



Nearly four years ago Freemasons Foundation entered an agreement to support the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra in its then new programme to develop young musical talent amongst secondary school and University students. As that agreement reaches the end of its term the Orchestra has written a report defining the progress being made in this endeavor.

The INSPIRE programme is a partnership with the University of Auckland School of Music and the Auckland Youth Orchestra aimed at nurturing young musicians aged 16–25 years to reach their potential.

Over the last four years it has been an impactful and invaluable programme for young aspiring musicians with a wealth of opportunities to supplement and enrich their studies either at University or, for younger musicians, to pursue music at tertiary education level.

A continuing climb in participation and audience numbers over just a few years reveals a strong demand. Since 2013 the number of

activities has increased 127% and participation 170%. The range of free, accessible and enriching activities available in the programme include masterclasses, opportunities to meet visiting artists, play-ins with the full APO, individual mentoring, internships, performance opportunities, and much more.

**Since 2013 the number of activities has increased 127% and participation 170%**

Auckland Youth Orchestra's key connection to INSPIRE is through involvement in the 'Big Play-In'. This is a major INSPIRE event, remaining consistently popular each year with around 50 participants. The APO have also provided mentoring for the AYO administration particularly in the area of marketing and fundraising/sponsorship.

Having access to a professional orchestra in a variety of ways, across a range of venues and activities is something every aspiring young musician could only dream of.

The APO and the INSPIRE team hope we share their vision for the programme and will join them for the next chapter.

For more information: [apo.co.nz/inspire](http://apo.co.nz/inspire)

## Changes for Irish & Scots on Board

Changes in representatives on the Board of the Foundation for the Irish and Scottish Constitutions have been made recently.



RW Bro Andrew McGregor

The Irish Constitution representative is RW Bro Andrew McGregor, newly appointed Provincial Grand Master for New Zealand under the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Andrew is already participating in our deliberations having reached his present senior position last year but we officially welcome him and look forward to his further work with us on behalf of his Constitution. His long experience on the Irish Charitable Trust Boards will be valuable. In doing so we sincerely thank RW Bro Roly Whyte for his fifteen

years with us and his commendable contributions to the Foundation's work over that long time. This year, in similar style, a new representative for the Scottish Constitution has taken up the role with the Foundation having been appointed in February to the office of District Grand Master, North Island New Zealand, Grand Lodge of Scotland. We welcome Brother John Aldcroft to the Board and are sure his tenure will be a useful and rewarding one for all concerned. He succeeds RW Brother Campbell McFarlane.

# Writers Festival success puts us in the news too

An outstanding feature of our involvement in the recent on-going and growing success of the Auckland Writers Festival is the extensive public exposure it is giving Freemasonry.

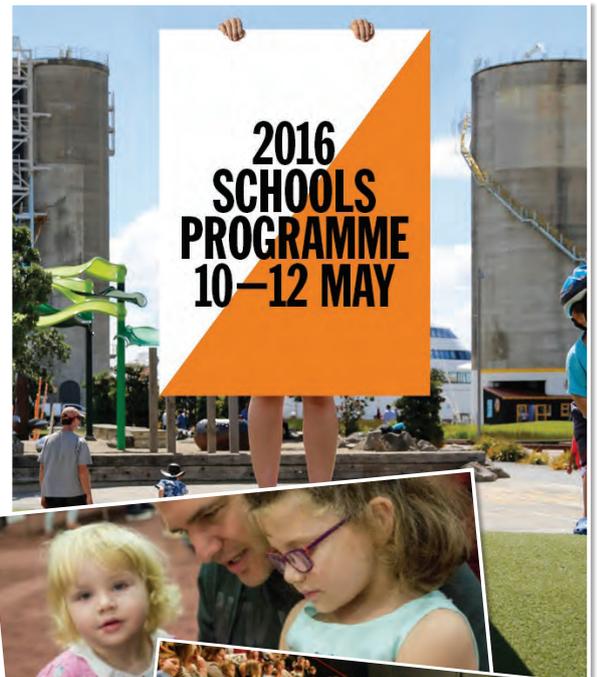
The branding our support has received in the public eye through advertising and media coverage of the event is outstanding. It is not our motive for participation. Encouraging children to read and write is fundamental to education. That is motive enough. But our name and symbol are part of the Festival's reward package for supporters - and we are not complaining

Audience growth for the annual event has rocketed in recent years. At 65000+ the 2016 numbers are significantly more than double than those of 2012. And the 'quality' of the audience is impressive. 39% have a degree and, 50% are high earners while their enthusiasm is massive. 98% are 'satisfied' and 99% would recommend the event to others! 45% of the 144 individual 'events' were sold out.

But our particular support goes into the children's portion of the festival where here too audiences are booming. The children's section was expanded to three days this year including the free Sunday Family day. Our help also subsidises the transport cost for schools (5000 plus students); and we backed a pilot scheme for free transport for low decile schools. All students also received a free book.

Our logo is used on all the main event and Children's Programme materials, all advertising and all media releases. 55,000 programmes, 210,000 print media inserts, posters and postcards in bookshops, libraries, cafes, cinemas and galleries. Plus street banners and stickers, lightboxes and more. Plus on-line advertising and promotions. Not to mention the news stories that all media gobbled up!

*The Festival will be back again next year on 18th to 21st May 2017  
- make a note and book ahead!*



## Sweeney Todd the demon barber of Fleet Street

Coming very soon and playing in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch is NZ Opera's final main-stage production of 2016, 'Sweeney Todd'. With music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim (and sung in English!) Sweeney Todd sees the return to our shores of one of New Zealand's favourite opera sons, Teddy Tahu Rhodes. Music is provided by the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Orchestra Wellington and Christchurch Symphony Orchestra. Of particular note - and pride - is our participation in the production as principal supporters of The Freemasons New Zealand Opera Chorus. Consistently praised by the critics, we are delighted to have their name on our Arts & Culture recipients list.

## A Night at the Opera?

The Opera starts in Auckland on Saturday 17th Sept and concludes its tour in Christchurch on Saturday 15th October. Be sure to book.