director of Music at Avondale College in 2003, to return to her private practice, and is currently enjoying playing an active role in the Diocesan School for Girls, Music Department. She was also the Chairperson for the Dame Malvina Major Foundation, Auckland Regional Committee, a position that she resigned from in November 2019, but has remained on the Committee in a consultancy role.

In 1991 Susan was appointed to the International Examining Panel, of The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, resulting in Tours of NZ and many overseas countries, which she enjoyed for 28 years.

In 2004 she received an ONZM for services to music.

ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENTAL

DR HELEEN DU PLESSIS



Heleen's career as cellist, music director and inspirational teacher spans over three decades in four countries. Qualified with four postgraduate degrees from the Conservatory of Geneva, the Peabody Institute, of the Johns Hopkins University, USA, University of Otago, and University of Pretoria, du Plessis advanced her talent with esteemed masters, such as Starker, Rostropovich, Peled, Grosgrin and Aaron. Her research-based performance projects *Cello for Africa*, *Cellists Aotearoa* and *Tahu-nui-ā-rangi* focus on music's ability to connect peoples and places to build bridges across diverse cultures.

She specializes in teaching music performance and its pedagogy, chamber music and muscular awareness and control with the use of Surface Electromyography for prevention and remedy of injury/pain/tension in performers. As director her ensemble Cellists of Otago has gained widespread recognition. She is passionate about the role and purpose of music performance in the wellbeing of people and belief in the development of each individual's ability and potential.

ADULT VOCAL
Dr. TESSA ROMANO



Mezzo-soprano **Dr. Tessa Romano** is the Head of Voice at the University of Otago School of Performing Arts. Originally from Syracuse, New York, Dr. Romano has performed with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, the Hartford Symphony, the Sound Symphony, the American Handel Society Orchestra, and the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Romano has held opera fellowships at Aspen Opera Center, and the University of Colorado Boulder New Opera Workshop where they premiered the role of Dame in *Dame, Not Lady* by Silen Wellington. Other notable opera roles include the title role and the Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Tolomeo in *Giulio Cesare*, Jade Boucher in *Dead Man Walking*, Mother Marie in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Drei Knaben in *Die Zauberflöte*, and Jenna in *Lear on the Second Floor* (premiere). Past awards include First Place in the Florida Grieg Voice Competition, Winner of The Art of Art Song Competition, and Winner of the Franco-American Vocal Academy's Grand Concours Prize. Dr. Romano received a DMA in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Colorado Boulder, an MMus in Vocal Performance from the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, and a BA from Princeton University in Italian and Vocal Performance. Dr. Romano has studied under Jennifer Bird, Freda Herseth, Christopher Arneson, Richard Lalli, Nancy Andresen, and Helen Boatwright, as well as with the renowned British vocal ensemble VOCES8. In 2022, they will premier their first opera written with a team of six creatives across Aotearoa New Zealand titled "Silence Is." For more information on Dr. Tessa Romano, please visit www.tessaromano.com.

EVELYN FALCONER
JUNIOR VOCAL



In 2008, Evelyn completed a Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours in classical singing, at Waikato University. She has recorded a series of Art Songs for Radio NZ and performed with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra. After studying singing in England in 1976, Evelyn returned to NZ continuing her interest in classical, musical theatre and jazz music.

A soprano, Evelyn has had a long history with Musical Theatres. From early beginnings in *Annie Get Your Gun*- Little Jake, *Joseph*-company, this was followed by lead roles in other shows such as *My Fair Lady*-Mrs Higgins, *Oklahoma*-Laurey, *The Sound of Music*-Maria, *Evita*-Eva Peron, *West Side Story*-Maria, *Oliver*-Nancy, *Les Miserables*- Fantine, *Aspects Of Love*-Rose, *Cats*-Grizabella and *Mama Mia*- Donna. Evelyn has directed and performed Andrew Lloyd Webber's one woman show *Tell Me on a Sunday*, creating and performing a jazz show *Lets Face the Music*.

