

So ... how might *you* use your Music Adviser?

The answer depends on your role in the SCD movement. Initially I envisaged the job to focus almost entirely on SCD musicians. Not so! Over the past three years I have interacted with dancers *and* musicians at every level in the Branch. I've learned a lot and I hope I've been able to provide advice and information appropriate to each contact.

Here are some of the roles that I've worked with:

Tutors

Informal, practical sessions on "ready-and" and advice on interacting with a musician; introduction to Dance Database and how to use it to advantage; illustrating different styles of strathspeys in a dance class... and general information on how the music and the dance work together. No question is too silly!

Organisers of day, weekend and Summer Schools

I have been a sounding-board for the live music aspect of schools: help with choosing a band for your school – information about current bands in NZ and overseas, and analysis of what class music options are available; advice with timetabling your musicians; suggestions for incorporating a music education element to your school, and help to achieve this.

Dance Programme Devisors

As a band musician I see a lot of dance programmes, and sometimes I will spot issues that might not be obvious. I'm happy to review your dance programmes in the light of musical variety, replicated lead tunes and placement of dances for a live band, if appropriate. Looking for a band? Check out the Band Register on the Branch website (look in the Musicians page, under Education and Training).

Dancers

I've run talks and courses for dancers at all levels, from JAMs to the experienced dancer. These have covered such areas as identifying tune styles, listening to tune structure and phrasing. It's really great when a dancer's eyes light up as they put another piece of the puzzle in place! I'm really happy to field SCD music questions from anyone.

Musicians

Classes for musicians have been happening at all levels, from introductory courses for prospective musicians, through developmental work with emerging musicians, to coaching for established bands. The "Playing for Class" course taught at recent Summer schools has provided in-depth training in preparing to play for SCD classes. In addition, musicians are always looking for tunes – if you're missing one, I can often help out. This year I am aiming at expanding the Musicians page on the Branch website, filling in the outline that's there and adding to it. Any requests?

Have I left anyone out or not mentioned your own issues? Do get in touch so we can help everyone appreciate SCD music and its practitioners!

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NZ Branch Music Adviser

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