

For immediate release

9 July 2007

Striking a Chord in Rotorua

Some of the leading and upcoming lights in piano concerto will be competing in Rotorua this week in a National Classical Music competition.

Cathy Bjarnesen, competition convenor, said about 100 young performers who are in their final year of a performing arts degree will be taking part in the Rotorua Concerto. "Students will come from all over the country from as far away as Invercargill and Auckland, and will be joined by a number of overseas students who are on semester break. The crème de la crème of the country will be here."

There will be 50 contestants in each of the two main categories. The glamour concerto has a first prize of \$5,000 while the winner of the senior recital category will walk away with \$3,000. Cathy Bjarnesen said both classes will be judged by internationally renowned judges. Michael Houston, New Zealand's leading concert pianist, will judge the senior recital while his Australian contemporary, Ian Munro will judge the concerto. The Junior Recital will be judged by Catherine Austin, one of New Zealand's leading pianists, who will also judge a number of other junior regionally graded classes aimed at encouraging local talent.

The competition begins on Thursday 12 July running until Saturday. Finals night will be held on Saturday 14 July at 7.30pm at the Rotorua Convention Centre. Television personality Maggie Barry will be master of ceremonies for the evening and other entertainment will include a guest performance by local singing sensation, Elizabeth Marvely the recent winner of the Young Rotorua Performer of the Year. Elizabeth will be accompanied by Catherine Austin on piano. Cathy Bjarnesen said the public are welcome to attend the preliminary rounds for \$2 entry and tickets for Finals night on Saturday evening are available through Ticketek. Student and senior citizen discounts will apply.

Funding from the Trust will assist with the establishment of a local studio for Family Television Rotorua.

Family Television Rotorua is a free to air UHF channel with an objective of showing community television. Daryl Anderson, CEO of station owner, Television Media Group, said having a studio in Rotorua will enable the channel to have an increase in programming that is of local content and flavour. "We aim for the channel to serve the community by providing locally based family friendly television content." He said the channel has been running for a year based in Matamata. He expects the new studio to be operational in Rotorua in the next three months. "The Rotorua studio will mean more Rotorua shows featuring many local residents."

Every week 110 people, children and adults with disabilities, take part in horse riding at the Rotorua District Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA).

The RDA has 25 horses that are used for one-hour sessions twice a day during the school term, about 42 weeks each year. Traci Christensen, office administrator, said the horses live on the property in paddocks and in stalls. Care of the horses includes supplementary feeding aside from grass, with hay and hard feed. They also require regular veterinary support including standard treatment for vaccinations, worming, dental care, emergency care and other incidentals such as treatment of skin diseases like ring worm. Funding from the Trust will support the RDA in providing the horses with veterinary care throughout the year.

Lakeview Bible Camp at Hamurana will be installing a fire alarm system that will ensure the quick and safe evacuation of the site in case of fire or other emergency.

Trevor Lineham, project manager, said the camp is used throughout the year by school, church and community groups with up to 120 people staying on site at any one time. There are seven separate buildings, including six accommodation blocks and a dining room / hall area. "The alarm is very important in terms of safety in case of emergency," he said.

The groups and organisations to receive funding from the Rotorua Trust for local events or programmes over the past two months were:

Business Swap Rotorua Blast 2007	\$7,500
Globalfest Globalfest	\$20,000
Growing through Grief Seasons Programme	\$7,000
Kaimai Family TV Studio set up costs	\$80,000
Lakeview Bible Camp Fire Alarm System	\$15,000
National Kiwi Trust Incubators	\$2,070
NZ Federation of Young Farmers Young Farmers' Contest	\$30,000
Opus Chamber Orchestra Three concerts	\$7,500
Rhapsody Rotorua Rhapsody Rotorua	\$12,000
Rotorua Baptist Church Heating and carpet	\$25,000

Rotorua Boys' High School Role Model Students	\$2,000
Rotorua Competitions Society Rotorua Concerto	\$10,000
Rotorua Creative Art Trust Wearable Arts	\$20,000
Rotorua and District Historical Society History of Ngakuru	\$4,500
Rotorua Girls' High School Role Model Students	\$5,000
Rotorua Girls' High School School Production of "Fame"	\$8,000
Rotorua Lakeside Lakeside Concert	\$125,000
Rotorua Riding for the Disabled Horse costs	\$10,000
Rotorua Symphonic Band Instruments	\$9,739
Rotorua Young Achievers Young Achievers Awards	\$5,000
St David's Presbyterian Church Heating, painting, resources	\$8,000
Sulphur City Square & Round Dance Club Portable Sound System	\$2,000
Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Ruamata Role Model Students	\$2,000
Te Roopu A Iwi O Te Arawa New van	\$11,990
Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra Concerts	\$7,500
Western Heights High School Role Model Students	\$2,000

Ends

For more information please contact:

Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust
Stuart Burns
Chief Executive
Telephone 021 972 535

Web www.rotoruatrust.org.nz

Kaimai Family TV

Daryl Anderson
Telephone 07 888 5030

Lakeview Bible Camp

Trevor Lineham
Telephone 0274 660 140

Rotorua Competitions Society

Cathy Bjarnesen
Telephone 021 293 1825

Rotorua Riding for the Disabled

Traci Christensen
Telephone 07 345 9521

Issued by:

imPRove it Public Relations Ltd

Telephone 07 348 1444

Mobile 027 430 8876

Email annette@improveit.co.nz

Web www.improveit.co.nz