



Glenese Blake MA(AT),F.Dip.SCSM,AIRMT

Winner of several prestigious awards, including the inaugural Dame Sister Mary Leo Scholarship, Glenese was awarded an Arts Council Grant for further study overseas where she enjoyed a successful singing career in England working with international coaches and conductors. During this time, Glenese developed an interest in vocal pedagogy, the science and emotional content of sound, and she became a founding member of the British Voice Association. Teaching positions at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London and Marylebone Voice and Therapy Unit, gave her more insight into her skills.

Returning to New Zealand, Glenese was appointed Senior Lecturer in Voice at The University of Auckland where she developed an innovative and successful voice department where her students won many scholarships and singing competitions. Wanting to upskill Glenese returned to further study and gained a Master of Arts (Art Therapy) degree which focused on using voice as an integral process of healing through music. Together with her husband, she moved to the Waikato and formed a formidable relationship with Dame Malvina Major and David Griffiths at The Waikato Conservatorium of Music.

Glenese has sung many original compositions for New Zealand Composers including Gillian Whitehead, Eve de Castro-Robinson, John Rimmer and John Elmsly and gained recognition through the New Zealand Herald Highlight of the Year, with her performance of “Out of this Nettle, Danger” by Gillian Whitehead.

Glenese has been awarded a Fellowship Diploma in the Art of Singing Teaching by the St Cecilia School (Australia) of Music. She is an Associate of the Institute of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand; is a member of NZ Singing Teachers Association, an Examiner for NZMEB and Adjudicator of singing competitions throughout New Zealand. She is a Choral Director of School and Community Choirs. After a recent move to Tauranga, she continues to study the science of voice; the holistic approach to “finding the voice”; the Tomatis Method of ear, brain, voice connection and together with her husband, continues to support choral directors and young adults.

Many of Glenese’s students have gone on to further study overseas, win competitions throughout New Zealand and Australia and have international careers.

More recently Glenese has been engaged by several Community Groups as their inspirational guest speaker; as well as being asked to be Master of Ceremonies at various concerts. Together with her husband and friends, she has formed Project A440 to support opera concerts in Tauranga with young emerging opera singers.



Michael Blake JP, NZAPP, GDip Business Studies

Michael's creative work spans over forty years' experience as an International Tenor and Vocal Coach. He has also produced concerts and musicals, been musical and vocal director of musical theatre productions, and has assisted choirs and choruses to achieve better vocal quality. As more people came to him for help, Michael began to move his focus from performing to coaching; from the concert platform to the studio; from the studio to The Blue Chair.

Michael's business career focused on helping organisations through change management processes, with special emphasis on how the changes affected people. Clients included companies who were installing new software systems, which were better aligned to their business.

As a coach, Michael's work focuses on the individual and around the inner game of personal communication - that "inner voice" that takes place in the mind, reminding us of our nervousness, self-doubt, and fear of failure. This game happens irrespective of what we do.

Michael helps people discover their true passion and potential by giving them strategies to quieten those negative inner voices; to be expressive and to find the creative being within.

Michael is "The Man in The Blue Chair". A JP, and a qualified Mediator.

When time allows, Michael likes arranging and composing music, and is learning how to construct web sites.



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