

# A MYSTERY CALLED MUSIC

## and an inspiring three hours on radio (over Easter 2008)

I don't know what you did over Easter weekend just gone, but I spent a few hours talking to some truly fascinating people. I was on radio, taking part in a special Good Friday programme on NewtalkZB. And during my session in the studio (from 3 to 6pm that afternoon) I got to interview some musicians. And it was an unforgettable experience ...

**M**usic fascinates me. Slow music/fast music ... soft music/loud music ... beat music/neat music ... mild music/wild music. I love the way it gets under my skin and ignites good feelings inside me and makes me want to sing and dance, and tap my fingers and stamp my feet, and swing and sway to the rhythm.

Music's a mystery, I willingly admit. Oh, I can bang out a tune on a piano. But how come it works such magic on us? What is it that tells us something's in-time or out-of-time ... in-tune or out-of-tune ... harmony or not? And how come a billion sound vibrations can get scooped out of the air, funnelled onto my ear-drums, converted into electronic signals, and fired off to some part of my brain – which then interprets these messages somehow, and gets me responding?

I honestly don't know. It's all a bit beyond me. But I'm sure glad it happens! I'm thankful I live in a musical world. And I'm grateful to all those musicians who've given voice to my love and my sadness, my joy and my madness.

**T**hat's why I felt so privileged, over Easter weekend, to speak with four such musicians: two Kiwis, an American and a Dutchman.

**Mark & Brenda Laurent** have been professional musos for years. There's a good chance you've heard them perform, and a good chance you've read some of Mark's poetry



(like in the latest Grapevine, for example, under 'Stillpoint'). Anyway, on Good Friday afternoon they came all the way from the Coromandel with a guitar and mandolin to be part of the programme. And they were SO GOOD, I'd like YOU to have a listen, too!

**Barry McGuire**, who's long been a personal friend, also took part. Barry's a singer/performer who came to fame in the 60s and 70s with hit songs like *Green, Green, It's Green They Say* and *California Dreamin'* and *Eve Of Destruction* ... played with groups like the New Christie Minstrels and the Mamas and the Pappas ... released stacks of albums ... and (in later years) recorded some kids' favourites like *Bullfrogs & Butterflies*. I don't just love Barry's music – I love his whole outlook on life. And he had some great things to say, which YOU need to hear.



**Andre Rieu**, classical musician, violin supremo, director of his own Johann Strauss orchestra and choir, also agreed – *amazingly!* – to come on the programme. And he ended up chatting with me (by phone, all the way from Holland) for a good 20 minutes!

Have you discovered Andre Rieu yet? I hadn't – not until a couple of months ago, when friends talked me into sitting down and watching his brilliant *New York Memories* concert. Frankly, the man's a phenomenon, famous all over Europe and North America (with 15 million albums sold worldwide plus 3 million DVDs) – touring Australia later this



year, and hugely popular with Kiwi fans (topping the NZ DVD charts for much of 2007).

Andre Rieu's on a mission: to free classical music from the solemn, cheerless place it's often occupied and release it to the people with all the joy and entertainment he can muster. And I've gotta tell you: I'm a convert!

I can't get enough of his music ... I can't believe how good it is ... and if you come around to my place you won't have any choice: I'll sit you down, put on a DVD, and make YOU a convert, too!

I've tried to identify why great music has such an impact on me. And I think the reason is this: it achieves in the world of sounds-tones-and-harmonies what I hope Grapevine achieves in the world of print-words-and-images.

It's giving people a lift ... lightening their load ... changing their moods and outlooks ... improving the quality of their lives ... unlocking their God-given potential ...

This is no accident or fluke. I firmly believe that the ability to create good music and enjoy it are GIFTS to this world ... that good music, music at its best, is a taste of the way it will one day be.

And, in my heart of hearts, I want Grapevine to perform this same magic each time it gets delivered to families throughout New Zealand.

Andre Rieu states categorically: *"If everybody made music the world would be a happier place!"* And I've long held a similar conviction: that each new Grapevine can help make this beautiful country a happier, more family-friendly place for our kids and grandkids to grow up in.

