

**President's Report to the
Christchurch Schools' Music Festival Association (Inc)
Annual General Meeting 17 February 2010**

The 2009 Lions Christchurch Schools' Music Festival was an outstanding success. The high standard and quality of the performances continues to be a strong feature of the festival on an annual basis. The choice of music provided an exciting, challenging and varied programme for our children's enjoyment.

I offer my congratulations to our talented music team, and in particular, our two outstanding musical directors, Richard Oswin and Charles Levings. Their combined leadership is a key factor in the overwhelming success of the music festival. We are grateful to you both for sharing your time and wonderful talents for the benefit of the participating children.

To the other members of the music team; Andrew Withington, Sandra Norquay, Sharyn Hay, Genevieve Long, David Gallaher, Patrick Shepherd, Elizabeth Muschamp and Russell Kent, thank you for the high standards you have set in your roles as conductors and / or accompanists, and for your tremendous support of our musical directors.

New innovations for the 2009 festival were the introduction of invited guest conductors and two rehearsals in the Town Hall Auditorium replacing the many area rehearsals. Both initiatives were very successful.

A considerable amount of work is achieved behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the festival. To all members of the executive, thank you for your willingness to share your time and administrative skills for the benefit of our association. I offer my special thanks to our business manager and treasurer, Kathy Cowan and to Ian Thorpe our stage manager.

I also wish to acknowledge Malcolm Long for the hours of work involved in producing and maintaining our association's very informative website. This innovation has markedly improved our passing on of crucial information to all participating schools and individuals.

The association appreciates the financial support we receive from our sponsors. I thank our principal sponsor, the Lions, and our other major sponsors, the Canterbury Community Trust and Creative Communities Christchurch. These generous donations, together with our special group sponsors, enable us to remain in a reasonably sound financial position.

Mark Gregory
President