

GUEST ARTISTS



RON NEWTON, BA, PhD, was born in Christchurch and studied the organ with Russell Kent of Oxford Terrace Baptist church, and Graham Hollobon at Canterbury University. He has served various churches, including as Director of Music at St Michael and All Angels in Christchurch and Assistant Organist at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Auckland.

Following study at the University of California at Berkeley, Ron completed a BA with First Class honours and a PhD in the history of New Zealand organ building, under Dr Brian Pritchard at Canterbury University. Following training in organ building in Timaru he began the New Zealand Organ Manufactory in 1998, which now services and restores over 100 pipe organs throughout the country. He is also Curator of the New Zealand Organ Museum, based in Oamaru, where he lives with his wife Tani and their five children.



PETER AVERI, ONZM has enjoyed a musical career for more than 60 years as an organist, broadcaster, arts administrator and musical adjudicator. Since 1946 he has been organist and choirmaster of numerous churches in Wellington, Auckland and Sydney. This includes his 14-year tenure as organist and choirmaster at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Wellington, where the historic organ now in Morrinsville Methodist Church was situated. In 1962 it was installed at Morrinsville and Peter Averi gave the first recital in its new home in July that year.

For many years he was a popular recitalist in New Zealand and Australia, but most notably in the USA where he was a frequent performer at the Temple Square Concert Series in Salt Lake City, Utah.

He has performed with leading choirs, orchestras and soloists as organist, accompanist and conductor. For 12 years he was Concert

Manager of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. After retiring from that position in 1987 he became Artistic Director of Wellington City Opera for 9 years.

His interest in the development of young musicians has involved adjudicating for many organisations, including the National Youth Orchestra, Mobil Song Quest, and the Television Young Musician's Competitions. Internationally, he has been on the jury of the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition and also adjudicated at the Canadian National Music Competition in Ottawa.

Since 1999 he has been Music Director of the television programme "Praise Be".



JOHN PARKER, ATCL, was a pupil of Morrinsville's own Bill Cranna in both piano (through to an ATCL Diploma) and organ, learning on this very instrument. John's experience as a church organist has included playing in this church (from the tender age of 16!), at Mornington Methodist in Dunedin and positions at Epsom Methodist (Auckland), St Francis Co-operating Parish (Hillcrest, Hamilton), and at St John's Methodist (Hamilton East).

A recent highlight of musical involvement outside the church was joining the Waitomo Caves Choir as accompanist for their 2009 tour to the United States and England.