

KUMEU VINTAGE BRASS & WHANGARAPAROA COLLEGE VARIETY CONCERT

An exceptional partnership of youth and age took place October 15 in Whangaparaoa College's splendid Auditorium. The vigour and talents of the College performers and the vast experience of the Kumeu Vintage Band, were seamlessly bonded together for a spectacular concert to which the 400 strong audience responded appreciatively with a standing ovation. All vestiges of age barriers dissolved into a glorious two hours of harmony and melody.

With ages ranging from 14 to 87, the amalgamation of Graeme Gillies' band and Andrew Ward's college students offered their audience gorgeous renditions of "Danny Boy" (Stuart Craw on Flugel), "Wandern' Star" (Warwick Day on Bass Trombone) and a spectacular combined performance of Nimrod with a pin-dropping finish ... (you had to be there!)

The College Jazz Band kick-started the audience with four numbers including "Go Daddy-O" and "Mac the Knife". A comment heard from within the audience: "What amazing talent Joshua McKay [tutor] is eliciting from these kids."

Graeme then inspired the Vintage Band into an eclectic selection of popular music hitting off in spectacular style with Strauss' Radetzky March ... conjuring up images of Andre Rieu's concerts ... through a "Salute to Elvis", "New York, New York" and a foot stomping "Country Clambake Hootenanny among others".

To set the tone for the second half, the College Concert Band (conducted by Warwick Day) produced for us their performance of "A young Person's Guide to John Williams".

Another unique combination was the Vintage Band together with the College Choral Group in "I Will Follow Him", Two Pieces a cappella and "Hit the Road Jack". As if all that weren't enough, we were also privileged to be audience to an electrifying solo performance by Bruce Borthwick. Bruce is the KVB's legendary 87 year-old front-row cornetist and he brought along his beautiful Boosey silver post horn on which he executed an outstanding performance of that ageless favourite: "Post Horn Gallop".

Finally, after a quick robe change, into the spotlight came the super-talented, Yr13, Max Glazier with his French Horn to astound the house with Mozart's "Rondo, Horn Concerto #3" accompanied by Kumeu Vintage Brass.

In a word - this was musical COLLABORATION at its finest - young and old, musical directors, teachers and players breaking down the barriers and coming together to give an appreciative audience, much to talk about for a very long time.