

# Sing New Zealand

## *The story of choral music in Aotearoa*

GUY E. JANSEN



\$60

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### HOW GROUP SINGING EVOLVED FROM ITS COLONIAL ORIGINS TO TODAY'S AWARD-WINNING INTERNATIONAL CHOIRS

New Zealanders love to sing together. Thousands of us sing in hundreds of choirs throughout the country, making it our most popular and participated in performing art. Most of us have sung in school choirs, or participated in national competitions such as the Big Sing, and increasingly people are joining choirs as adults, recognising the benefits to wellbeing and the sheer pleasure of making music together.

But the story of choirs in New Zealand is not just one of enthusiastic participation, it is also about striving for excellence, and achieving it. And it's not just about our great soloists finding international acclaim; national choirs such the Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir and the New Zealand Youth Choir have won international awards, and many others tour overseas.

This didn't happen by chance. So what was needed for New Zealanders to succeed at this demanding, precision art form, and who were the key people involved? Author Guy Jansen was one of them; the world's first national youth choir, the National Youth Choir of New Zealand, was just one of his initiatives. In *Sing New Zealand* he describes choral music's trajectory from the enthusiastic amateur efforts of the nineteenth-century to today's internationally renowned national choirs.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The late **Guy Jansen ONZM** (1935–2019) had a lifetime's involvement in music, music education and choral music development in New Zealand. A recipient of the Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship, Arts Council, Fulbright and other awards, he was the first New Zealander to study conducting at the prestigious School of Music at the University of Southern California, and he introduced the teaching of conducting to New Zealand via summer schools and workshops. From 1975–89, Jansen was the National Officer for Music in the New Zealand Department of Education, responsible for primary and secondary school music. In 1979 he founded the New Zealand Youth Choir, reputed to be the first national youth choir in the world, and in 1986 the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir.

### SALES POINTS

- The first book to examine a significant part of New Zealand's cultural history.
- The book looks at the elements needed to create singers and choirs of international standards.
- Written by a leader and innovator in choral music. Dr Jansen's musical knowledge adds depth to the book and provides practical information for conductors and singers.
- A lively historical account, covering early choral societies, the excitement created by visiting choirs and conductors, and the incredible diversity of choirs.
- Over 120 photographs.

