

# Mark Wigglesworth

NEWSLETTER NO. 2 - APRIL 2024



Kia ora! Welcome to my second newsletter chronicling my adventures overseas. It has been an incredibly busy start to the year; I am one week into my two week break, and am gearing up to finish the academic year on a high note.

In the New Year, before my second term started, I made the trip to Edinburgh, getting a chance to see many great sights. The above photo is from the top of Shiel Hill, with a view not dissimilar to Dunedin's Shiel Hill! I also got to see Edinburgh's Leith River, walk down George St, and go inside old St Paul's Cathedral; just like being back home!

Another great highlight was having a tour of the Deanston Distillery. Located about an hour north of Glasgow, it was great to have a bit of extracurricular study into Scotland's finest export, and see another beautiful area of Scotland.

I have been continuing to accompany local choir, Voices International, and am teaching them *Pokarekare Ana* ahead of a concert in June!





Now, to tell you a bit about what I have actually been studying! The year started with a concert for the local arts society, coaching and repetiteuring for our productions of *Cendrillon* (Cinderella) and *Idomeneo* (photos from these productions are below), and a deep dive into Mozart arias and ensemble music.

I had the great pleasure of accompanying several masterclasses for the opera department, as well as the conducting department. These have included industry professionals Simon Keenleyside, Sue McCulloch, Antony Hermus, and Martyn Brabbins.



In the first week of term, I am playing the organ for our school performance of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*; a work that has been a joy to revisit, after having sung it in high school! It has been nice to be back at the organ again, as I had not touched one since moving over here!

The next big project is a second lot of opera scenes, where we are taking scenes from several operas, and performing them about a month from now.

I have been coaching the singers, and will be accompanying a harrowing scene from *The Rake's Progress* (Stravinsky), the eloquent *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Britten), the charming *Albert Herring* (Britten), an reverent scene from *Dialogues des Carmélites* (Poulenc), and a not-so-reverent scene from *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* (Poulenc).

As always, thank you all for your support of my studies. I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful break over Easter; you can expect a bigger update from me in August after I finish my first year, and do some travelling!

Mark