

Sweet notes for jazz in Martinborough festival



Violinist and composer Fiona Pears can't wait to return to Wairarapa this spring to headline the Martinborough Jazz Festival.

Fiona wears her heart on her violin strings. The exuberant performer's energy

is unmistakable when playing to audiences across the country – matched only by her musicianship on the violin.

After delighting local audiences during last year's inaugural Jazz in Martinborough Festival, which doubled as a fundraiser for those affected by the Christchurch earthquakes, Fiona will headline this year's event being held from Thursday 30 August to Sunday 2 September.

Fiona, who started performing as a soloist with orchestras at the age of 12 and now divides her time between London and New Zealand, will perform up tempo Tangos, Celtic ballads, gypsy swing tunes plus a few other surprises with Mike Ferrar on guitar and Pete Fleming on Double Bass.

"Last year I performed with two wonderful guitarists from Christchurch and we did quite a few of my compositions plus some great fun 1930's swing jazz," Fiona said. "It was an amazing afternoon and due to having such a great time I must say I am very excited about returning to perform at this year's festival."

Fiona is no stranger to performing in the region.

"I've performed there about four times now and every concert has been a blast! The last performance I did there was in March (as part of the Arts on Tour New Zealand series) and I met some really lovely people. There was just such a great vibe at the concert it made me want to come back and play as soon as possible."

Fiona also remembers playing in Martinborough several years ago with Hayley Westenra and Dave Dobbyn.

"I fell in love with the area as it reminded me a bit of where I grew up on a farm down south. One of the best things about doing concerts is watching an audience have heaps of fun. That makes it extra special for us on stage."

Festival director Ted Preston is equally excited about Fiona's return.

"Fiona is a marvellous instrumentalist, sparkling performer and great supporter of community jazz. She enjoyed her visit last August and we are very pleased to once again engage this international performer," he said.

While the full festival programme was being finalised when Wairarapa Lifestyle went to print, other acts confirmed included Wellington jazz combo Hot Club Sandwich featuring the distinctive guitar and vocals of Andrew London, the saxophone of James Tait-Jamieson and the bass platform of Terry Crayford; and Wellington based jazz vocalist Tessa Quayle, whose voice has been described as having a "milky sparkle" who "scats and purrs".

"Hot Club Sandwich has played Martinborough before, but this is their first appearance at Jazz in Martinborough. They are in high demand and bring top-quality music and entertainment to our festival," says Ted.

Jazz in Martinborough will be held after VISA Wellington on a Plate and before Toast Martinborough. For ticketing information and links to the performers' websites, visit the festival website at www.jazzinmartinborough.co.nz

Taking sustainable fashion to new heights

Corrine Edwards loves sustainable fashion. So much so, she and a group of Wairarapa women have taken the idea of upcycling to a whole new level with the Oversew Fashion Awards.

The awards, to be held at the Carterton Events Centre on August 25 will showcase creative and talented people turning old, dated clothing into new funky fashion.

"I am hoping to achieve everyday people being creative and having a platform to show their creativity and style ... showcasing hidden talent," says Corrine. "I would personally like to achieve helping people back to the art of sewing."

Corrine, who previously worked as a sample machinist in Auckland and Christchurch for a variety of fashion houses but now is firmly ensconced in the Carterton community, says the idea to hold the awards was devised two years ago by a group of like-minded friends who put on a fashion show called Revamped Glamour. A seed was sown.

"When the new Carterton Events Centre opened, I wanted to put on a fashion event," says Corrine "I love sustainable fashion so went with the idea of upcycling."

That initial group of friends - the crafty Latte group - has helped sponsor the Oversew Fashion Awards and are looking forward to seeing how entrants can transform something new from something old. Think: creating a new dress out of an old shirt; a funky skirt out of an old table cloth or making a waist-coat out of an old jacket and you get the idea.

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The new garments will then be showcased in a professional fashion show using as much local talent across all areas as possible.

"We have great music, an MC that is professional, and judges that are professional in their fields and are excited to see what the Wairarapa has to offer in sustainable fashion," says Corrine.

When Wairarapa Lifestyle went to print, Corrine says she'd already received a number of entries for the awards.

"We are attracting a lot of interest from Facebook and our website, and are pleased with the entries we have so far" she says. "But we are always looking for more talented people that want to be part of our event."

For more information visit www.oversewfashion.co.nz