In November 1998 Evelyn directed *And the World Goes Round* for Rotorua Musical Theatre and has produced musicals for Rotorua Primary Schools. She has recorded a solo gospel album *Between You and Me*.

For the past 25 years, Evelyn has been the vocal tutor at Western Heights High School, conducting two choirs and giving individual singing tuition. She also conducted the Rotorua District Choir.

Evelyn developed the concept for the show "Off Broadway" which she has enjoyed performing to audiences throughout New Zealand, Australia and Fiji for 26 years.

Evelyn is married to Dennis and has two stabilisers Laura and Thomas.

VOCAL GROUPS AND INSTRUMENTAL GROUPS

LACHLAN CRAIG



Lachlan is in regular demand as an oratorio soloist. Recent engagements: *St Matthew's Passion* with Bach Musica NZ, Hamilton Civic Choir and St Matthew's Chamber Orchestra

Israel in Egypt with Opus Orchestra,

Messiah with NZ Barok and Scholars Baroque Aotearoa

Weihnachtsoratorium with the Napier Civic Choir and Hawke's Bay Orchestra

St John Passion with Nota Bene and the Chiesa Ensemble.

Lachlan is an alumnus of Voices NZ Chamber Choir and has been a Freemasons Artist and Assistant Conductor with New Zealand Opera, having been involved in recent productions of *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Semele*, *Candide*, *Katya Kabanova*, *Aida*, *Otello* and *The Bone Feeder*. He has been recorded as a soloist for Radio New Zealand for projects and concert performances such as *Farewell Zealandia*, *Passio* and *Requiem for the Fallen*. Lachlan holds a Masters in Music with First Class Honours from the University of Auckland, studying Voice with Dr. Morag Atchison and Dr. Te Oti Rakena, Choral Conducting with Dr. Karen Grylls. Lachlan was the recipient of the Pears-Britten Scholarship. He also studied at the 2017 Choral Music Institute at Oxford University under Dr. James Jordan and Dr. James Whitbourn. Lachlan is currently the Assistant Director of Performing Arts at Diocesan School for Girls, and prior to that he was the Director of Choirs and Strings at Saint Kentigern College. Lachlan was Director of Music and Conductor of the Auckland Youth Choir and the Wallace Youth Chamber Orchestra which under his leadership grew to be one of Auckland's largest and successful community groups. He enjoys a versatile musical life as a tenor soloist, conductor, chorister, teacher, adjudicator and clinician.

BALLET

MONIQUE POIRIER



Monique trained at the Mt Eden Ballet Academy and was a classical Junior Associate with New Zealand School of Dance. She taught RAD ballet, contemporary and jazz at several schools across Auckland before buying her own dance studio, which she sold in 2021. Former students are now training, performing, and teaching both in New Zealand and overseas. Monique is now a media and communications advisor for the COVID-19 response, but still teaches and adjudicates when she can.

OKIWI HAWKINS

TAP AND TROUPES ADJUDICATOR



Okiwi Hawkins hails from Nelson, where he is head tutor and choreographer at Legacy Dance. He is trained in NZAMD, Glenn Wood Tap and RAD and also trained at the National Academy of Dramatic Arts studying Musical

Theatre. He has appeared in Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park, the NZ Cancer Society Ball as well as performing in musicals such as Joseph, Cats, Music Man, Mother Courage, 42nd Street and Miss Saigon.

Okiwi is a diverse choreographer, with works from competition dancing, commercial events, musicals and more. When younger, Okiwi competed throughout New Zealand at PACANZ festivals for Tap and Jazz, and was awarded the Noel Burnet Tap Award, the New Zealand Dance Awards Musical Theatre Supreme award as well as competing at Showcase Australia. He has had success with positions on Royal Caribbean Cruise lines and also Australian TV shows.

Good luck to all the competitors over the competition weekend!