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Patron: His Excellency Lieutenant General The Right Honourable Sir Jerry Mateparae, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand
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Sargood Bequest
PO Box 5546
Dunedin

11 May 2012

Dear Trustees

Please find enclosed thank you letters and personal profiles on the three **New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir** members your generous grant has supported with international touring.

Petrouchka Steiner- Grierson, Auckland University
Sophia Good, Burnside High School
Semisi Hau, Aorere College.

Everyone is greatly looking forward to the tour and we appreciate your support very much!

Thank you again.

Yours sincerely

Anna Bowron
NZSSC

May 3 2012

To the Trustees of the Sargood Bequest,

E rere kau mai te awa nui mai te kähui māunga ki Tangaroa.

Ko au te awa, ko te awa ko au.

Ko Ruapehu te māunga.

Ko Wanganui te awa.

Ko Te Atihaunui-ā-Pāparangi te iwi.

Tēna koutou, tēna koutou, tēna koutou katoa

My ancestral river flows from the mountains to the sea.

I am the river and the river is me.

My mountain is Ruapehu.

My river is Wanganui.

Te Atihaunui-ā-Pāparangi are my people.

Greetings, greetings to all of you.

I want to express my sincere thanks to you all for your support towards my involvement with the South African tour of the New Zealand Secondary Schools Choir (NZSSC). Firstly, I am grateful that you believed in me, that you felt that my participation with the NZSSC was worthwhile supporting and I am so appreciative of that. Secondly, thank you for your encouragement through this grant. To receive a grant which helps me to reach my goal of paying for my trip myself, without needing to burden my parents, is such an encouragement to me, that whatever I set my mind to I can achieve ... albeit with some help! So thank you for your encouragement of me and my goals!

I'd like to tell you a little about me. I'm 17 years old and have been intensely involved with music and performance for as long as I can remember. I began learning the piano at age 3 years. My Mum taught me. I began the violin at 9 years old and have taken that to a high level of performance. I love composing and may consider following this through to a University level next year. I am very involved in my school life and have been involved in numerous choirs. I am a student at Burnside High School and in my last year there. It will be sad to leave Burnside but I'm looking forward to University next year.

The journey I have made with the NZSSC since being one of the lucky young people to successfully audition has been an eventful one. Sixty-four young people engaged in one focus – to sing our best, one thought – to rise above our circumstances, one hope – to open ourselves to the challenge. The circumstances I speak of, for myself, are in putting to rest some of the anxieties and difficulties in living in Christchurch, perhaps not so much now, but certainly in the last 18 months. And, in my own personal goal, to achieve the best that I can with my singing and choral experience. The musical melting pot has been, at times, very intense and of course the rehearsals have been long. Yet I feel I have learned that hard work comes before success and when we persevere we can meet any challenge! These are all 'bigger' values than I thought I would learn initially! Initially, it was all about the excitement of meeting lots of like-

minded young people and singing under the guidance of fantastic conductors and musicians. But now I see that this journey has taught me more about life.

The tour itself will be another life learning experience. I have been lucky enough to have travelled to some parts of the world but never to South Africa. I am a little anxious about the trip as I know the country faces social and cultural challenges, but that is overcome by my interest to see a new culture, meet new people and experience a country that has undergone so much change and suffering.

Next year, I plan to continue with my learning in conducting, choral singing and participation but as my special interest. I will be studying at the University of Canterbury and I'm hoping to begin a Bachelor in Computer software engineering.

Again, I thank you sincerely for the support and encouragement you have given me. I will write to you again following our trip to let you know how much I have gained from it, and again to thank you!

With kind regards and gratitude

Sophia Kimberley Good

Sargood Bequest

PO Box 5546

Dunedin

Funding received via the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir

Semisi Hau

1 May 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

I have been in NZSSC (New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir) for about 3 years now. It's a 2 year cycle, and I was lucky enough to be accepted for a second cycle, 2011-2012.

When I first got in to NZSSC, I was a little Year 9 boy, or in other words I was still that immature, arrogant and Mr. Know-it-all person you'd expect me to be. With all honesty, I was ashamed to be singing such genre of music because of my cultural background and social life. I mean, a very small minority would sing this sort of music and for me to portray this genre around my peers at school would define me as a loser or something equivalent to loser. With no disrespect to choral and classical music, because hip-hop, pop and rock are dominating the charts now-a-days, classical is no longer the "it" genre...like it would be hundreds of years ago.

This means I lacked confidence in myself and what I believe, and I didn't even believe, nor see, that I'd go far in life in whatever career path I'd take. But then, as courses and years of being part of NZSSC went past, I grew into the person that I am today. A person who, because of NZSSC, is now mature, has a sense of respect, has confidence in myself, and one who believes in himself and what I do (singing classical music). I am no longer ashamed of the genre I sing in, as NZSSC has taught me not to be ashamed of what I truly want to aspire in in the future. And in saying that, NZSSC has helped my decision making in what I want to be in the future, an opera singer. NZSSC has taught me that people's opinion don't really matter, and that negative comments should be taken in as "constructive criticism" rather than taking it to the heart.

