

INSPIRING AND TALENTED - Two Goodhue's

At the beginning of February two of Oakura's finest developing musicians played at a musical celebration concert held at the 4th Wall Theatre. They are Isabel and Hamish Goodhue.

These talented siblings already have a very impressive resume of musical achievements and it was my greatest privilege to meet and talk with them both about their music.

Isabel is 15 years old and has been learning the classical guitar from local teacher Dominique Blatti for 10 years. Isabel is currently at NPGHS and plays percussion in the jazz and concert bands. Isabel is also in the Taranaki Youth Orchestra, NZ Youth Guitar Orchestra, part of the Con Tempo Orchestra - a seven piece ensemble, and has been in the Classical Guitar Society for four years and this group gets together monthly to play together. Last year Isabel competed in the New Plymouth Performing Arts Competition Society placing 1st in the U16 category playing *Armor* by T Tisserand and also placing 1st in the open solo category playing *Memories of Summer* by G Ryan. In June Isabel will be competing in the Chamber Music competition for our region. This week Isabel and Hamish will be opening a very special performance at St Andrew's church for Eduard Klassen, Paraguayan harpist.

As well as the guitar Isabel has been learning the cello for two years with Norine Dixon. In 2014 both Isabel and Hamish attended the Taranaki Classical Guitar Summer School and eagerly look forward to the same event in 2016 as are Bryan and Raechel. The summer school is a great opportunity to come together with other musicians from many worldwide countries and perform together, meet new people and play great music.

Music is a way of life for Isabel with mum Raechel playing cello in the New Plymouth Orchestra and classical guitar, Grandpa Peter, Aunty Liz and Great-Grandpa Stan all with varying musical abilities.

Isabel plans to finish her grade 7 Trinity music exam this year and is looking to a future in medicine or literature.

Hamish is 12 years old and is in his first year at NPBHS where he is embracing the strong music culture of the school, learning the trumpet and taking performance music. He is hoping to join the concert band once he gets up to speed with the trumpet!

Dominique has been teaching Hamish the classical guitar for seven years. Hamish has also competed in the New Plymouth Performing Arts Competitions in 2014 placing 1st in the U14 guitar category with *Steely Blue* and 2nd equal in the U16 guitar category with *The Lotus and the Lyre Bird* by Richard Charlton. Last year Hamish also won the year 8 music cup at Oakura Primary School. The highlight of year was going to Wellington to perform at the Victoria University's School of Music national competition where he won the Most Promising Award and competed against 15-18 year olds and placing 4th.

Hamish is also in the Con Tempo Orchestra, the NZ Youth Guitar Orchestra.

Hamish enjoys performing in front of people and never seems to suffer from nerves. He plans on learning Trinity grade 5 this year. He sees a future in the music industry



Hamish and Isabel plucking out some beautiful melodies.



Isabel (left), Dominique and Hamish performing at Waiau Estate.

as first choice but hasn't ruled out something medical like physiotherapy though.

Both Goodhue's enjoy a wide range of music not limited to classical guitar but rate Rodrigo Y Gabriela as inspirational guitar playing. Isabel would choose to listen to 50's music, Vivaldi, Queen, Elton John or Johnny Burnette when she is happy, while Hamish would choose something from the classical genre or his top 40 collection. Isabel would choose to listen to Radiohead if she needed to de-stress and Phantom of the Opera, The Killers - Mr Brightside when she is feeling the need to cheer up. Hamish likes Ed Sheeran, One Republic and Maroon 5 as a mood enhancer.

It is fair to say the Goodhue house would hardly ever be a quiet place and the neighbours would definitely get to enjoy some first class music but it certainly is an inspirational place. All the family say they get something special out of music and dad Bryan says he has never had to push his children to play music or practice - between Hamish and Isabel they would practice more than 15 hours a week and he says they both have a real aptitude for music - he and Rachel are very proud as I think we all can be of two hardworking and talented local artists. Guitar teacher Dominique says they are both wonderful people who inspire her and give her great inspiration.

By Kim Ferens