

When Marion Anderson and Max Ketchin's visit to New Zealand was being planned, the opportunity was noted for them to provide coaching to some of NZ's SCD bands and musicians. Several rounds of planning resulted in coaching sessions for four bands: Fibrox and Wild Heather in Wellington, Bourach Mor in Cambridge and Rose and Thistle in Auckland. The participation of a number of other bands was affected by overseas trips and work commitments.

Marion and Max proved to be excellent tutors, combining a reassuring and affirming approach with keen ears and apposite suggestions for improvement. As well as addressing technique on the instruments, they discussed the importance of good initial and final chords, how to add lift and interest for dancers, and music arrangement issues such as signalling the start of a new tune. Jig rhythms came in for special attention, and bands had the opportunity to ask about anything of particular interest. All the bands were very happy with their coaching sessions and came away with a number of useful pointers for improvement.

In Lower Hutt, Max conducted a Drumming Workshop for four enthusiastic drummers, demonstrating and exploring the drumming techniques that he uses.

Marian and Max said that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working with so many NZ musicians and bands. The bands and musicians greatly appreciated the opportunity to work with musicians of international standing and get their feedback. It has been a very worthwhile exercise. Financial support by the Branch for this series of workshops is very much appreciated.

### Band Coaching takes off

As part of their visit to Lower Hutt, Marian Anderson and Max Ketchin conducted band workshops to help local bands and musicians improve their skills. As well as addressing technique on the instruments, Marian discussed the importance of good initial chords, how to add lift and interest for dancers, and music arrangement issues such as signalling the start of a new tune. Max conducted a workshop for four drummers, demonstrating and exploring the drumming techniques that he uses.

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