

*Music is the voice of all humanity of whatever time or place. In its presence we are one.*  
Charlotte Gray

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*"Before I heard you play it, that used to be my favorite piece."*

## Coming up this year:

1. The Sub Antarctic Islands
2. Roads to Home

## Registration Form - Series 5 2025

Payment methods in order of preference

1. Direct Credit to U3A Invercargill  
Acc: 03 1746 0080910 000
2. EFTPOS  
Debit card payment available on the day
3. Cash in an envelope, please, with your name or include this registration form. Amount enclosed \$30 per person

Cash enclosed
Name:
\$

## Contact

We prefer to contact you by email. If you have an email address, and we are not aware of it, please let us know.

Spare paper copies of the brochure are always available if you are unable to print one for yourself.

## Series Organiser

Nola Cavanagh



**August 2025**

**Series 5**

## Music - Our International Language



Venue:	Windsor Community Church 19 Windsor St
Time:	10.00am
Cost:	\$30 per person

## Series 5 - Music - Our International Language

### Session 1 : Friday 1 August

#### Alex Ferguson; 1853- 1924; Euphonium Player with the Invercargill Garrison Band

Presenter: **Marian Poole**



**Bio:** · Born and raised in Invercargill (Waihopai) Marian grew to love the Takitimu Range, Oreti Beach and fierce southerlies. Marian has been teaching piano performance since her SGHS days from under her mother's (Mary Poole) careful guidance. Since 2009 Marian has been reviewing music events in the Otago region for the Otago Daily Times and the New Zealand Listener. In 2012 she graduated from University of Otago with a PhD titled 'Schoenberg in NZ 1940-1974: A Cultural History'. Ongoing research topics have been inspired by a genealogical exploration of the Poole family from their origins in Shropshire UK to their circuitous emigration route to Invercargill and establishing a new life. Her research topics include the colonial of music making in Invercargill and Aotearoa New Zealand's colonial history.

**Synopsis:** This illustrated history of Alex Ferguson's career highlights the shared creativity and the convivial collaborations between settler musicians. It shows how the military activities of the late nineteenth century inspired brass band music into a means to display virtuosic abilities. The story traverses Alex's travel experiences in Australia and to Great Britain with the New Zealand Hinemoa Band and Māori soloists. Alex's experiences and career provide an illustration of Southland's rich cultural society and its links with akin cultures. It also shows how Alex came to balance the merits of overseas experiences with those available at home in New Zealand.

### Session 2 : Friday 8 August

#### Opera: story-telling in music

Presenter : **Professor John Drummond**



**Bio:** John holds a BA Hons from Leeds University and a PhD from Birmingham University. He is currently Emeritus Professor of Music at Otago University.

He is described as a NZ musicologist and an academic composer. He has been involved in opera for over 50 years. He has directed over 40 productions and is NZ's most prolific composer.

He'll bring some copies of *Habitation of Dreams* with him. They will cost \$30 cash or can be ordered from the publisher at \$40 incl p and p.

**Synopsis:** Since time immemorial people have gathered to listen to tales told through acting and singing. Why is this? What does music add to story-telling? Using examples from Ancient Greece right through to today, including mention of the operas he has composed on local subjects, John Drummond explores the power of this art-form to tell us about ourselves.

### Session 3 : Friday 15 August

#### Why Accompanists Can't Grow Fingernails

Presenter: **Jennifer Sinclair**



Jennifer's life has been steeped in music—across genres, settings, and roles. As a singer, pianist, organist, and brass band musician, she's experienced nearly every corner of the musical world. Her work as an accompanist spans vocalists,

ballet schools, weddings, funerals, radio broadcasts, music exams, choirs, and school productions—often behind the scenes, but always essential.

Through her role as Chamber Music NZ Concert Manager, Jennifer has also worked closely with internationally recognized musicians, gaining insight into the collaborative heart of music-making. With humour and honesty, she will share what it really means to support others musically—and why serious accompanists don't dare grow long fingernails.

### Session 4 : Friday 22 August

#### My Life Through Music

Presenter: **Simon Tipping**



Simon went from being a choirboy to work as an orchestral and choir conductor in Christchurch, Wellington and in Tonga.

He will talk about and play music which has marked important moments in his life. This will include music he grew up with, music with students at the Massey University School of Music, Wellington, where he taught for 30 years, and with choirs and orchestras including the National Youth Choir and with brass bands in Tonga.

In 2006 he retired from Massey where he was an Associate Professor, and in 2010 he and his wife Rachel began their voluntary work at St Andrew's High School in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. Their work there has included classroom teaching, building maintenance, organising groups of volunteers from NZ to help at the school, teacher professional development, and coaching musicians and the school brass band. They have also set up a charitable trust to raise funds for needy students and for school development.