

2 MINUTES WITH Sandra Logan

Sandra Logan is well known in music circles in Tawa. As many of us are aware, Tawa does very well with its musical prowess and many talented practitioners of this “art form”.

Music concerts at schools in Tawa, particularly Tawa College, invariably see Sandra involved. There is even an old web page on the tawalink site entitled “Note-able Kids Musical Extravaganza” regarding an end-of-year concert under Sandra’s directorship – way back in 2004! Sandra continues to play a major part in seeing local students reach their potential in the world of music.



Where were you born? Tanzania, East Africa.

Where did you grow up? Three years in Tanzania, two in England, four in Auckland, the rest in Wellington.

Where were you educated?

Melons Bay School (Auckland), Karori Normal School, Samuel Marsden Collegiate School (my father was the principal there), Canterbury University (where I gained a BMus in violin performance).

How long have you lived in Tawa?

Our family moved here from Newlands in 2000 largely because of the excellent schooling offered in Tawa and especially because of the outstanding musical heritage, culture and opportunities at Tawa College. Our children went to Redwood School, Tawa Intermediate and Tawa College.

What about family?

Chris and I have been married nearly 32 years and have three awesome grown sons, two of whom are married and raising their first child.

Work experience over the years

Chris (who plays viola) and I met in the National Youth Orchestra, formed a string quartet that expanded to become Charis Ministries. I’ve played professionally with a few orchestras, the longest involvement being as a first violinist with Orchestra Wellington (1985-present day). Although I had been (and continue) teaching violin privately, it was when I came to Tawa that the passion for teaching in schools developed.

In 2001 I started a violin programme (including running an orchestra) at Redwood School and this, under the encouragement of then Principal Pieter Braun, expanded into Note-able Kids in 2003, encompassing other tutors, instruments and schools in the Tawa valley.

In 2004 Shona Murray asked me to join the Itinerant Music staff at the College teaching violin and viola. This, and directing Heartstrings – the College string group (ably helped by husband Chris) – has meant a wonderful continuity for students coming up through the schools in the valley.

I also enjoy all the volunteer involvement with our church family at The Rock.

What are your interests and hobbies?

Getting into the NZ bush, listening to our native birds, exploring new places especially quiet less populated campsites, photography, reading, watching uplifting movies and heart-to-heart chats over coffee.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

Not very sporty, sorry, although I love canoeing, tramping and bush walking. I leave the sports watching to my family!

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?

I enjoy most classical music, some favourites are Dvorak’s Slavonic Dances, Ravel’s String Quartet and

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Bach's Solo Violin Sonatas and Partitas. I have some great Spotify playlists which change but currently include various artists like Mercy Me, Shane and Shane, Michael W Smith.

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

Lake Waikaremoana in Te Urewera National Park.

What accomplishments/achievements in your life give you the most satisfaction/pride?

I love seeing "the lights come on" in people, whether it be in students during a lesson or in friends who might be struggling with something.

I love watching people grow and mature. It was a special joy seeing the first of my students to achieve excellence in NCEA Lev 3 music who had started with me at Redwood when only a young child. There have been numerous since.

I witness first hand over and over what a tremendous difference learning and being involved in music makes; providing a sense of belonging, socialisation skills, serving others with your gifts, developing kindness, sensitivity, perseverance, tenacity and creativity; all skills so desperately needed in our world.

What are three things you would like to do before you die?

Always continue growing in ability to learn, play and teach.

To remain quick to say yes to the varied assignments that are given me along the way until the day I die. Continually grow closer to my Creator and share life with others on that journey.

(Compiled March 2018)