

Harp Retreat 2019

Harps, travellers, music, friends, food and Port Waikato School Camp! It's a great combination for a fun and intensive weekend away focused around music and companionship!

The travelers came from further afield this year – Maeve Gilchrist, our tutor – from snowy Scotland/USA into the midst of our NZ summer, Christine and Sarah from Australia, Eleanor from Dunsandel, on the Canterbury plains, Joy from Wellington, Amanda from Palmerston North, Nixie from New Plymouth and the rest of us from the upper North Island, totaling 37 harpists in total (plus our extras who played flutes, clarinets, recorders and fiddles).



We were incredibly lucky to have such an amazing group of harpists (from one who had half a lesson, up to advanced pedal harpists) and of course, have Maeve as our instructor. Maeve not only taught us new tunes, but also she unique 'splat' and some great ideas for ostinato patterns in arrangements.

Anyone who saw Maeve's 'The Harpweaver' show would have come away having seen many clever uses of ostinatos, as the object of the piece, or as accompaniment, some quite straight forward, and some incredibly complicated, and synchronizing different time signatures in each hand! Maeve is also the master of many lever changes in short time frames! And often her music was liberally sprinkled with funky jazz sounds, merged in with contemporary folk themes.

Maeve is an amazing performer – for our eyes and ears – and an inspiring teacher and harp friend – everyone had their own time with Maeve, and came away buzzing from an inspirational set of lessons with her! We look forward to getting her back to NZ!

Anna Dunwoodie (Auckland)



Miss Saffron has her choice of harps.....