



To all of our WSCM2020 supporters

You will be aware that New Zealand has been in international news this past week, following a devastating terror attack in Christchurch.

We are a nation in mourning, attempting to come to terms with what has happened. However, to paraphrase the words of our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, we should remember that we were targeted not because we condone racism, extremism or hate, but for the very fact that we are not those things – because we represent diversity, compassion and a home for those who share our values. We cannot let this act change us.

As representatives of NZ's vibrant choral scene, we have the privilege of hosting an event next year that will bring together a rich and diverse mix of people from all around the world. The Symposium exists to celebrate the joy of choral music through cultural co-operation and exchange. It is, in a very real sense, a direct response to the kinds of attitudes that resulted in last Friday's atrocity.

Thank you to all those in the international community who have reached out to us and sent your aroha (love) and support. Your kind words carry great power. If you wish to contact us further about what has happened, please don't hesitate to do so by replying to this email. Should you be wondering how to help the victims of the shootings, you may wish to [visit this page](#) for more information.

Our hearts are with all those whose lives have been so tragically affected. We stand with the people of Christchurch and with the whole Muslim community here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Aroha nui

John Rosser

Artistic Director

The 12th World Symposium on Choral Music



The 12th World Symposium on Choral Music is a project sponsored by the International Federation for Choral Music