Additionally, from the tour we had in 2010 to Canada, I learnt to be independent and not always be dependent on my parents. Furthermore, the leaders of NZSSC 2009 – 2010 were all truly inspiring and have all helped make me the leader my school sees me as today. I am the tenor section leader for my school choir this year and I also conduct our Boys choir "Front Row". I am currently a Cultural Leader for NZSSC 2011-2012 and I am a Year 13 leader at my school (which means that I am a prefect).

Without NZSSC to help me grow-up, none of these would've been in existence today, because NZSSC has given me a purpose in life. Personally, I learnt from NZSSC that with determination, self-belief and support from your peers/friends, any dream is possible.

From this tour to South Africa, I want to gain a cultural experience of visiting a nation with such a vast and important history. I also want to broaden my musical knowledge while overseas. I also want to be a good ambassador for NZ, representing NZ overseas to the best of my ability through leadership skills, through image (correct uniform, non-use of bad language etc.) and also through my talent. I also want to make new friends with the other cultural groups from all over the world present at the festival, and also build and maintain the bond I have with my fellow singers and staff of NZSSC while I'm there.

Thank you for this grant to help me and my family fund my tour to South Africa with NZSSC.

Semisi Hau

Aorere College

Auckland

The Trustees
Sargood Bequest

To whom it may concern,

Thank you so much for your support in helping me to continue being part of the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir. I've had many financial struggles over the last few years with particular concern to maintaining my musical training and involvement. When learning to stand completely on my own two feet last year when I moved out of home, the grant I received from this Trust helped enormously and I was able to be part of this amazing choir.

This year is my first year at university and I've had to cut down on my extra-curricular groups. The New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir is the only remaining group I am part of and it continues to be well worthwhile. Although I am not studying voice at university (Classical Performance Flute, instead), maintaining a high level of vocal training is highly beneficial to any musician.

With this grant, I am able to pay off my fees for our tour to South Africa without becoming further in debt. I am very, very grateful for this assistance, as I know it will be a valuable experience not worth missing.

Below is a brief profile

My musical training began when I was eight, with piano lessons, and since then I have come to love music more and more. I picked up the flute at ten, and began voice lessons at 13. At 11 years old I had to start helping to pay for my music tuition, so I started busking to earn money for flute lessons. Since then, I have had been quite self dependent in terms of ensuring my musical education continues, but never once have I thought of quitting music.

In 2008 was the beginning of my experiences traveling with music groups: I went on a tour to Europe with Key Cygnetures Choir - winning two first place prizes at the international Summa Cum Laude festival in Vienna, and performing at the World Choral Symposium in Denmark. In 2009, as well as going to Dunedin for the Big Sing Finale, I went to the Australian Flute Festival to compete both as a soloist and with Taitama flute choir, and went on a tour of New Plymouth with the Westlake Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band. In 2010 I went on a tour of the UK with Choralation choir, and this year went to the Big Sing Finale in Wellington. My musical travels have definitely been the highlights of my life these past few years, and I know that touring to South Africa will prove just as valuable an experience.

Last year was my fifth and final year at Westlake Girls High School and over those five years I have improved dramatically as a musician and gained many valuable experiences. At school, I took music as a subject every year, and I found it very interesting. It was also my best subject. My other area of interest, and also another great strength, is in foreign languages. I

took German and Japanese at school, and now I am furthering that interest in a BaBMus. I am majoring in Classical Flute Performance in the BMus, and German in the BA, and I am also studying Japanese and Composition. This is at Auckland University, as I've received a scholarship (University of Auckland Jubilee Award) for my first three years of study.

My academic achievements are also something to note. In the last three years (as a senior at school) I have received numerous awards.

In 2009 I received a High Distinction in Japanese Assessment of Language Competence Certificate 2, Distinction in German Assessment of Language Competence Certificate 2, Auckland Goethe Society Certificate of Achievement Highly Commended (examination in German), Outstanding Achievement in Music and Science, and achieved NCEA level 1 with Excellence.

In 2010 I received an Auckland Goethe Society Diploma of Merit (examination in German), Distinction in Japanese Assessment of Language Competence Certificate 3, Distinction in German Assessment of Language Competence Certificate 3, and First in Music and Music Performance. I also won first place in the North Shore Youth Composer's Competition.

In 2011, I won First in Music Studies, Music Performance and German; as well as the Creativity in Music Cup; Contribution to Music cup; Musician of the Year award; two Blues Awards for national recognition; the Choral Music trophy; and Cup for Best Pupil in Cultural, Academic and Leadership Achievements.

Aside from Classical/Art music, I love traditional Celtic/Irish music. One of my hobbies is playing traditional music on my Irish whistle and arranging it for other instruments and combinations of instruments. In the near future I hope to form an Irish band. Other hobbies include skiing - I go every year, and rock climbing.

Being in NZSSC so far has been such a great experience, and I am really looking forward to our tour to South Africa next year. It will be an honour to represent our country as a national-level choir and show South Africa what New Zealand music is all about! I hope to learn a lot from being in such an amazing country that is so different from our own, and with so much rich cultural history. Not only that, but I will learn a lot about other cultures and their music at the Ihlombe Festival. I know that there is no better way to learn about the world than to travel it, and I have the same philosophy with music - there is no better way to understand the cultural differences than to experience it first hand.

Yours Sincerely

Petrouchka Steiner-Grierson