



MASTER OF CEREMONY & ENTERTAINER HOWIE MORRISON JNR



Howie Morrison Jnr has been performing professionally since 1985. Initially performing with his dad as rhythm guitarist and backing vocalist, Howie launched his solo career in 1990.

Music was a huge part of Howie's life when growing up, often watching his Dad, Sir Howard Morrison and the quartet from the wings of theatres over many years.

Howie attributes the talent he inherited to those many live experiences, stagecraft, light & shade, communicating with the audience, humour, voice control, harmonies, delivery and timing. All the necessary skills it takes to be an ENTERTAINER.

During his career he has worked with many greats in the entertainment industry, including the likes of John Rowles, Tui Teka, Billy T James, Frankie Stevens, Dalvanus, Eddie Lowe, Toni Williams, Dame Malvina Major, Annie Crummer, Tina Cross and original members of his dad's quartet.

Most recently, Howie and his band embarked on a successful nationwide tour throughout Aotearoa, performing 13 sold-out shows. Howie continues to entertain audiences around the motu upholding the mana of his whānau and the late Sir Howard Morrison.



MUSIC DIRECTOR & PIANIST MAESTRO BEN GILGEN



Welcoming back to Kawerau - Musical Director and Pianist Maestro ***Ben Gilgen***

Ben is rated as one of the best in the entertainment industry. Being mentored by the likes of Harry Poe, Tommy Tupaia and Peter Morgan has given Ben a platform to work with many greats including Lionel Richie, Annie Crummer, Billy T James, Dame Kiri te Kanawa, Sir Howard Morrison, The Koi Boys, Stan walker and Ardijah.

Ben brings with him ***The Kawerau Christmas Showband***, containing six of New Zealand's most accomplished musicians that have provided musical accompaniment to major international celebrities, world famous musicals and popular New Zealand shows. The Showband under Ben's directorship will support our Evening Show performers.

KAWERAU
CHRISTMAS
IN THE
PARK

AOTEAROA'S RISING DYNAMIC REGGAE FUSION BAND CORRELLA



Corrella have a summery vibe to their music, which can be heard across Aotearoa. They take inspiration from bands like L.A.B, Six60 and Tomorrow People, while creating their own unique fusion of reggae, funk, pop, roots, and rock.

This talented ensemble formed in 2017 is led by vocalist Pipiwharauora Campbell. The band delivers an energetic live experience with our very own Te Naawe Tupe on rhythm guitar, Taula Schuster on keyboards, Tom Scrase on drums, Joshua Faletutulu on lead guitar, Rebekah Brady and Ngawaiwera Campbell on backing vocals, and Jimmy Colbert of 1814 on bass guitar.

Get ready for a night filled with great music and good vibes to songs like Skanking, Little Circles, Summertime in Aotearoa, Chur Maori.



ONE OF NZ'S BEST KNOWN ENTERTAINERS RAY WOOLF



Ray Woolf has appeared many times on New Zealand television screens, and has toured New Zealand theatres appearing in everything from the Sound of Music to the Rocky Horror Picture show.

Ray is a class act entertainer who sings across a wide range of musical genres from cabaret, jazz, musical theatre to pop, rock'n'roll and rock but he specialises in performing the wonderful swing hits of Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darin and Michael Buble.

Ray is a fabulous performer. His first love has always been performing live, he believes there is a special magic singing in front of a live audience and looks forward to returning and singing for Kawerau.

KAWERAU
CHRISTMAS
IN THE
PARK

NZ'S VERY OWN QUEEN OF SOUL LAVINA WILLIAMS



Lavina Williams, is a singer, songwriter and musical actress. She is the winner of the prestigious 2017 Benny Award's - "Pacific Entertainment Award for Top Female Vocalist".

Lavina's career highlights started in 2004 playing lead roles such as Shenzi, Rafiki and Sarabi in the world renowned Broadway musical "The Lion King" in Australia, Germany and Singapore, she was also opening act for Ms.Tina Turner, played Motormouth Maybelle in Broadway's hit musical "Hairspray" at Auckland's Sky City Theatre and played the lead role "Deloris Van Cartier" in Sister Act Musical in NZ.

Lavina was a vocal coach for the Top 13 contestants of Season 2 "The X-Factor" New Zealand and is now on her fifth year as Vocal coach, Judge, Creative Director and Manager of the biggest television show in the Pacific "Vocal Fusion" based in Papua New Guinea.

As part of her performance at Kawerau Christmas in the Park, Lavina will pay tribute to the Queen of Rock – Tina Turner.



FOUNDING MEMBER OF KATCHAFIRE JAMEY FERGUSON WITH SON AND WATER



Jamey Ferguson founding member of Katchafire will be accompanied by his new all-star band ***Son and Water***.

They will be performing the hits Jamey wrote while with the iconic Aotearoa reggae legends including their latest release 'Keep that Smile'.



THE VOICE IN A MILLION EDDIE LOW



Eddie Low - Born and raised in Rotorua, New Zealand.

From humble beginnings with his first band 'The Three Blind Mice' Eddie quickly established a reputation as an outstanding vocalist and multi-instrumentalist.

