

Dunedin debut for orchestra

The New Zealand Doctors' Orchestra will perform in Dunedin for the first time this weekend, as part of the University of Otago's 150th anniversary celebrations.

The concert will be held this Sunday, June 23, from 2pm at Dunedin Town Hall.

The orchestra comprises about 70 doctors and medical students from throughout New Zealand, and this year half the doctors are graduates or students of the University of Otago.

The orchestra will be conducted by University of Otago Associate Prof Peter Adams, and will feature a new work by Prof Anthony Ritchie, entitled *Hippocratic Hymn*.

The short piece for brass, percussion and organ aims to capture in music the ethical and selfless ethos that doctors aspire to in their profession, as exemplified by the Hippocratic Oath.

The orchestra will also play works by Brahms, Sejourne and Dvorak.

Soloist Rachel Thomas, an Auckland medical student and freelance percussionist, will play a marimba concerto.

She has performed professionally in orchestras, brass bands and ensembles throughout New Zealand, Australia, Europe and Asia, and was the first percussionist to win the NZ Brass Band Championships "Champion of Champions" title.

The New Zealand Doctors' Orchestra's first concert was held in Nelson, in 2012, and it has since held performances in New Plymouth, Napier and Christchurch.



Debut show . . . Organisers of the New Zealand Doctors' Orchestra's debut Dunedin show, (from left) University of Otago Medical School MBChB programme director Tim Wilkinson (double bass), Christchurch fourth year GP module leader Lynette Murdoch (violin), and Canterbury DHB medical registrar Tom Wilkinson (trumpet), look forward to Sunday's performance.

PHOTO: TIM SKINNER PHOTOGRAPHY

Each year, all proceeds are donated to local hospices, and this year they will go to the Otago

Community Hospice. Tickets cost \$25 and are available from Ticketmaster.

Exercises for brain

Courses using rhythm and music to stimulate memory, balance and motor skills will be held in Dunedin next week.

Developed by jazz musician Ronnie Gardiner, the Ronnie Gardiner Method is a multi-sensory exercise method for the brain.

Originally intended to help children with musical and motor development, the method has been used successfully in groups with stroke, Parkinson's, depression and multiple sclerosis, as well as in healthy ageing.

Taught by RGM practitioners Ronnie Gardiner, of Sweden, and Mariken Jaspers, of the Netherlands, the course is suitable for practitioners who work with individuals or groups, in neurological rehabilitation or with older adults, who want to supplement their work with this innovative technique.

A follow-up course for full recognition as an RGM practitioner will be held later in the year.

To participate in the follow-up course, attendance at this introductory course is mandatory.

For further information and registration email t.elliott@auckland.ac.nz or phone (09) 373-7999, ext 83274. The all-day course will be held this Monday and Tuesday.

