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*Patron: His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand
Vice-Patrons: Diana Cable, Hon. Chris Finlayson MP, Ian Fraser, Professor Peter Godfrey, Dr Karen Grylls
Trustees: Linda Webb (Chair), Judy Berryman, Colin Furniss, Jill Moss, Nicky Sutherland, Carla Wilson*

The Trustees
Sargood Bequest
PO Box 5546
Dunedin

9 May 2011

Dear Trustees

I write to thank you so much for your continued support of the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir! I also enclose letters of thanks from the three members who were delighted to hear they would receive financial support for their membership of the choir:

- Petrouchka Steiner Grierson, Year 13, Westlake Girls Highschool, Auckland
- Brooks Kershaw, Year 13, Lindisfarne College, Napier
- Becky Howie, Year 12, Cashmere Highschool, Christchurch.

As you will be aware, making membership financially viable for our members is one of our major tasks. This choir is open to all school-aged New Zealanders, not just those who can afford it. Your support of the choir both allows us to keep our membership fees down for all members, and potentially allows young people to join the choir whose families could not have taken on the financial responsibilities of membership. We are all very appreciative!

Petrouchka has prepared a report on our first course, held in Wellington, which I enclose, and I will forward course reports from the other two after the next two courses.

As indicated by Michael Ewen, we understand you have some trustees based in Christchurch who would like to attend our concerts there. This would be wonderful for us too! We are currently having to reconsider the location of the Christchurch rehearsal course due to the earthquake, but Ashburton is an option, travelling to Christchurch one day for a concert. I will be in touch about this when we have this problem solved.

Thank you again!

Yours sincerely

Anna Bowron
Executive Officer

36 Mountfort Street
Spreydon
Christchurch 8024

The Trustees
The Sargood Bequest
PO Box 5546
Dunedin

12 April 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

\$1,000 Grant - New Zealand Secondary Students Choir

I am writing to thank you so much for the \$1,000 grant. It is such a blessing and will help me greatly to pursue my interest in singing. Singing has always been a passion of mine, and is something that I would like to pursue in the future.

I am really looking forward to learning more about music and singing and travelling with other students my own age.

I am 15 years old and attend Cashmere High School, as a year twelve student. I am having singing lessons with Mrs. Helen Charlton, who encouraged me to audition for this choir. I also take Drama as a school subject. Music and Drama are my favourite subjects. I enjoy playing the piano, guitar, and blogging in my spare time.

Thank you so much, this grant is very much appreciated and is a great aid to my family, as our financial situation is difficult at the moment.

Yours sincerely,
B. Hawie (Becky Hawie)

The Trustees
The Sargood Bequest
PO Box 5546
Dunedin

28 April 2011

Dear Trustees

Thank you so much for the \$1000 grant for NZSSC fees.

This grant will help me so much. Because of my many musical commitments, I also have many financial commitments which I struggle every year to meet. This year is different because I am now living independently of my parents and am paying for everything myself, so I thank you so much for this help! I am grateful everyday that I am able to take up such wonderful opportunities that support my passions.

I am a year 13 student studying at Westlake Girls High School in Auckland and my whole life revolves around music. Since I began piano lessons at age eight, music has been part of my daily life and it has grown into a great passion. As well as singing and piano, I also play the flute (and piccolo) - I am working towards a Performance Diploma later this year.

To give you an idea of how much a part of my life music is, here's what my life at high school has been like. In 2008 I went on tour to Europe with Key Cygnetures Choir - winning two First Place prizes at the Summa Cum Laude Festival in Vienna and performing at the World Choral Symposium in Denmark; in 2009 as well as going to the Big Sing Finale in Dunedin, 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; and in 2010 I went on a tour of the UK with Choralation Choir. This year I have already performed as a soloist with the Westlake Symphony orchestra, playing the first movement of Mozart's Flute Concerto in D.

When I'm not on tour with a music group, music still takes up the better part of my day. I am in three premier music groups at school, and two of my subjects are music - not to mention lessons and practice time. I enjoy what I do and could not imagine what my life would be like without music.

My interests other than music are numerous. I love languages (I am currently studying German and Japanese), psychology, philosophy, travelling and learning about other cultures and ways of life, religion, skiing and rock climbing, to name a few. Next year I intend to study music and languages at university (possibly Victoria), so being part of such a high level group such as NZSSC is an invaluable experience to have.

Thank you once again
Yours Sincerely,
Petrouchka Steiner-Grierson

To Whom It May Concern

I would like to offer my thanks for offering me with this grant. I will endeavour to ensure that I make the most of my opportunities whilst in the New Zealand Secondary Students choir, and in turn make me both a better musician and a better person.

About me:

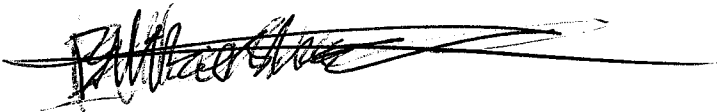
I am 17 years old and currently studying at Lindisfarne College, Hastings. I first started making music when I was four, and have loved it ever since. Apart from music, I'm also studying Media Studies, Classical Studies, English and Maths with Statistics, which are all subjects I enjoy.

For my musical involvement and what I actually play, I'm studying Saxophone as my primary instrument, and voice as my secondary. I also play clarinet, piano, studying conducting, composition and learning flute. I also play in all of my school bands, including the training band which I conduct, our school's recently formed choir, and our barbershop quartet. I'm also involved with the school productions, and play in many of the community bands in Hawke's Bay.

As for my future goals, I wish to study Music at Victoria University, majoring in jazz performance and composition, then head into music teaching for a while. My end goal is to write music for film and videogames, both of which are my favourite pastimes.

Again, I would like to offer my thanks for giving me this opportunity with the NZSSC, and possibly even another doorway into my ever expanding musical career.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brooks Kershaw', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brooks Kershaw