He was a member of one of New Zealand's popular Māori showbands 'Māori Quin Tikis'. They toured New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, then travelled to Thailand and Vietnam to entertain allied troops of different nationalities at their bases during the Vietnam War.

His love for music has taken him around the world and onto stages with some of music's greats including Johnny Cash, Charlie Pride, Buck Owens, Tom T Hall, Freddie Fender, Kenny Rogers and many more.

He has toured as Roy Orbison and is likened to Tom Jones and Engelbert Humperdinck. Eddie is one of the foremost imitators of Elvis Presley.

Recently completing his NZ Highwaymen Tour, with fellow musicians Gray Bartlett, Dennis Marsh and Brendan Dugan, Eddie is returning to Kawerau to join our line-up of Kawerau Christmas in the Park performers.

KAWERAU
CHRISTMAS
IN THE
PARK

RNB MUSICIAN
TJ TAOTUA



TJ Taotua an Auckland based singer-songwriter and guitarist, delivers to the world high quality interpretations of timeless RNB, Gospel, Soul and reggae acoustic covers and originals, with the purpose of taking you on a journey back in time to when RNB music had real meaning.

He also captures the true essence and heart of worship through his powerful renditions of gospel covers.

His groovy, funky, rhythmic technique to his acoustic guitar playing is complimented by his smooth, silky and soulful RNB tone that will keep you amazed and engaged in every uploaded video you watch.

TJ has supported and performed alongside artists including Jamoa Jam, Ardijah, South Side Of Bombay, Rosita Vai, Arradnah, Beatroots, Specifix, Katchafire, Chongnee, Dei Hamo, and many more.

We welcome TJ back to Kawerau Christmas in the Park.



MUSICAL PROWESS

JAYA REES



Jaya - even in her youthful years, has unmistakably left a profound impact on New Zealand's musical tapestry.

It was at the much-anticipated Auckland Christmas in the Park 2022 that she unveiled her mesmerizing Christmas single, "Aotearoa Sun". That swiftly climbed to No.5 on the New Zealand Charts and subsequently earned the distinguished 2023 APRA NZ Best Children's Song of the Year Award.

She has made waves on varied stages, from Pasifika, to the International Cultural Festival, Pio Terei Tonight Show and captivating performances at the monumental Spark Arena.

Jaya made history as the youngest contender in the teenage category to clinch the top spot on the TV series "5 Minutes of Fame". Her powerful voice resonates with a depth and richness far beyond her years.

Kawerau, gear up to be swept away by Jaya's musical prowess at this year's Kawerau Christmas in the Park.



KAWERAU'S VERY OWN NIKAU GRACE



Nikau Grace has graced our Kawerau Christmas in the Park since she was 7 years old.

Of Ngati Tuwharetoa, Te Arawa and Te Whanau a Apanui descent, Nikau is currently in her third year at Rotorua Girls' High School.

At the age of 15, our very own Nikau will be part of Evening Show line-up.

Her Career Highlights have been: Performing at Auckland Christmas in the Park 2022; Singing with Sol3 Mio at Spark Arena; performing at Opera in the Pa; Semi Finalist Maori Television: 5 Minutes of Fame 2021; Winning a New Music Development Grant with Hollie Smith,

Her most recent highlight was receiving the Waiata Takatahi grant, which enabled her to release her bilingual single – Toku Tuakiri, which she will sing for us at Kawerau Christmas in the park.



HOWIE MORRISON QUARTET SINGER TAKEREI HIKUROA-PECK



Takerei Hikuroa-Peck has always gravitated towards anything musical since he was a child. I was fortunate to grow up in a very musical whanau where music surrounded us.

My koro would always say “Every house should be filled with music if it isn’t, then fill it.” My grandfather to this day is my greatest musical influence, from hearing his guitar playing and his foot tapping at 3am in the morning, to him introducing me to the voices and many artists of his time right through to the songs of the original Howard Morrison Quartet.

As a young Maori boy growing up in Whakatane I only imagined what it would be like to take the stage and entertain people like many great entertainers of our time. I started off entertaining and singing with some friends then carried on with a few solo gigs over quite a few years.

At this point in my life I am very humbled, honored and proud to work with talented, top class musicians, classy gentlemen and the amazing wider whanau of HMQ to continue the legacy of the Howard Morrison Quartet.



THE MULTI-TALENTED TE PUMANAWA O TOKU ATE ROGERS



Te Pumanawa o Toku Ate Rogers of Rotorua will join our lineup at this year's Kawerau Christmas in the Park.

This 16year old has become a regular performer with the prestigious Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, performing at their annual concerts.

Te Pumanawa has also performed on New Zealand's 5 minutes of Fame show, Rotorua Lakeside Concert, Opera in the Pa at Te Puia and was also part of the stunning lineup for the Sir Howard Morrison Tribute.

While she is wanting to be a professional 7s player at Olympic level, she intends to keep up her singing because it makes her feel good. Te Pumanawa o Toku Ate doesn't take her God-gifted talents for granted, and through great humility, she has a very bright future ahead of her, no matter what field she chooses to do.