## 1. WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR THESE THREE RADIO INTERVIEWS?

I found them totally inspiring – I'm sure you'll find the same. So we're making them available to you here on our website.

Simply click on the relevant photos (above) to hear each of the three interviews ... and enjoy!

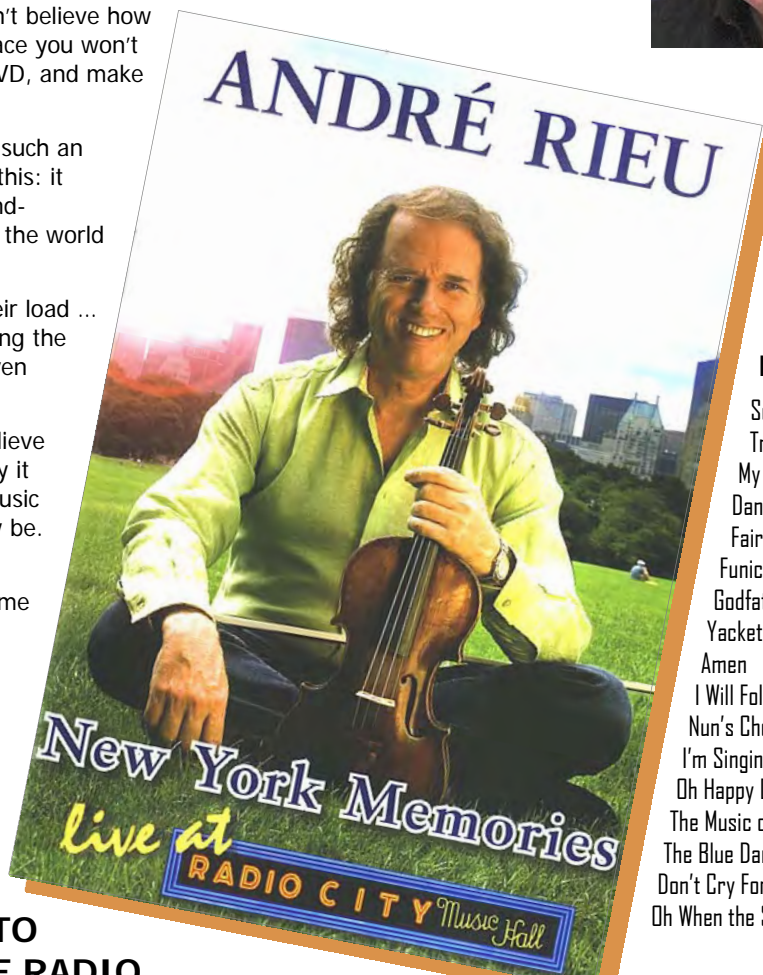
## 2. WOULD YOU LIKE THIS ANDRE RIEU MUSIC DVD – 'NEW YORK MEMORIES'?

Take it from me: this concert (which includes several items from the famous Harlem Gospel Choir) is a fabulous two-and-a-half hours of listening pleasure ... with more fun and entertainment than you've enjoyed in a long time.

We would love to give this DVD to every Grapevine supporter, but regrettably can't afford to. However, we do have some copies available and we'll gladly give one to each supporter who donates \$100 or more by the end of April.

Send your \$100 April gift to Grapevine – and we'll rush you your very own copy of *New York Memories*.

Thank you in anticipation. Together we're making a difference in the lives of Kiwi families ...



**SOME OF THE CONCERT TRACKS INCLUDED ON THIS MUSIC DVD:**

Seventy Six Trombones  
My Way  
Dance of the Fairies  
Funiculi Funicula  
Godfather Waltz  
Yackety Sax  
Amen  
I Will Follow Him  
Nun's Chorus  
I'm Singing in the Rain  
Oh Happy Day  
The Music of the Night  
The Blue Danube  
Don't Cry For Me Argentina  
Oh When the Saints

PS: The Good Friday programme on Radio NewstalkZB was produced by Phil Guyan and CBA – find out more at [www.cba.org.nz](http://www.cba.org.nz).

PPS: Your tax receipt for 07/08 is enclosed with this newsletter. Thanks so much for your generous support over the past 12 months – we appreciate you HEAPS!

