



sound values



IRMTNZ ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2013

The Institute of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand held their annual conference in January this year. The Auckland Branch were the hosts for the event which was held in the Raye Freedman Arts Centre, Epsom Girls Grammar School, and it was attended by teachers from afar afield as Invercargill to Whangarei. Generous sponsorship enabled them to keep the conference fees at a very modest level and to offer full registration to Graduate Status and senior students of teachers. As a result, it was very well attended.

The conference theme was *Music in Time: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* and the programme comprised of sessions covering musical, historical and performance issues related to the various periods of musical history, loosely following a chronological order from the 17th century to the present day. It was enhanced by a performance from *Affetto*, a group specializing in music of the Renaissance/early Baroque period and the *Jade String Quartet* who ended the "Classical" day with Haydn and Mozart quartets and a little gem composed by Russell Garcia, a New Zealand based composer and jazz musician.

Held over five days, beginning at 8.15am, the event included lecture presentations covering a wide range of musical styles and genre, masterclasses in all instrumental categories, workshops ranging from jazz performance, music examination requirements and technology in the music studio. In all, there were twelve presenters, including university staff, notable musical identities, music examiners and music critics who are all experts in their various fields of musical endeavour.

The keynote speaker and main recitalist was William Fong, a Professor at the Royal Academy of Music and Head of Keyboard Studies at the Purcell School for Young Musicians, London. He shared his knowledge and expertise in 2 presentations covering wide-ranging musical and teaching issues. The masterclass that he gave working with four young pianists was very profitable but the high-light of the week was, without doubt, his solo piano recital which was a world-class performance that left the audience spell-bound.

NZMEB had a trade display manned throughout the week and they supported the conference by sponsoring all of the Friday morning sessions. This included a well researched address by William Dart (music critic for the New Zealand Herald) entitled *Looking Ahead- the Future of Music and Music of the Future*. This presentation was further enhanced by a PowerPoint presentation with illustrations and video clips. Following morning tea, also sponsored by NZMEB, the official closing of conference was preceded by a short recital by The Opera Factory, an organization that provides training, education and performance opportunities for young classical singers. It was fitting that NZMEB sponsored two sessions that fit closely with their ethos: supporting "new" music and developing young talent.

(Elizabeth Calvert, IRMT Conference 2013 Convenor)



